

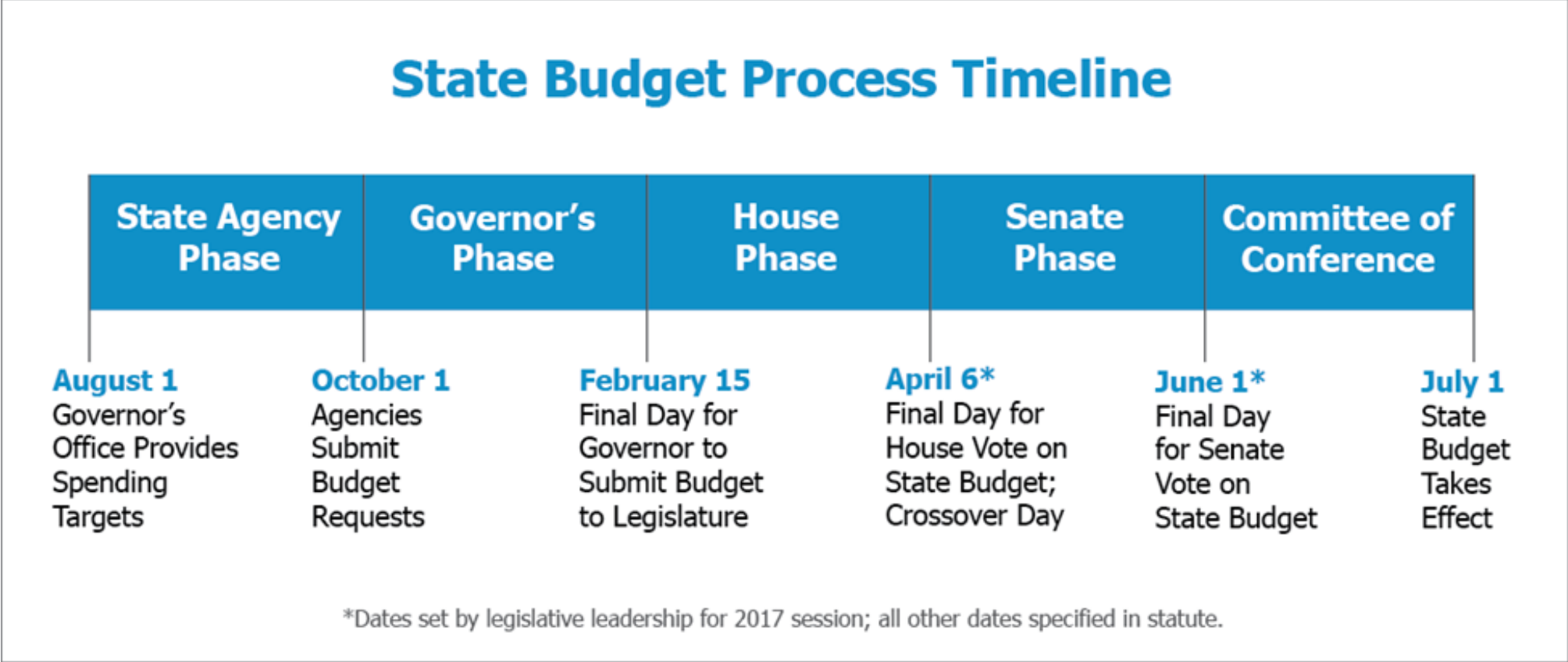
# THE STATE BUDGET

## A Focus on Federal Fund Contributions and the Food Stamp Program

