Almost half of all students enrolled in post-secondary education\(^1\) report struggling with food insecurity. With the increasing cost of attending higher education, hunger among college students is a very real and widespread issue.

The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** is the most effective anti-hunger program in the country and can help address food insecurity among students. It provides low-income individuals and families with a modest monthly food stipend to help them meet a portion of their needs.

Under **SB1641**, students who are eligible for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) would be notified that they may be eligible for SNAP benefits. The student would still be required to fill out and submit an application to the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) for a final determination.

**QUICK FACTS**

- If students are enrolled in college, they must work or be enrolled in a job training program for an average of 20 hours/week, receive TANF assistance, or participate in a state or federal work-study program to be eligible for SNAP benefits.
- SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase prepared foods or takeout.
- Over the past 20 years, tuition at public four-year institutions has increased by 213 percent.\(^2\)

**SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS**

AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
The ARK  
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless  
Dina and Eli Field EZRA Multi-Service Center  
Greater Chicago Food Depository  
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group  
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights  
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Metropolitan Family Services  
Northern Illinois Food Bank  
Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry  
Planned Parenthood  
Project IRENE  
River Bend Foodbank  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

\(^1\) National Conference of State Legislatures  
\(^2\) Ibid.