



## Food for the Hungry Shouldn't Have a Time Limit Comment Today!

Don't let the Trump Administration take food away from 755,000 people. Submit your comment expressing their strong opposition to the [proposed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) rule](#) during the 60-day public comment period that ends on April 2, 2019.

[Comment Here!](#)

### National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference

[Diane Doherty of Illinois Hunger Coalition Receives National Anti-Hunger Advocacy Award](#) (FRAC, February 26, 2019)

During the 2019 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference, FRAC awarded the Dr. Raymond Wheeler/Senator Paul Wellstone Anti-Hunger Advocacy Leadership Award to the Illinois Hunger Coalition and its executive director, Diane Doherty. FRAC gives the annual award to an advocacy group and its leadership who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the fight against hunger in America. "Not only has Illinois Hunger Coalition's work created positive change across Illinois, the organization and Diane also serve as role models for anti-hunger advocates throughout the nation," said Jim Weill, president of FRAC. "She and the dedicated staff at Illinois Hunger Coalition are helping to build a stronger anti-hunger and anti-poverty movement, and FRAC is proud to partner with them in the fight to end hunger." For more than 30 years, Illinois Hunger Coalition has advocated at the federal, state, and local levels for programs and policies that reduce hunger by increasing access to federal nutrition assistance programs for low-income Illinois residents.

[Delaware's own Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester shines at National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference](#) (FDB.org, February 25, 2019)

Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE) opened the recent National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference at the welcome

plenary with a quote from Norman Borlaug, "Food is the moral right of all who are born into this world," writes Patricia Beebe, president and CEO of the Food Bank of Delaware, in this blog post. Rep. Rochester played an important part, when she was a member of the House Agriculture Committee, in creating policy important to the nation's food insecurity problem. She credited the work of advocates in making sure that SNAP time limits were not a part of the final Farm Bill. "Lisa left all of us in that room energized to continue our fight for America's most vulnerable," notes Beebe.

View speech on Facebook Live -

<https://www.facebook.com/foodresearchandactioncenter/videos/327525131230693/>

[Advocates bring passion, stories to D.C.](#) (Chicago Food Bank, February 25, 2019)

This blog post features a number of personal stories from food bank and food pantry staff and volunteers who traveled to the 2019 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference as anti-hunger advocates. The stories include the experience of Mihriba Amin, a refugee from the Bosnian War, who came to the U.S. in 1996 with her husband and young son. She now runs a food pantry at Lloyd Elementary School, on Chicago's Northwest Side. Amin was eager while in D.C. to meet with legislators and urge them to protect SNAP, and has seen firsthand how food assistance can move a person from receiving help to giving it.

## **Download [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Initiatives to Make SNAP Benefits More Adequate Significantly Improve Food Security, Nutrition, and Health](#)**

FRAC's paper analyzes why SNAP benefits are inadequate, reviews the body of research showing positive effects from more adequate SNAP benefits, and concludes with some of the key policy solutions that can improve benefit adequacy.

### **Government Shutdown and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

[St. Vincent de Paul Declares Record-High Boise Food Pantry Traffic a 'Food Crisis,' Blames Government Shutdown](#) (Boise Weekly, February 22, 2019)

The five food pantries operated by St. Vincent de Paul Southwest Idaho are used to increased need during Thanksgiving and Christmas, but the organization's executive director, Ralph May, said that doesn't compare to the higher number of requests for assistance they've received because of the "SNAP Gap" caused by the government shutdown. February's SNAP benefits were issued on January 20 because of the shutdown. "Statistically, people use their food stamps in about three weeks," said May. "So if they receive their food stamps on Jan. 20, they will have used them up within three weeks." Tens of thousands of Idaho residents rely on SNAP, said May.

[S. Tier Food Bank sees increased need](#) (Evening Tribune, February 24, 2019)

In the wake of the government shutdown, the Food Bank of the Southern Tier in New York has seen a 45 percent increase in the pounds of food ordered by their network of partners in six counties over the last month, according to the organization's president and CEO, Natasha R. Thompson. Because February's SNAP benefits were issued in January, many families are finding it difficult to make their benefits stretch until the next distribution and are relying on food pantries near the end of the month, said Thompson. The number of times a client could visit the pantry run by Turning Point Catholic Charities was twice a month; the pantry is responding to the increased need by doubling the visits to four weeks in a row.

