

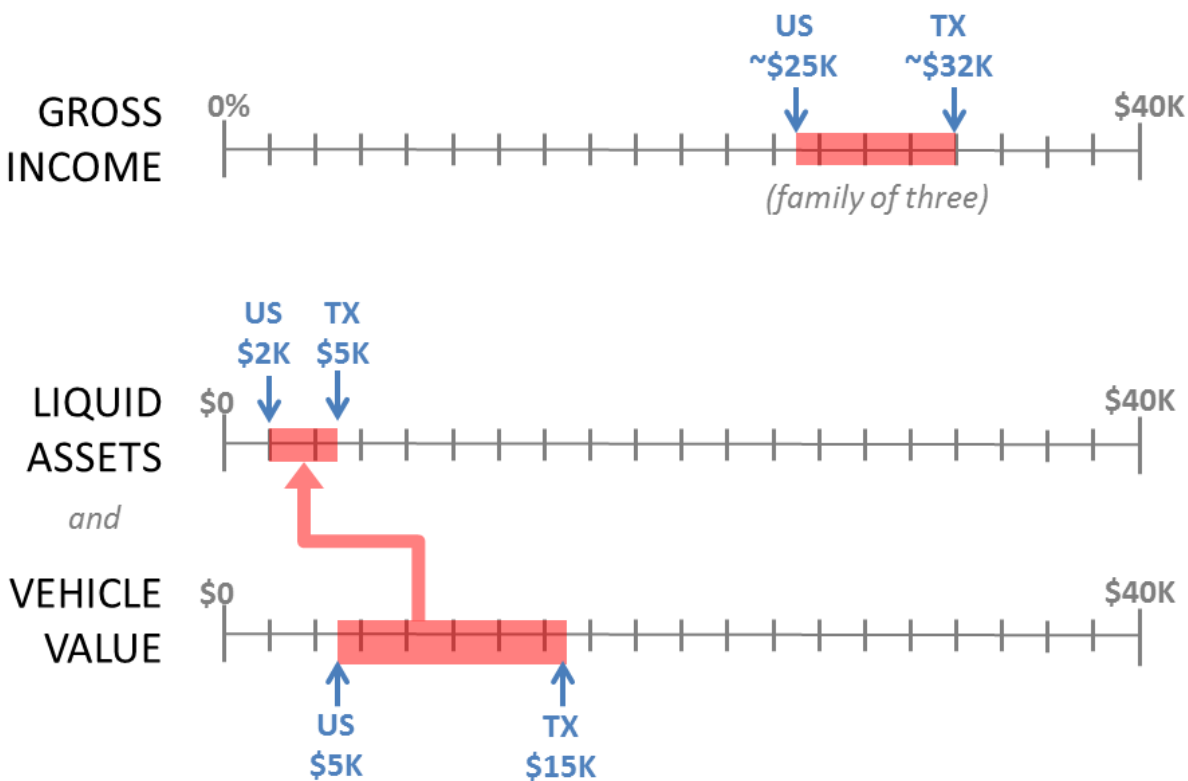
House farm bill: Who will lose benefits in Texas?

Summary:

- An estimated **187,000 Texans** currently receiving SNAP benefits could become ineligible as a result of nutrition title provisions in the House farm bill.
- An estimated **17,000 unemployed, childless adults** (“ABAWDS”) will lose benefits if they are unable to find employment within three monthsⁱ.
- The remaining **171,000 Texans** will become ineligible due to a federal override of eligibility standards determined by the state of Texas via the “categorical eligibility” mechanismⁱⁱ. The majority of those affected will be children, seniors and the disabled.ⁱⁱⁱ

