

WHO LOSES / WHO
COMMITTS

RECIPIENT

STORE

OUTSIDE CRIMINAL

CASEWORKER

ORGANIZED RING

Taxpayers
program money is
lost

Trafficking

Card swiped for a sale that never happens; the store pays the recipient cash at a discount.

recipient and store, together

Eligibility fraud

Underreported income, invented members, two-state enrollment.

Ineligible sales, overcharging

Collusive:
alcohol, tobacco, or paper goods paid with EBT.

Federal replacement covered some skimming losses, until it ended in December 2024.

Insider fraud

Fictitious cases, benefits to accomplices, data sold. Rare, and each case can be large.

Organized rings

Trafficking networks: many cards through a few stores under nominee owners.

The family
its food money is gone

Overcharging, predatory form

EBT shoppers pay inflated prices and do not notice.

Card skimming and cloning

A device copies stripe data and PIN; a clone drains the account soon after the monthly load.

Victim: the family finds a zero balance

Rings, skimming crews

Mass card theft across states.