

FRAC WEEKLY NEWS DIGEST

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Plan Now to Attend the 2017 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference

The conference, March 5-7, 2017 in Washington, DC, will be a great chance to meet with your new, and returning, Members of Congress and hear from Administration officials. Find out more at www.antihungerpolicyconference.org.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

[R.I. FOOD BANK: Report charts hunger by meals missed](#) – Providence Journal, November 21, 2016

According to the 2016 Status Report on Hunger in Rhode Island, the state's low-income households rely on a combination of federal food programs like SNAP, food banks, and cash to pay for meals, but still miss out on 15 percent of meals — or 33.2 million meals — because they have no other cash or assistance. Economic growth that provides jobs and income to provide food is an important strategy in addressing this meal gap, said Andrew Schiff, CEO of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, which compiled the report.

  

School Breakfast

[New school breakfast program proves a hit with GCS students](#) – The Commons, November 23, 2016

Guilford Central School in Vermont began serving "grab-and-go" breakfast from carts and coolers funded by a grant from the New England Dairy & Food Council and the Dairy Farmers of Vermont, and students are allowed to eat breakfast in their classrooms during the first 15 minutes of class each day. "We found some students were not eating at home for different reasons," said Hanna Jenkins, the school's Farm to School Coordinator. "Some came from food-insecure homes." Jenkins noted that breakfast participation has increased in the month since the program started.

  

[New initiative would help NJ school breakfast expansion](#) – NJ1015, November 22, 2016
Democratic lawmakers in New Jersey are proposing the “Nourishing Young Minds Initiative Fund,” which would help raise awareness among parents of the federal child nutrition programs. While the state has made great strides in school breakfast and other nutrition programs, “there are still 300,000 children across the state who are eligible for breakfast, and they are not getting it,” said Cecilia Zalkind of Advocates for Children of New Jersey.



[Big Buses, Bigger Problems: DCS Buses So Late, Some Dallas Kids Miss Breakfast](#) – NBC Dallas/Fort Worth, November 16, 2016

Dallas County School (DCS) buses have been running late, or not picking up students, because “101 regular route drivers and 53 full-time substitute drivers are needed across all DCS locations,” said DCS in a statement. These late buses, and the no-shows, are causing students to miss school breakfast. “It’s unacceptable, especially in a district where late buses affect many students who rely on the free school breakfast program to eat in the morning,” said Dallas ISD parent Rebecca Jewett; Jewett’s daughter has been late to school at least a couple of times a month because of the problem.



School Lunch

[City Hall rally held to urge Mayor de Blasio to fund universal free lunch for NYC public school students](#) – NY Daily News, November 16, 2016

Educators, advocates, and elected officials rallied at New York’s City Hall to urge Mayor de Blasio to fund free lunch for the city’s 1.1 million public school students, an issue the mayor, while on the campaign trail, said he’d tackle. Free lunch for all students would help remove the stigma low-income students face when they receive free lunch. More than 76 percent of the city’s students qualified for free or reduced-price school lunch during the 2015–2016 school year.



[Parents say free and reduced lunch options are ‘heaven sent’](#) – Shelby Star, November 5, 2016

While 63.5 percent of students in North Carolina’s Cleveland County School District receive free or reduced-price school lunch, more are eligible but have not turned in the paperwork to receive the meals. “There are some barriers that keep kids and parents from filling the forms out; language barriers is one of the big ones,” said Jada Brown, the school district’s child nutrition director. The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows all students to receive free meals at schools with high percentages of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and 17 of the district’s 29 schools qualified for CEP in 2016.



Food Insecurity

[Report Explores How Doctors Can Help Patients Fight Food Insecurity](#) – KPBS, November 16, 2016

A San Diego Hunger Coalition report on five pilot programs over the past two years found it’s beneficial to embed food security screening questions into electronic health

records. “[I]t makes it really easy for doctors to integrate this conversation into the normal patient care visit,” said Amanda Schultz Brochu, CalFresh outreach director at the Coalition. It also “destigmatizes the food insecurity conversation.” Providers participating in addressing food insecurity also are offering CalFresh (SNAP) same-day enrollment programs.



[Renters More Likely to Be Food Insecure Than Homeowners](#) – Census.gov, November 17, 2016

New 2015 American Housing Survey statistics show that while 4.9 percent of homeowners reported food insecurity, 15.5 percent of renters reported they were food insecure. “Working closely with experts at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, we added food insecurity to this survey to better understand the balance many lower income households face between the cost and quality of their housing and putting food on the table,” said Katherine O’Regan, Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



Homelessness

[US homelessness declines: What’s working?](#) – Christian Science Monitor, November 17, 2016

A recent report from HUD shows that chronic homelessness dropped seven percent last year, a 35 percent decrease from the 2007 rate. In Boston, a push for permanent housing options over temporary placements, and offering supportive, long-term options, helped lower the city’s chronic homelessness rate to three percent. However, homeless rates in Seattle, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., increased from between six and 21 percent. The report does not capture data from individuals or families living with friends and family, or those spending more than half of their income on rent, which make people vulnerable to homelessness.



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