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National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference Goes Virtual

This year, the National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference is going virtual to allow thousands of anti-hunger advocates from all across the country to safely and conveniently attend from home. [Register today.](#)

COVID-19: Food Insecurity

[Food Research & Action Center Applauds President Biden for Quick Action on Addressing Hunger in America](#),
FRAC.org, January 22, 2021

The [Food Research & Action Center](#) (FRAC) is pleased and encouraged that President Biden has twice in his first week in office announced a set of strategic actions for eradicating hunger in America, which only has been

exacerbated by COVID-19. The executive order to address food insecurity that was announced today sends an important message to the nation that ending hunger in this country must be a top priority.

[Biden to Bump Up Food Assistance For People ‘Hanging By A Thread,’](#) National Public Radio, January 22, 2021

President Biden signed an executive order on Friday that would increase Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to help people going hungry amid the financial downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, his top economic adviser, Brian Deese, told reporters. Among the increases, Biden wants about 12 million of the lowest-income SNAP recipients to be able to qualify for the emergency food benefits. This tweak would lift their SNAP benefits by 15 percent to 20 percent per month, Deese said.

[Biden to Sign Orders on \[SNAP\], Stimulus Checks,](#)

Intelligencer, NY Magazine, January 22, 2021

President Biden signed an executive order last Friday to increase funding to the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program by roughly 15 percent. P-EBT is a program that issues debit cards to students who would have qualified for free and reduced-priced meals in normal times.

[Keynote Panel Discussion: How to Best Advance MLK’s Food Justice Vision,](#) Hunger Free America, January 19, 2021

Michael J. Wilson, director of Maryland Hunger Solutions, described the organization’s goals: “Our work is to change the law and make it easier for folks to get access to food. By per capita income, Maryland is the wealthiest state in the nation ... We can do more and should do more to ensure people are not suffering from food insecurity and poverty in our state.”

COVID-19: P-EBT

[Feds Approve Ohio’s Pandemic Plan To Feed Needy](#)

[School Kids](#), WCBE, January 22, 2021

Federal authorities have approved Ohio's new plan to extend P-EBT for 600,000 eligible school kids missing out on free or reduced-price school meals. Congress extended the P-EBT program in October, and Ohio had to submit a new operation plan. The extension starts in February, and eligible families will receive retroactive benefits in a single payment.

COVID-19: SNAP

[SNAP Benefits Get Temporary Increase Now Through June](#), Ozark Radio News, January 23, 2021

This month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) started a temporary SNAP benefit increase. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, signed into law in December, includes a 15 percent SNAP benefit increase from January through June 2021 for all SNAP households.

COVID-19: School Meals

[First 100 days: From targeted assistance to SNAP reform, how Biden should tackle the hunger crisis](#), FERN's Ag Insider, January 20, 2021

Before the pandemic, roughly half of SNAP recipients were still food insecure largely because the program does not account for massive disparities in the cost of living between states. Crystal FitzSimons, who directs research on child nutrition programs at the Food Research & Action Center, says "if the maximum per-meal benefit doesn't cover a low-cost meal in the vast majority of U.S. counties, that's a major problem."

[Summer Nutrition Programs Offer Meals at No Cost for NC Students While School is Out](#), WLOS — North Carolina, January 24, 2021

"When schools closed in March 2020, students' access to school meals was interrupted," a release from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) stated. To address this, NCDPI, through waivers from USDA, used the Summer Nutrition Programs to provide meals to students during school closures. These programs

typically provide meals to children during the summer months when school is out of session, but they can be “activated during emergency school closures due to natural disasters, public health emergencies, or other unanticipated school closures.”

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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