

FRAC WEEKLY NEWS DIGEST

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Less Than One Month Left for the 2018 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference Early Bird Registration Rate

The deadline for Early Bird Registration is approaching - don't miss out on [registering](#) at the rate of \$350 per person. After January 5, the rate increases to \$415 per person. Join 1,200+ of your colleagues for what is sure to be the anti-hunger community's biggest and best conference yet! Register, reserve your hotel room, and find conference updates at the [conference website](#).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

[Federal, state budgets could have 'major' impact on local food banks](#) —Trib Live, December 9, 2017

"Every year, we struggle to make sure we have enough to provide food not only for the holidays but for all the other days. People are hungry all year long," said Jennifer Miller, development director for the Westmoreland County Food Bank in Pennsylvania. A major factor affecting food pantries locally, regionally, and nationally is SNAP. In 2017, Miller said the food bank's SNAP coordinator processed 505 applications for Westmoreland residents. Dennis McManus, government affairs director for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, noted that "in our 11-county area, SNAP is responsible for 165 million meals annually. [The food banks] do about 33 million meals, but if the federal government were to cut that program, you can see how much harder we'd have to work to make up the difference. The actions of government have a major impact on the supply of food we have available to serve struggling families."



[Poverty Tour Brings United Nations Expert to Ohio Valley](#) — WKYU, December 10, 2017

Law professor Philip Alston is a United Nations expert on extreme poverty. His work usually has an international focus, but his latest work is taking him to parts of the U.S., including the Ohio Valley. "There are pretty extreme levels of poverty in the United States, given the wealth of the country," said Alston. In the Ohio Valley region, more than 2.5 million people live in poverty. Nearly 1.2 million of those people live in deep poverty, with families making below 50 percent of the poverty level. A recent national report shows that SNAP plays an important role in reducing extreme poverty; it found that the program "reduced the depth

and severity of poverty by 15.1 and 19.0 percent, respectively.” However, the report notes that statistics on poverty are often underreported, and the actual impacts of SNAP may be twice as high.



[How Black Millennials Are Taking Direct Action To Achieve Food Justice](#) — And You Can, Too — Bustle, December 2, 2017

African-Americans in the U.S. experience long-standing health disparities, and even with the growing knowledge of healthy best practices, many of these disparities persist. Often, the culprit and solution are one in the same: food. Access to healthy food remains elusive to many poor, marginalized communities. A new group created by four millennials, BLKHLTH, is advocating for changes to local, state, and national policies, as well as efforts to increase SNAP enrollment, in order to improve food accessibility and decrease food insecurity.



School Meals

[Study: Students Come to Accept Healthier School Meals](#) — Undark, December 7, 2017

The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 set minimum requirements for the amount of fruits, vegetables, and grains in school meals, as well as limits on sodium, sugar, and fat, among other reforms. A new study in the American Journal of Public Health, which used data collected from four New Jersey public school districts over a seven-year span before and after the passage of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, found that daily school lunch participation among students across the study’s time period remained steady at 70 to 72 percent. Daily school breakfast participation increased from 52 percent to 60 percent.



Afterschool Meals

[Newburgh after-school meals program launched](#) — Times Herald-Record, December 6, 2017

Nearly 500 students that participate in afterschool programs in New York State’s Newburgh Enlarged City School District can now receive free afterschool meals. In October, the Newburgh Free Academy began offering meals, and in November the meal program expanded to four more schools. The school district plans to expand the program even more in January. “We are excited for another opportunity to provide healthy meals to our students,” said Caitlin Lazarski, the district’s food service director.



Summer Meals

[Winston-Salem/Forsyth schools to use a food truck to get meals to kids next summer](#) — Winston-Salem Journal, December 4, 2017

Beginning in June 2018, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools will use a food truck to reach more children with summer meals. Fifty-seven percent of the district’s students receive free and reduced-price lunch, so providing children access to food in the summer is important, notes Lauren Richards, child nutrition director for the district. The truck will travel to playgrounds, community pools, low-income neighborhoods, and other locations identified by community partners. “I would really like to hit multiple neighborhoods during the day,” said Richards. “We’d start with 500 meals a day and maybe grow.” The district will continue to offer free summer lunches to any child up to age 18 at its brick-and-mortar

locations.



Welfare Reform

[Ryan says Republicans to target welfare, Medicare, Medicaid spending in 2018](#) —

Washington Post, December 6, 2017

House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-WI) wants Congressional Republicans to reduce spending on both federal health care and anti-poverty programs in 2018, citing the need to reduce America's deficit. Critics allege that Ryan and the GOP will use higher deficits — caused in large part by their tax bill — as a pretext to try to accomplish the long-held policy objective of cutting government health care and social service spending, which would disproportionately impact the poor. “Republicans are already saying 'entitlement reform' and 'welfare reform' are next up on the docket. But nobody should be fooled — that's just code for attacks on Medicaid, on Medicare, on Social Security, on anti-hunger programs,” said Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR).

