

Issue #42, October 29, 2018

**Farm Bill and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Cuts**

[Support Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) — Lansing Daily Journal, October 14, 2018

Andy Schor, mayor of Lansing, Michigan, applauds the state’s congressional representatives who voted against the House Farm Bill. Schor notes that while Michigan, as well as Lansing, have experienced strong economic growth, not all residents have benefitted equally. SNAP is the lifeline that helps those still struggling to afford food. “I urge the House and Senate to agree on a version of the farm bill that follows the bipartisan path laid out by Democratic Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan and Republican Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas,” Schor concludes.

[Stick to facts when debating Farm Bill’s food aid](#) — Journal Patriot, October 26, 2018

While Second Harvest Food Bank in North Carolina provides 37 tons of food each day to local program partners, those efforts alone can’t meet the community need. “For every 12 meals provided through SNAP, food banks can provide one,” writes Eric A. Aft, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC, in this op-ed. “As Congress debates the Farm Bill, we’re calling on our representatives to dismiss the misguided stereotypes and look at the facts,” Aft concludes.

[ND families need a strong farm bill](#) — Grand Forks Herald, October 14, 2018

“[T]he strong public-private partnership between supermarkets and the federal government has made SNAP a success,” write Kristi Magnuson-Nelson and James Leever, both independent grocers, in this letter to the editor. The authors urge the state’s congressional

representatives to work in a bipartisan manner “to support policies with a farm bill that will help to ensure that North Dakota families in need will have access to food assistance.”

[Protect children from hunger](#) — *Columbian*, October 23, 2018

“Whatever we disagree on politically, I think we can all agree that no child should go to bed hungry,” writes Mary Lynn Henderson in this letter to the editor. The House version of the Farm Bill makes cuts to SNAP, at a time when, according to the Census Bureau, 1 in 5 children receive SNAP benefits. SNAP is protected in the Senate version of the bill. “Call or write to your representatives to ask them to vote for the Senate version to protect all American children from the pain of hunger,” Henderson concludes.



There's Still Time to Register for the Webinar: How to Protect Families from the Proposed Public Charge Rule

Tuesday, October 30, 2018 - 2:00 PM Eastern (1:00 PM Central, 12:00 PM Mountain, 11:00 AM Pacific)

Please join us to learn how individuals and organizations can submit comments to push back against the mean-spirited proposed public charge rule. The proposed rule would fuel rates of hunger and poverty among immigrant families, including families with U.S. citizen

children. The deadline to [submit a comment](#) is December 10.

[Register Here](#)

SNAP

[Colorado receives \\$2 million in SNAP performance bonuses](#) — Summit Daily, October 24, 2018

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (USDA/FNSP) awarded Colorado more than \$2 million in performance bonuses for the state's high achievements in SNAP application efficiency. USDA/FNS provides bonuses to states in processing timely SNAP applications, low case and procedural error rates, low payment error rates, and high program access. Still, some areas in the state can improve SNAP access; last year, only 944 out of 4,631 eligible Summit County residents received SNAP, and the county missed out on an estimated \$3.2 million in SNAP benefits.

Poverty Statistics

[Despite Dip in Poverty Numbers, 1.5 Million Ohioans Struggle](#) — Public News Service, October 25, 2018

According to the recently released Ohio Poverty Snapshot report, 1.5 million Ohio residents live in poverty, and 3.5 million live near the poverty level. In 66 percent of impoverished families, one or two people work at least part time, although 14 percent of all households experience trouble affording food, said Erin Ryan, managing director of the Ohio Women's Public Policy Network, which released the report with the Coalition on Human Needs. Coalition Director Deborah Weinstein said that 56 percent of low-income Ohio families spend more than half of their budget on rent. Anti-poverty programs, such as food assistance, are critical supports, particularly for low-income women, women of color, and those who live in rural areas.

[Nearly 800,000 Missourians live in poverty, housing advocacy group report says](#) — St. Louis Public Radio, October 18, 2018

According to a recent Empower Missouri report, nearly 800,000 of Missouri's 6 million

residents live in poverty, and nearly 2 million live near the poverty line. The report cites changes in SNAP policy that may prevent people from being able to afford food, said Jeannette Mott Oxford, Empower Missouri’s executive director. “When we make smart choices about public policy at the state and federal level, we make it easier for people to afford basic necessities,” said Oxford. Nearly 13 percent of the state’s households could not afford food, according to the report.

Disaster Nutrition Assistance

[Storms force changes to school meal plans](#) — Reflector, October 23, 2018

Schools not participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in North Carolina’s Pitt County are providing free school breakfast and lunch to all students from September 17 to October 31. Pitt County Schools is included under the government’s disaster declaration due to damages from Hurricane Florence, which makes it possible to provide the free meals. Schools participating in CEP already provide free meals to all students.

Rural Unemployment

[Job Growth Falters in Rural Counties](#) — Daily Yonder, October 23, 2018

A Daily Yonder analysis of recent Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows that while the U.S. added 1.7 million jobs in the 12 months ending this past August, only 38,000 of those jobs were in rural areas. More than two-thirds of new jobs were in the largest metropolitan areas. In August 2018, 12.9 percent of the nation’s jobs were in rural areas, but only 2.2 percent of the jobs created in the previous 12 months were in rural areas.

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Food Research & Action Center
1200 18th Street, NW Suite 400
Washington, District of Columbia 20036

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United States. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

(202) 986-2200

mambrose@frac.org

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