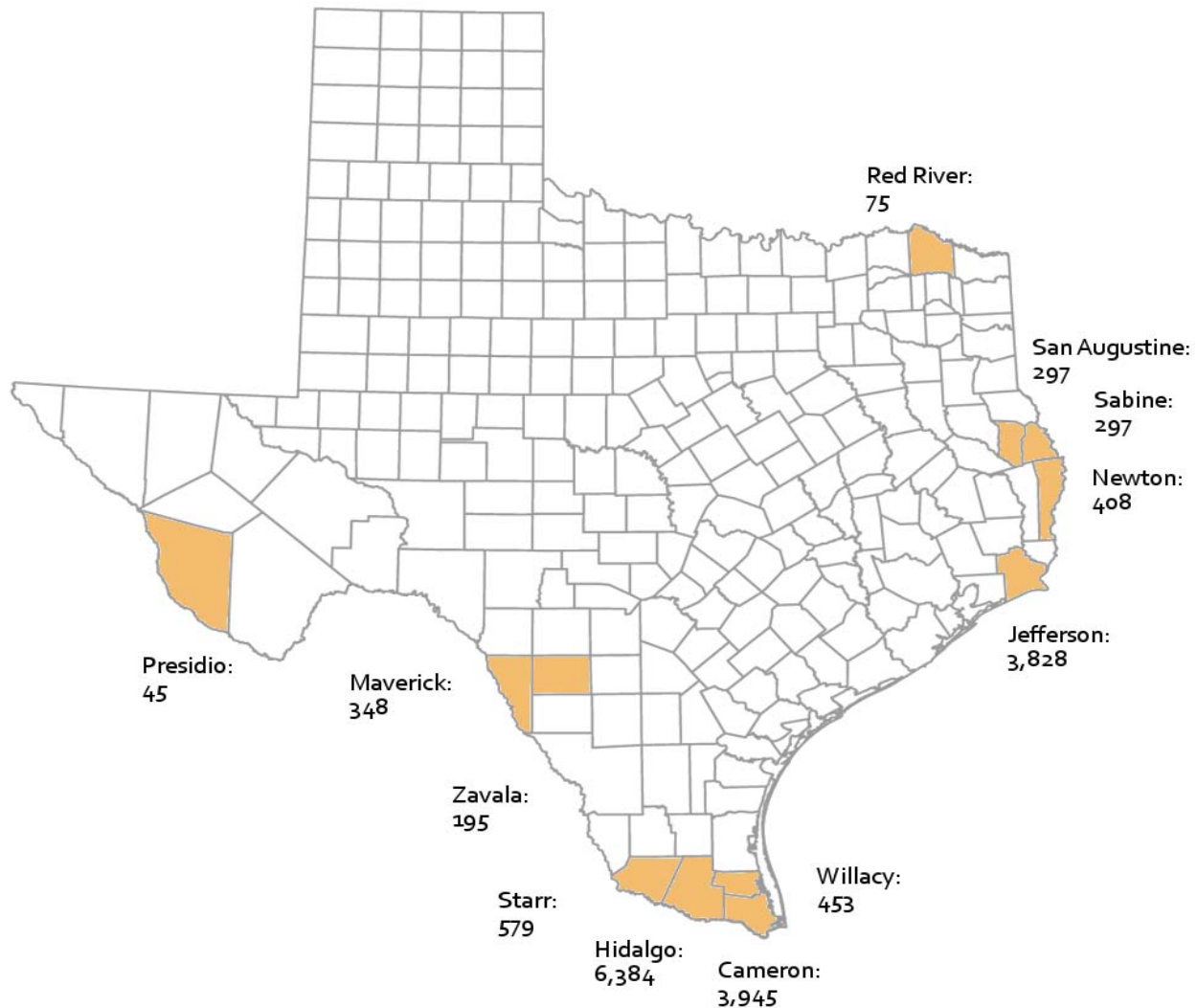
Changes to Categorical Eligibility (Cat-El):

- Categorical eligibility was created by a Republican Congress in the 1996 welfare reform. Its intent was to encourage states to align SNAP eligibility standards with the TANF (cash welfare) program, reducing state bureaucracy and benefiting families with modest savings or a vehicle to seek or keep work.
- An estimated 171,000 Texans currently receiving SNAP will immediately lose all benefits as a result of this change.
- Households affected by the change will fall between the current Texas and outdated federal standards in the categories of gross income, liquid assets and vehicle value:



Changes to Work Requirements:

- Changes to work requirements in the House bill will remove eligibility from an estimated 17,000 unemployed, childless adults if they are unable to find work within three months.
- Regardless of whether this change becomes law, all Texas adults (with few exceptions) will continue to be required to work, seek work or engage in job training thirty hours per week, or else face sanctions culminating in the removal of all benefits.
- Texas has determined that widespread obstacles to employment in twelve counties make the three-month federal penalty impractical:



(Numbers show three months of ABAWD SNAP recipients affected by the work restriction)

ⁱ Texas HHSC October 2013 ABAWD data multiplied by three months.

ⁱⁱ CBO national estimate prorated by USDA state and Texas HHSC county participation data.

ⁱⁱⁱ USDA 2012 SNAP Household Characteristics Report.