

FRAC WEEKLY NEWS DIGEST

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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

[Trump Plan to Swap Food Stamps for Food Faces Skeptical Congress](#) — Bloomberg Quint, February 20, 2018

The Trump administration's budget proposal to replace SNAP funding with Harvest Boxes (of shelf-stable food) is an effort to cut the number of eligible people on the program. Other parts of Trump's budget request, such as work rules and eligibility changes, may get serious consideration, said Jim Weill, head of FRAC in Washington, D.C., which seeks to end poverty-related hunger. "This is all part of the White House's frontal assault of the social safety net," he said. Even if the Harvest Box goes nowhere, "it undercuts the credibility of the current program and diverts attention from the other really bad proposals."



[New study lauds food stamps' anti-poverty impact as Trump weighs alternative](#) — MarketWatch, February 15, 2018

As the president's budget proposed major changes to SNAP, The Urban Institute released a study showing that 8.4 million fewer people were living in poverty 2015 due to SNAP benefits, and the number of children in poverty dropped by 28 percent. SNAP also reduced poverty for people in non-metropolitan areas by 24 percent, by 21 percent for families with a working adult, and by 21 percent for non-Hispanic blacks. If all eligible households participated in the program, another 1 million people would be lifted out of poverty.



[The Trump Administration Wants Your Help Getting People Off Food Stamps](#) — Huffington Post, February 22, 2018

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is taking suggestions from the public on how to reduce the caseload of able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) on SNAP. Per federal law, there is a three-month limit on SNAP benefits for ABAWDs without children who do not work at least 20 hours per week, but states with high unemployment have

been allowed to waive the work requirement. Ellen Vollinger of FRAC said that people who lose SNAP benefits because of the time limit end up being hungry, since federal law does not require states to make allowances for people who cannot find suitable work, e.g., someone unable to get a job due to lack of transportation would see their food budget disappear.



[MY VOICE: GOP threatens Oregon's families and children](#) — La Grande Observer, February 14, 2018

In Oregon, 607,000 people (1 in 7 in the state) live in poverty, and many Oregonians rely on SNAP in order to “make ends meet” notes this op-ed. Yet the GOP passed a massive tax cut and is looking to cut SNAP and other programs helping the most vulnerable. Readers are urged to “let Congressman Greg Walden know that these programs matter to your family.”



[From a SNAP recipient to Trump: Food box is a “terrible idea”](#) — CBS News, February 19, 2018

SNAP accomplishes what it sets out to do: recipients of SNAP benefits report less food insecurity. Ninety-seven percent of SNAP benefits are redeemed by the end of the month of issuance, according to FRAC. In 2016 alone, the Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty measure credits SNAP with lifting 3.6 million Americans out of poverty.



Hunger and Food Insecurity

[Study puts high cost on hunger, food insecurity](#) — Sentinel and Enterprise, February 14, 2018

Children’s HealthWatch recently released a study showing the cost of hunger and food insecurity in Massachusetts to be \$2.4 billion. “That’s a staggering amount,” said Catherine D’Amato, president and CEO of the Greater Boston Food Bank. The study analyzed the costs of care for a number of food-insecurity related illnesses, and the study’s authors said health care providers should screen for food insecurity and Congress should maintain the current funding and structure of SNAP.



[Colorado's Five-Year Plan to End Hunger Hits a New Roadblock](#) — 5280, February 14, 2018

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that Colorado ranks 45th in the nation for SNAP participation, with only 58 percent of eligible residents receiving benefits, well below the national average of 75 percent. The recently launched five-year plan to end hunger in the state includes a goal of enrolling more people in SNAP, although the White House released a plan to dramatically change the program. While ending hunger in the state is a solvable problem, “[b]uilding political will is essential,” said Katherine Ferguson, public policy director for Hunger Free Colorado.



[CSU conference at SAC State highlights housing, food insecurity](#) — The State Hornet, February 9, 2018

According to a study that examined the levels of homelessness and low food security among California State University (CSU) students, 41.6 percent of CSU students reported food insecurity, 10.9 percent of students reported experiencing homelessness one or more times in the last 12 months, and nearly 66 percent first-generation African-American students experienced food insecurity. The study also looked at the effects that homelessness and low food security can have on students' success and found there is a correlation between lower overall grade point averages and food insecurity.



