

## FRAC WEEKLY NEWS DIGEST

Issue #27, July 3, 2017

follow us:  

### President's Budget

[Our dirty secret: Many seniors going hungry](#) – Lima News, June 24, 2017

"As someone who works closely with seniors and sees firsthand how critical Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits can be for our aging population in Ohio, we cannot afford to balance a budget on the backs of people whose very real need will, as a result, only get worse," writes Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, in this op-ed. In Ohio, 84 percent of SNAP households contain children, persons with disabilities, or senior citizens, and by 2020, 1 in 4 residents in 86 percent of the state's counties will be over the age of 60. The president's proposed cuts to SNAP would be added to the deep cuts Ohio has experienced to the program.



[Circle of Protection condemns Trump's budget proposal](#) – National Catholic Reporter, June 22, 2017

Circle of Protection, an ecumenical group comprising more than 65 national leaders of Christian groups and churches, met with members of Congress on June 21 to voice their disapproval of the president's budget. The group also released a statement on the budget, which contains substantial cuts to SNAP and other safety net programs. The statement said, in part, that "the most vulnerable should not carry the burden" of solving the problem of the national debt.



[Montana Kids Count shows improvements in childhood well-being, albeit fragile ones](#) – Ravelli Republic, June 25, 2017

Food insecurity in children has lifelong consequences and SNAP is vital to childhood success, said Lorianne Burhop, chief policy officer at the Montana Foodbank Network. The proposed SNAP cuts in the president's budget "will absolutely affect Montanans," noted Burhop, adding "[w]e are urging Montana legislators to reject any cuts to SNAP." Although Montana dropped in rank for childhood well-being in the latest National Kids Count Databook, children in the state gained in most of the report's metrics. However, many of the programs responsible for the gains are being threatened with cuts.



[My Voice: Trump's budget damaging to U.S. 'safety net'](#) – Argus Leader, June 20, 2017

In 2015, SNAP helped lift 4.6 million people out of poverty, and the president's budget proposes cutting SNAP by \$193 billion over the next 10 years, writes Terry Werner, executive director of the South Dakota Chapter of National Association of Social Workers

(NASW-SD), in this op-ed. The cuts include shifting costs to states, which would deny benefits to millions of households and reduce the size of benefits. "It is NASW-SD's position that members of Congress should make it clear that a strong social safety net to protect the most vulnerable is what makes America great," Werner concludes.



[Kay Albright: WV senators need to support SNAP](#) – West Virginia Gazette Mail, June 21, 2017

As Congress works on renewing SNAP, "I hope Senators Manchin and Capito understand the struggles in our community and the role that SNAP plays to ensure we can all put food on the table," writes Kay Albright, administrative manager of Manna Meal at St. John's Episcopal Church in Charleston, West Virginia, in this op-ed. Cuts to the program would leave "[m]illions of working people, children, senior citizens and veterans nationwide" unable to pay for groceries and possibly sinking further into poverty. Local businesses would see decreased sales, and demand would rise at already overburdened emergency food providers.



## DC Grocery Gap

[As D.C. prospers, supermarkets proliferate – except in poor areas](#) – The Washington Post, June 27, 2017

According to a recent D.C. Hunger Solutions report [<http://www.dchunger.org/d-c-s-grocery-store-gap/>], 70 percent of the city's supermarkets in 2016 were in the wealthiest, mostly white neighborhoods, while the remaining 30 percent were located in poorer areas with predominantly African-American residents. The disparity "reflects both the growing economic and racial inequality in the city and the shortfalls in the District's efforts to solve the problem," the report noted. "This disparity also exacerbates food insecurity and poor health outcomes for the District's most vulnerable residents."



## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

[SNAP vital to prevent hunger, but locations can fall short on healthy foods](#) – Press of Atlantic City, June 24, 2017

The Press of Atlantic City's Growing Up Hungry team visited 50 stores certified to receive SNAP in New Jersey's Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and southern Ocean counties. While many of these convenience stores, specialty markets, and small grocery stores met SNAP's most basic requirements, the team found few locations with fresh fruit and produce, and high prices for limited fresh produce in a number of stores. SNAP recipients living in food deserts may rely on these stores for much of their grocery shopping. "It's key ... to make sure fresh fruits are in the small vendor areas," said Adele LaTourette, director of the New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition.



## Summer Nutrition Report

[Iowa Reaches More Hungry Kids During the Summer](#) – KMAland, June 25, 2017

The number of children served by the summer nutrition programs in 2016 increased 4.4 percent over that number in 2015, according to FRAC's report Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation. "Iowa did that by encouraging sponsors to expand their programs by operating longer during the summer — by adding an additional meal, by adding an additional site that

they were serving,” said Crystal FitzSimons, director of school and out-of-school time programs at FRAC. One in six Iowa children is considered “food insecure,” and more than 400 summer meal sites operate throughout the state.



[Hunger war: While recent progress helped, too many children miss meals](#) – Garden City Telegram, June 19, 2017

Although FRAC’s summer nutrition report found that participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs in the state increased 10.4 percent in 2016, and the state climbed in rank from 48th to 45th, more than 90 percent of children receiving free or reduced-price school lunch still were not receiving free summer meals. Kansas Appleseed has been working to increase participation by identifying service area gaps and encouraging collaboration, which have led to an increase in the number of summer meal sites.



### **From FRAC Chat**

[Closing the Summer Nutrition Gap in New Jersey](#) – FRAC Chat, June 28, 2017

In this guest post, Nancy Parelo, of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, talks about partnerships and other effective strategies that have increased participation in the state’s Summer Nutrition Programs.



[SNAP Matters for People With Disabilities](#) – FRAC Chat, June 26, 2017

The problem of food insecurity among households with people with disabilities would be far worse if not for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps). In an average month in 2015, SNAP served an estimated 4.5 million households that included a person with a disability — 1 in 5 of all SNAP households.