['Significant increase' in SNAP recipients at SA Food Bank](#) (KSAT, February 26, 2019)

Eric Cooper, president and CEO of the San Antonio Food Bank, said they have seen a "significant increase" in the number of SNAP recipients asking for help. Due to the government shutdown, February's SNAP benefits were distributed in mid-January, and now recipients are running low on groceries. Texas encouraged recipients in January to space out their food purchases rather than making one large purchase, to conserve their benefits. "SNAP is a supplement, not meant to last the entire month," said Cooper, noting that many recipients found the advice easier said than done. During the shutdown, the food bank went from not serving any federal employees to assisting 2,500 furloughed employees.

[Virginia's SNAP program adjusts release of March benefits](#) (Virginia First, February 20, 2019)

SNAP recipients in Virginia received their March benefits on the first of the month, due to the recent government shutdown. Usually, SNAP benefits in the state are distributed on a staggered basis, between the 4th and 7th of the month. "This change is intended to help close the gap for clients who have been stretching benefits since mid-January as a result of the early release of February benefits," said Toni Blue Washington, director of benefit programs for the Virginia Department of Social Services.

[SNAP \(food stamp\) recipients to receive two distributions in March](#) (Moultrie Observer, February 20, 2019)

The Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) announced that SNAP recipients will receive half of their March benefits on the 2nd of the month, with the other half available on the date of their regular issuance. This split release is to take place to ensure recipients are able to purchase groceries after February benefits were issued early due to the recent government shutdown. About 1.6 million Georgia residents rely on SNAP.

## **WIC**

[WIC clients will say so long to paper checks](#) (Kitsap Sun, February 22, 2019)

Pregnant women and parents in Washington State's Kitsap County who participate in WIC will be the first in the state to use EBT cards at stores in order to purchase food with their benefits. Formerly, WIC participants in the county used paper checks to access benefits; Washington State is following the example of states like New York, Connecticut, and Oregon in rolling out WIC EBT benefit cards. "They can get what they want, when they want it," said Katie Ladner, WIC support services certifier through CHI Franciscan. "If they only want 1 gallon of milk at a time, they don't have to buy 3 gallons. The hope is this removes stigma and provides ease."

## **College Student Hunger**

[Bill establishing hunger-free campus grant passes Senate, heads to governor](#) (NJ Biz, February 22, 2019)

New Jersey Assembly Bill 4702, which addresses hunger on college campuses, is on its way to the governor for approval. Among the bill's provisions are designation of a campus staff member to assist students in enrolling in SNAP; and enabling students to use SNAP benefits at campus stores. Hunger "affects all types of people – from those living in small communities to those living on college campuses," said one of the bill's sponsors, Democrat Benjie Wimberly of the 35th District. "College meal plans can be costly for many families and students, and this grant money will significantly help our hard working students who are in need of food assistance while they are getting an education."

## **School Meal Nutrition**

[The latest threat to national security? Salty school lunches](#) (Roll Call, February 25, 2019)

USDA's decision to weaken school nutrition standards, "the product of two bipartisan child nutrition bills and nearly a decade of work from the Bush and Obama administrations," not only puts the health of the nation's children at risk, but could affect national security, write Dan Glickman and Ann M. Veneman, two former USDA Secretaries, in this op-ed. Increasing numbers of young Americans are not fit for military service because of weight and other health issues. In addition, obesity affects nearly 1 in 5 school-age children, putting them at risk for diabetes, heart disease, and cancer as they grow. "We urge the administration to listen to the tens of thousands of public comments submitted in favor of the healthier standards and reconsider these changes to the rule," conclude Glickman and Veneman.

## **School Breakfast**

[West Virginia's school breakfast programs continue to lead the nation](#) (My Buckhannon, February 22, 2019)

For the fifth year in a row, West Virginia is the top performing state in the nation for school breakfast participation. According to the Food Research & Action Center's School Breakfast Scorecard, the state is ranked number one in participation of low-income students in the School Breakfast Program. In the 2017-2018 school year, West Virginia 83.7 low income students in West Virginia participated in school breakfasts for every 100 that participated in school lunch. "We know that hungry children cannot learn and when we meet the nutritional needs of our students, student achievement increases and classroom disruptions decrease," said West Virginia Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Steven Paine. "I am proud of the work our schools do every day to meet the needs of their students."

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## **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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