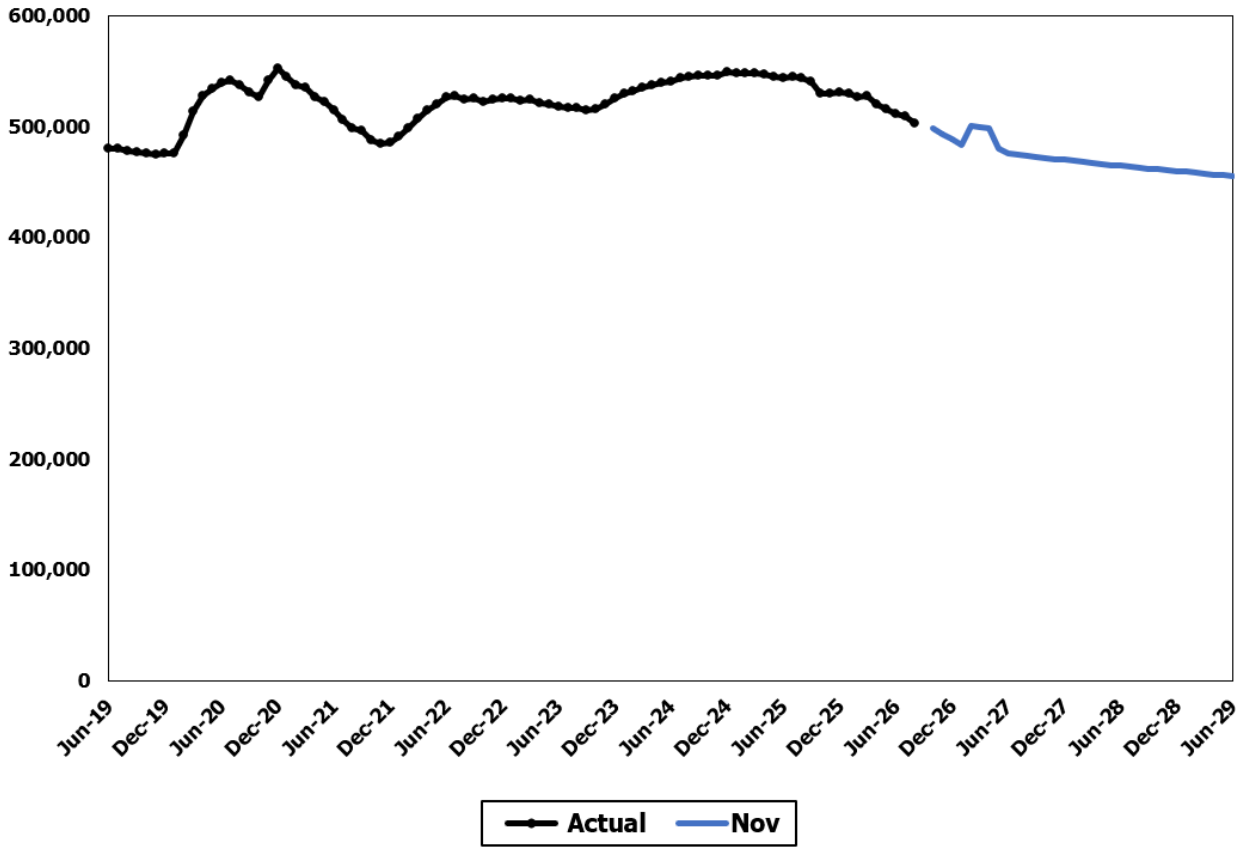
Economic Services Administration

Caseload Forecast Council

Basic Food **November 12, 2026**

Basic Food – Total Caseload



The Basic Food program provides people with assistance to buy and access nutritious foods. Washington's federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is mirrored by the state-funded Food Assistance Program (FAP). FAP helps immigrants who do not yet qualify for federally funded SNAP benefits.

The forecast includes three separate components of Basic Food: households in which all members are federally qualified for SNAP ("SNAP-only"), households in which some members are qualified for SNAP and some are only qualified for FAP ("FAP-mix"), and households in which all members are only qualified for FAP ("FAP-only").

Forecast Comparisons (Fiscal Year Averages)

The Basic Food forecast is new in November 2026, so there are no comparisons to older forecasts.

Tracking the Current Forecast

The Basic Food forecast is new in November 2026, so there are no comparisons to prior actuals.

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Fiscal Year Caseload Change

	Fiscal Year	Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
Actual	2020	494,990		
	2021	534,029	39,039	7.9%
	2022	501,033	-32,996	-6.2%
	2023	523,022	21,989	4.4%
	2024	526,568	3,546	0.7%
	2025	545,916	19,348	3.7%
	2026	531,420	-14,496	-2.7%
Forecast	*2027*	*494,675*	*-36,745*	*-6.9%*
	2028	*469,080*	*-25,595*	*-5.2%*
	2029	*459,129*	*-9,951*	*-2.1%*

SNAP-only is forecast to decline through the end of calendar year 2026, grow with the three months of relaxation of work requirements in the first part of calendar year 2027, then continue a more gradual decline through the forecast horizon. The decline is projected due to work requirements and a shift of federally funded SNAP clients to state funded FAP due to changing policies under federal H.R. 1 rules regarding the eligibility of certain groups of immigrants for federally funded SNAP assistance. FAP-mix is similar to SNAP-only, though different in scale, and with SNAP to FAP increases balancing work requirement decreases. FAP-only is forecast to decline more steeply through the forecast horizon due to work requirements and federal immigration policy.

Risks to the Forecast

The forecast risk is high. H.R. 1 imposed significant changes to Basic Food eligibility due to new work requirements. Additionally, federal immigration policies are leading to a significant decline, especially in FAP-only. Finally, this is a new forecast and the methodology takes time to mature.

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