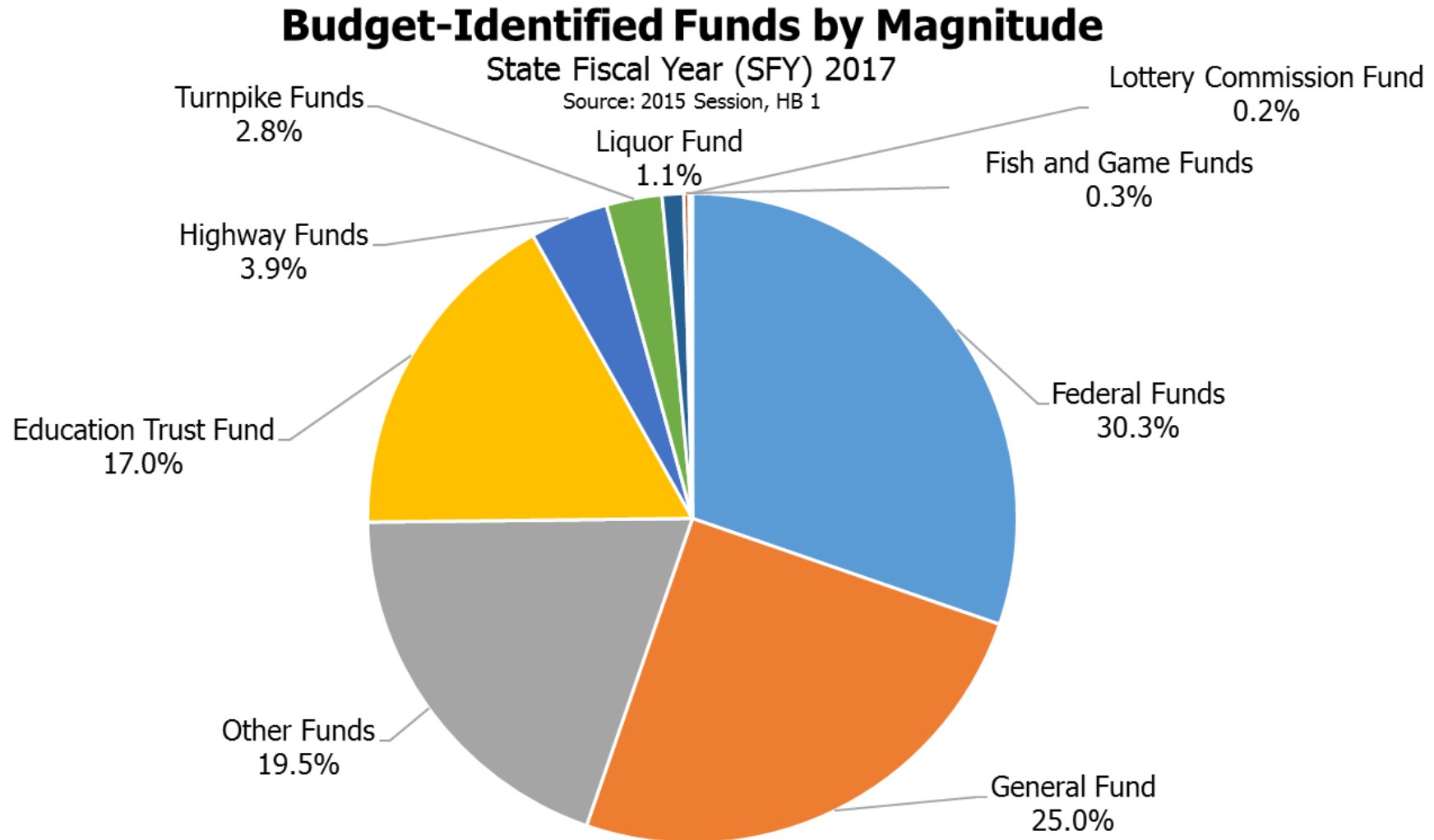
*Phil Sletten, Policy Analyst  
New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute*