School Breakfast

[Fueling Kids for Success, Vt. Moves up in School Nutrition Rank](#) — My Champlain Valley, February 21, 2018

According to the Food Research & Action Center, Vermont ranks 4th (up from 9th) in the nation for its 66.2% ratio of low-income students eating breakfast per 100 students eating lunch at school.



[About Last Week: More Nevada Students Receiving Breakfast; Familiar Faces Announce Candidacy for Sheriff, Assembly Races](#) — Nevada Independent, February 19, 2018

Nevada began serving so many more students breakfast during the 2016–2017 school year that it jumped significantly in a national scorecard released last week by FRAC.



[Newburgh Schools Rate High for Breakfast Program](#) — MidHudson News, February 20, 2018

According to FRAC's report, [School Breakfast: Making it Work in Large School Districts](#), the Newburgh Enlarged City School District ranked third in the nation for meeting FRAC's goal of reaching 70 low-income children participating in school breakfast per 100 participating in school lunch during school year 2016–2017.



[More Kentucky Kids Starting School with a Healthy Breakfast](#) — Public News Service, February 13, 2018

The Food Research and Action Center's annual [School Breakfast Scorecard](#) was released today. It shows that during the 2016-2017 school year over 17,000 more Kentucky children participated in the School Breakfast Program on an average day compared to the year prior. That's a 2.8 percent increase.



[Bill Would Boost Participation In School Breakfast Program](#) — WBGO, February 23, 2018

New Jersey lawmakers are considering a bill that would require schools with 70 percent or more of students who are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals to have a program that serves breakfast after the bell in order to help ensure children have enough food to learn. Senator Shirley Turner was quoted as saying, "Studies have shown if you do not have nutrition and a full stomach, you cannot learn." Stakeholders have noted the "direct" and "immediate" benefits that school breakfast has provided for students. Advocates say the legislation has the potential to increase federal aid

statewide by \$43 million.



Lunch Shaming

[Senate panel votes to ban "Lunch Shaming" in Virginia](#) — AP, February 22, 2018

The Senate Education and Health Committee unanimously approved a bill to prohibit "lunch shaming," which is the practice of singling out students who owe money to the school cafeteria or cannot pay for their meal. Per the bill, schools cannot stamp students' hands or make them wear a wristband when their lunch account is empty. Also, schools cannot ask students to do chores or throw away their meal if they cannot pay. The bill requires schools to raise concerns regarding students' lunch debt to the parents or guardians directly.



Community Eligibility

[Officials: Free meals program a success in Bradford school district](#) — Bradford Era, February 13, 2018

Since starting to provide free meals to all students through community eligibility in Pennsylvania's Bradford Area School District, school breakfast participation in the middle school increased from 16 to 24 percent this year, more than doubled at both elementary schools, and increased from 10 to 24 percent in the high school. In addition to children receiving more nutritious breakfasts and lunches, Dana Mollander, the district's director of food services, said students are no longer stigmatized for not being able to purchase school meals.



Summer Food Service Program

[Summer Meals Program Targets Childhood Hunger](#) — Cape Cod Today, February 16, 2018

In summer 2017, more than 100 sponsor organizations at more than 1,000 sites provided meals through the Summer Food Service Program to nearly 60,000 Massachusetts children per day, and the state expects to reach more students this summer. "The Greater Boston Food Bank estimates 1 in 7 children in Massachusetts live in food-insecure households," and the Summer Food Service Program is vital to the well-being of the state's students, said James Peyser, the state's secretary of education. "We have many strong partners who distribute meals to children, and I hope additional community organizations, schools, and municipal departments will consider sponsoring a Summer Food Service Program site this summer," said Jeff Wulfson, acting commissioner. Interested organizations can call 1-800-645-8333.



National Nutrition Month

In honor of National Nutrition Month in March, 1,000 Days is kicking off its annual #Marchis4Nutrition campaign to amplify the critical role the world's mothers play in nourishing the next generation.

Beginning on Thursday, March 1, we are asking "What if..." — what if moms had the support they need to reach their breastfeeding goals? What if moms had access to quality and comprehensive health care? What if moms had access to safe, affordable and nutritious foods? What if moms had the support of programs and policies to ensure their children get a healthy start?

We invite you to join us in this month-long campaign by sharing your stories and joining the conversation on Facebook and Twitter and following #Marchis4Nutrition.

For more information, please reach out to us at March4Nutrition@thousanddays.org.