

- Statewide, households served by Food Assistance rose by **84.1%** from **109,182** in the month of March 2008 to **201,018** in the month of March 2010.
- Statewide, Food Assistance applications have increased by **35.9%** from **20,228** for the month of March 2008 to **27,487** for the month of March 2011.
- Statewide, Food Assistance benefits paid have increased by **137.3%** from **\$27.49 million** in March 2008 to **\$65.23 million** in March 2010.
- Statewide, County Food Assistance case processing timeliness has improved by **15.67%** from December 2008 to December 2010, according to the Federal QA Special Reports.

**FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

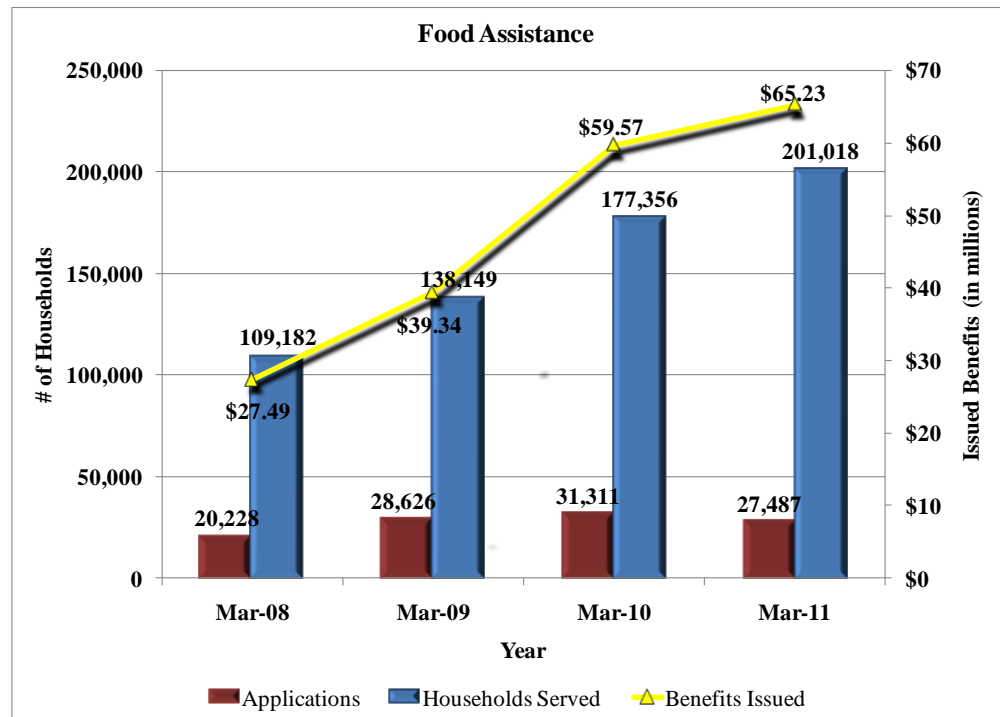
Food Assistance, formerly known as Food Stamps and currently referred to as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), assists individuals or families with the costs of purchasing food as a supplement to a household’s nutritional needs for the month.

Food Assistance benefits are accessed with a Colorado Quest card, which works like a debit card at grocery store checkout counters and is kept secure with a private pin number.

Citizens may be eligible for Food Assistance if they work for low wages; are unemployed or work part-time; receive TANF or other public assistance; are elderly or disabled and live on a small income.

**Caseload Increases**

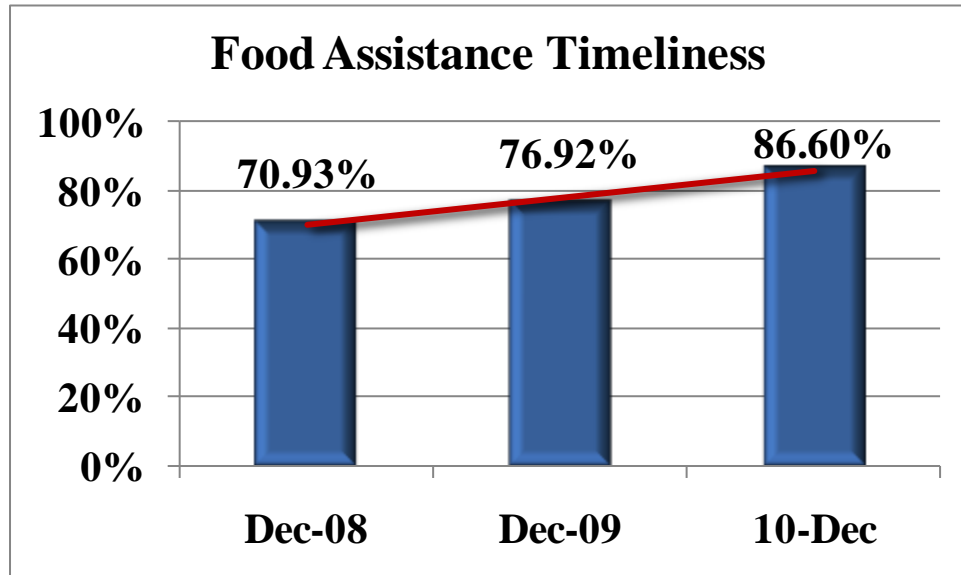
The economic downturn has contributed to an unprecedented growth in households receiving Food Assistance. Households receiving Food Assistance increased **84.1%** from **109,182** for the month of March 2008 to **201,018** for the month of March 2010. Statewide, applications increased from **20,228** to **27,487** applications, and Food Assistance benefits paid rose from **\$27.49 million** to **65.23 million** for those monthly points in time.



Source: Colorado Benefits Management System Issuance Data

\*Data is point-in-time and does not reflect annual totals

## Food Assistance Processing Timeliness



Source: Federal QA Special Reports

Colorado counties' statewide Food Assistance case-processing timeliness has improved by **15.67%** from December 2008 to December 2010.

### Funding

Colorado's Food Assistance program received increased funding for temporary staffing to process applications from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Department of Defense funds.