Presentation to Milford Rotary Club  
March 22, 2017

# The Process: Mechanics of Building the Budget



# Looking Inside the Budget: The Funds

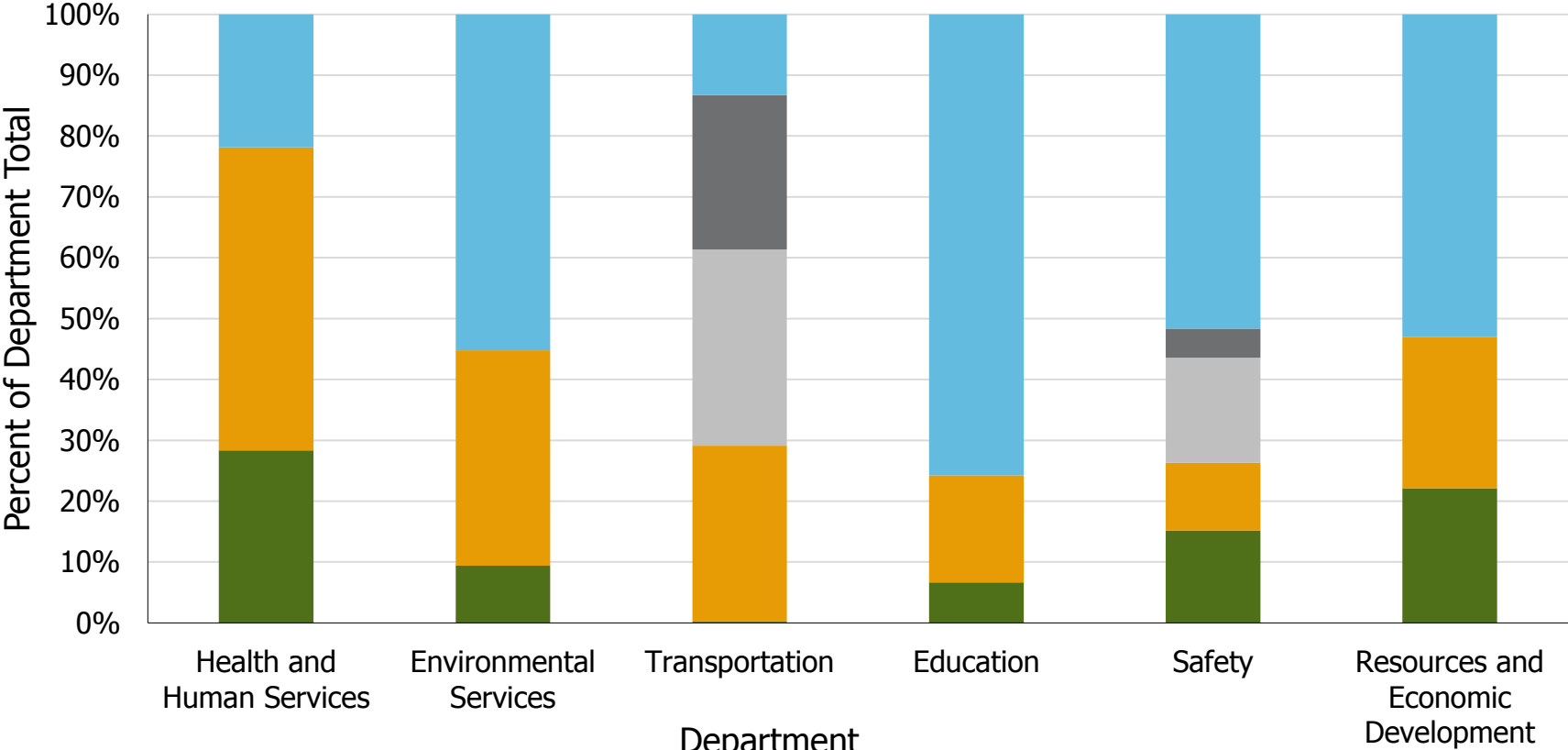


# Looking Inside the Budget: Federal Funds Examples

- Medicaid
- Federal transportation aid
- Education aid
  - Special education
  - School lunch program
  - Professional development
- Water pollution and infrastructure funds
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program (WIC)
- Veterans' Home professional care aid
- New Hampshire Hospital psychiatric services
- The Fuel Assistance Program
- Infectious disease control emergency preparedness
- Many other programs and grants

# State Agency Funding Streams: Examples

**Funding Streams for Selected Departments**  
SFY 2017



Source: Chapter 275 (HB1), Laws of 2015

■ General   ■ Federal   ■ Highway   ■ Turnpike   ■ Other

# The Food Stamp Program: Benefits

- Federal title: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Benefits 100 percent federal funds, cost of administration split with the State
- Benefits provided through Electronic Benefit Transfer cards, act like debit cards
- Only can purchase food items intended for human consumption and use
- Cannot be used to purchase hot foods, vitamins, paper products, soap, alcohol, or tobacco
- Cannot be traded or sold
- Designed to provide the difference between the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s nutritionally adequate food plan and 30 percent of net household income, the portion expected to be used on food
- Maximum benefit is about \$1.83 per person per meal for three person household and a 31-day month

