

Issue #34, August 27, 2018

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Cuts

[Jim Mullen and Dan Flowers: SNAP helps working families](#) — Akron Beacon Journal, August 19, 2018

Congress will soon begin debating the Farm Bill, which will determine the future of SNAP. This program is a vital lifeline for millions of people who don't earn enough to feed their families. The House version of the Farm Bill proposes deep cuts to SNAP, hurting families who are already working or seeking work. The authors of this op-ed, Jim Mullen and Dan Flowers, applaud U.S. Senators Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown for voting in favor of the bipartisan reforms included in the Senate version of the Farm Bill. "Without having to worry about how to put food on the table, people in our community can focus on getting and keeping jobs that support their families. And that's good for everyone," the authors explain.

[SNAP at risk in House Farm Bill](#) — The Baltimore Sun, August 24, 2018

In this op-ed, Michael J. Wilson, director of Maryland Hunger Solutions, notes that around 640,000 Marylanders rely on SNAP to help keep food on the table for themselves and their families. But SNAP is at risk as Congress attempts to reconcile two very different versions of the Farm Bill, one passed in the U.S. House of Representatives and the other, far superior bill that passed the Senate earlier this summer. Unlike the highly partisan House bill, the bipartisan Senate bill provides fundamental support for Maryland's low-income residents and helps lift and keep people out of poverty. As the Senate and House work toward a conference report, Maryland Hunger Solutions urges policymakers to protect and strengthen SNAP and reject the House Farm Bill.

[We're standing up for SNAP in fighting food insecurity](#) — Georgia Health News, August 22, 2018

Households that include adults with disabilities experience a food insecurity rate of 33 percent — almost three times the rate at which households with no adults with disabilities are food-insecure (12 percent). This already alarming rate would be far worse if not for SNAP. In an average month in 2015, SNAP served an estimated 4.5 million households across the country that included an adult with a disability — 1 in 5 of all SNAP households, according to the Food Research & Action Center. In Georgia, 169,000 SNAP beneficiaries live in households that include people with disabilities, as of 2016. As the Farm Bill advances and the House and Senate work to reconcile the differences between their two bills, the authors of this op-ed note that their organizations, the Atlanta Community Food Bank and Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, will continue to send Congress a loud and clear message to protect and strengthen SNAP, and they encourage others to do the same.

Cities Combating Hunger Through Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs (CHAMPS)

['Think Orange' campaign aimed at combating hunger](#) — Winston-Salem Journal, August 17, 2018

City leaders in Winston-Salem joined with local nonprofit officials recently to announce a new campaign to combat hunger in the city, called Think Orange. A grant from the National League of Cities and the Food Research & Action Center will help finance the initiative. The major goals of the campaign include expanding participation in summer meal programs, expanding SNAP participation, and exploring options to implement afterschool meals programs. Mayor Allen Joines said the campaign complements an antipoverty effort called the Poverty Thought Force that he launched in 2015. Joines said that the bright colors of the Think Orange logo will help the effort gain visibility and have become "the symbolic color of the fight against hunger and food insecurity."

Afterschool Meals

[Only a fraction of Texas schools offer kids free afterschool meals, but advocates want to change that](#) — Dallas Morning News, August 17, 2018

"A lot of kids may not have a healthy meal to eat when they get home, and their parents may not be able to afford dinner every night. Afterschool meals make sure they get a good, healthy, full dinner and gives them the energy to participate in afterschool programs," said Rachel Cooper, of the Center for Public Policy Priorities in Texas. More than 3 million Texas public school

students qualified for free and reduced-price lunch in the 2016-17 school year, but the Center for Public Policy Priorities said only an average of 214,952 afterschool meals were served per day. The reason for the low turnout in some counties, including Dallas, could be because students have to catch the bus home or aren't participating in afterschool activities. Other districts with large numbers of low-income students might not qualify for the afterschool meals program because they're not offering afterschool activities.

Summer Meals

[Katko Pushes Bill To Expand Kids Summer Food Program. Confident SNAP Cuts Will Be Restored](#) — August 21, 2018

During the summer months, the Boys & Girls Club in Syracuse serves hundreds of free meals to kids who lose access to free and reduced-price meals at school. "You learn a lot, there's a lot of food and you can play a lot," said 7-year-old Memah. Rep. John Katko (R-Camillus) is pushing legislation to expand the summer food service program. Currently, the program serves areas where 50 percent of children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. The legislation Rep. Katko is co-sponsoring would lower that to 40 percent. It would also add a third meal and funding for food trucks to reach rural and under-served areas.

School Lunch Shaming

[Lunch shaming banned in NY: Greece will provide free meals for all students at 4 schools](#) — Democrat & Chronicle, August 22, 2018

In June, New York's Greece Central School District's Board of Education voted to prohibit meal shaming. Now, district employees must offer the same meal choices regardless of a student's negative balance. Employees cannot "publicly identify or stigmatize any student in line for a meal or discuss any outstanding meal debt in the presence of any other students," according to the district's anti-meal shaming policy. Meals will not be thrown out after they are served due to a student's inability to pay, and all issues related to unpaid meals will be dealt with parents and guardians directly. Four schools in the district will also provide free breakfast and lunch for all students this academic year, using the Community Eligibility Provision. Across the Greece Central School District, 42 percent of enrolled students in 2016-17 qualified for free or reduced-price meals.

[The Problem With School Lunch: How The Wealth Gap Is Shaming Students](#) — Huffington Post, August 20, 2018

Last year, about 30 million students nationwide participated in the National School Lunch Program. Of those, 20 million received free lunches, 2 million received reduced-price meals and 8 million students paid full price. The school-sanctioned lunch is especially important for low-income families, who often struggle to afford healthy foods. As kids are heading back to the classroom, many feel a stigma attached to their free or reduced-price lunches. Several incidents of schools shaming children over unpaid lunch bills have made headlines recently, highlighting how school lunch can be a symbol for the socioeconomic and food disparities that exist in America. But meals at school may be the only consistent meal that some students eat, and school lunch or other nutrition assistance programs give kids access to the healthy foods they need for growth and development.

About Us

FRAC is the leading national nonprofit organization working to eradicate poverty-related hunger and undernutrition in the United States. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

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