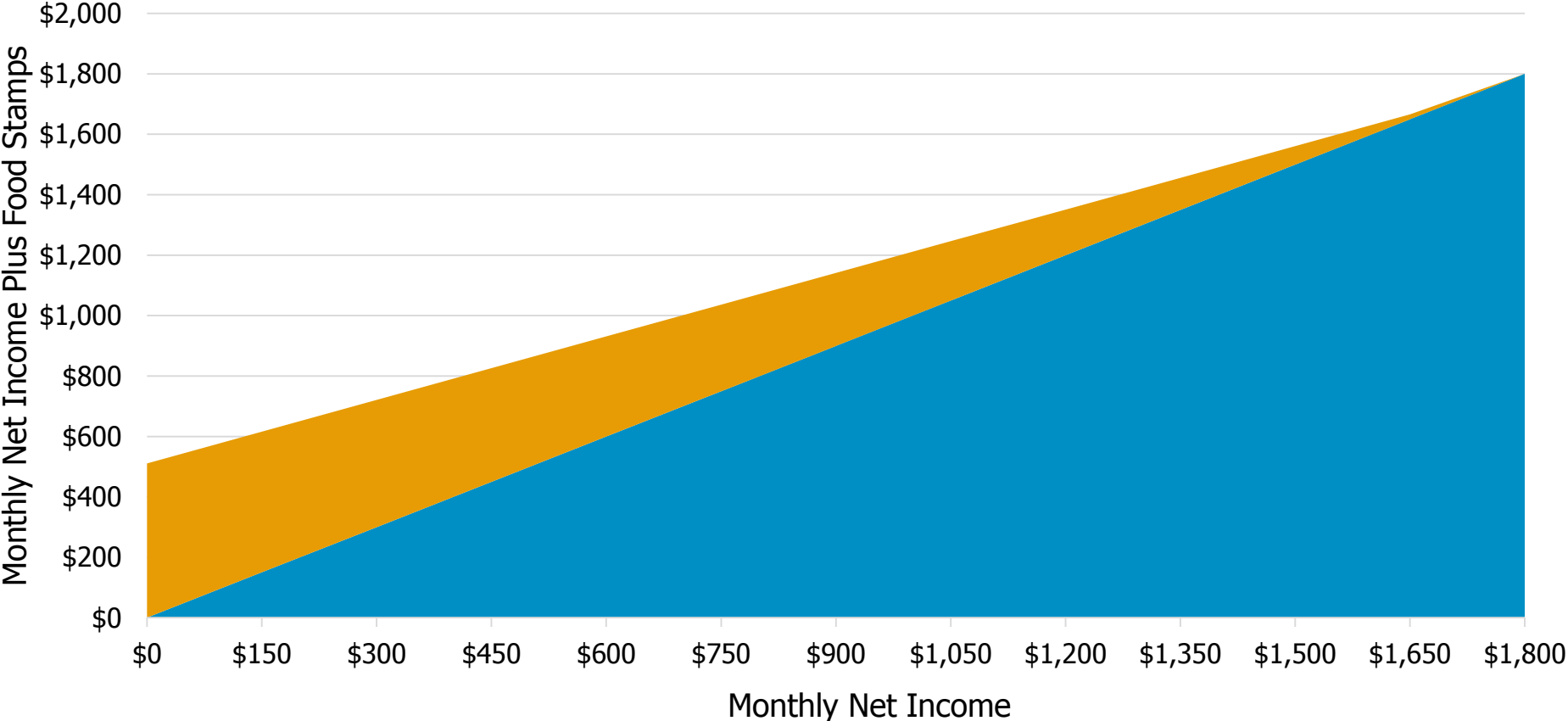
<b>Maximum Assistance Through N.H. Food Stamp Program</b>	
<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Maximum Monthly Food Stamp Allotment</b>
1	\$194
2	\$357
3	\$511
4	\$649

Source: N.H. Department of Health and Human Services Food Stamp Manual, accessed March 2017

# The Food Stamp Program: Benefit Value

## Food Stamp Benefit Value

Household of Three, October 2016



Source: *New Hampshire Food Stamp Manual*, accessed March 2017

Note: Benefits rounded up to nearest dollar and end at \$1,680 in income, with other adjustments near the end of benefits; those changes are not reflected in detail on this graph

■ Net Income   ■ Food Stamp Benefit

# The Food Stamp Program: Eligibility

- Two primary ways to be eligible
- Passing income and asset tests
  - Gross income less than or equal to 130 percent of federal poverty guidelines (FPG)
  - Net income less than or equal to 100 percent FPG
  - Assets total no more than \$2,250
- OR categorical eligibility
  - Qualifying for receiving public assistance through other select programs
  - Expanded categorical eligibility in N.H.: 185 percent FPG with at least one dependent child and relative
- Gross income and asset tests higher for elderly and disabled
- Net income permits certain allowable expenses (child care, utility costs, housing rental within parameters)
- Asset limit has exemptions (in New Hampshire, excludes primary residence and vehicle)
- Work requirements for certain individuals aged 18 to 50 years who have no dependents, with caveats for disability and economic environment
- Benefits not provided to those with net incomes above 100 percent FPG



# The Food Stamp Program: Thresholds

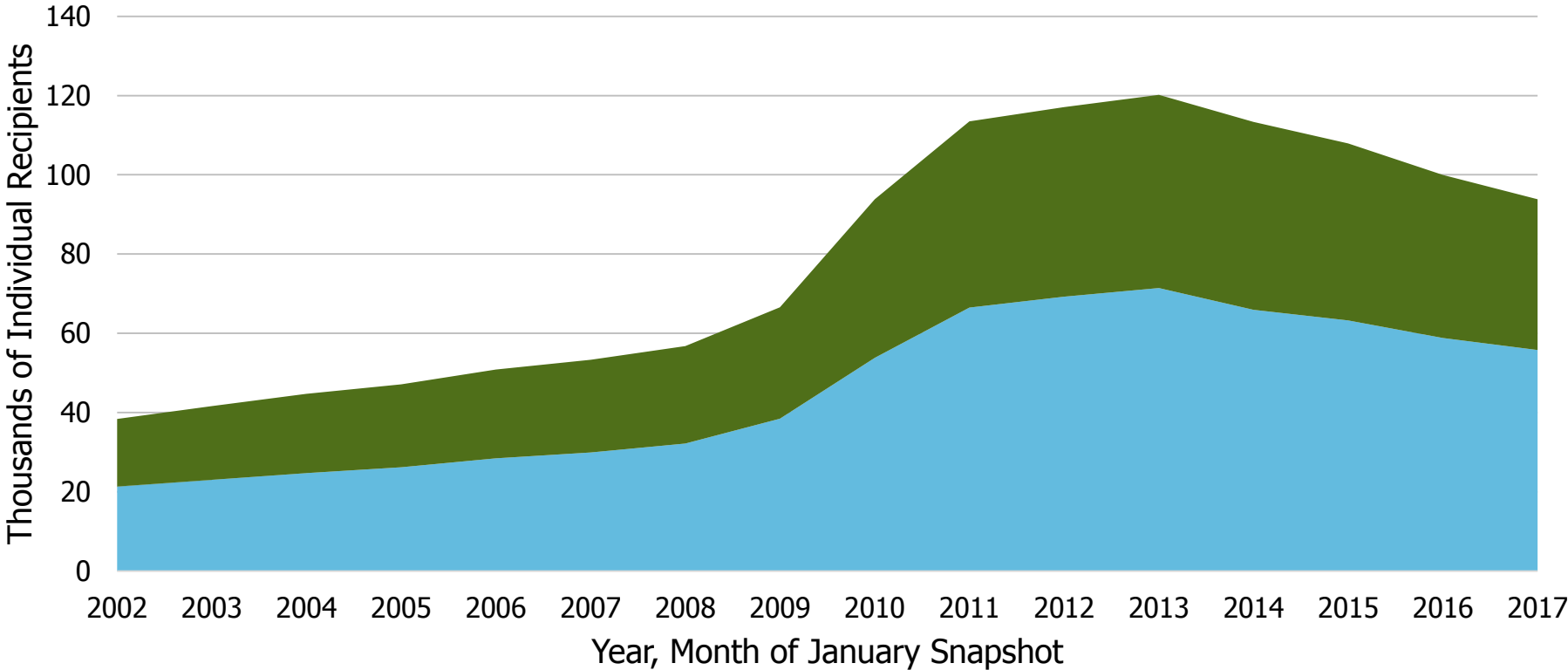
<b>New Hampshire Food Stamp Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) Thresholds for Selected Household Sizes, Annualized, 2017</b>			
<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Net Income 100 Percent FPG</b>	<b>Gross Income 130 Percent FPG</b>	<b>Gross Income 185 Percent FPG</b>
1	\$11,880	\$15,444	\$21,984
2	\$16,020	\$20,832	\$29,640
3	\$20,160	\$26,208	\$37,296
4	\$24,300	\$31,596	\$44,964

Source: N.H. Department of Health and Human Services Food Stamp Manual, accessed March 2017

- About 17,000 New Hampshire households qualified through expanded categorical eligibility as of December 2016
- Permitted by the federal government and used increasingly by states during the Great Recession, 42 states had expanded categorical eligibility in July 2014
- Program benefits costs were \$122.8 million during SFY 2016, down from \$165.3 million in SFY 2012, and up from \$56.2 million in SFY 2006
- January 2017: approximately seven percent of the New Hampshire population provided benefits, including 38,053 children

# The Food Stamp Program: Use

## New Hampshire Food Stamp Program Recipients



Source: N.H. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Division of Family Assistance, Data Provided March 2017

■ Adults ■ Children

# For More Information and References...

- On the State Budget: <http://nhfpi.org/resources/nh-state-budget>  
nhfpi.org > Resources > NH State Budget
  - Building the Budget
  - Governor Sununu's Proposed Budget
- On the Food Stamp Program: <http://nhfpi.org/research/state-economy/the-new-hampshire-food-stamp-program.html>  
nhfpi.org > Research > State Economy



**QUESTIONS?**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME**

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