



Nutrition Note

NEWSLETTER

November 2023

HUNGER in TENNESSEE

Losing WIC Money for Fruits and Vegetables Would Harm 133,000 TN Mothers and Children

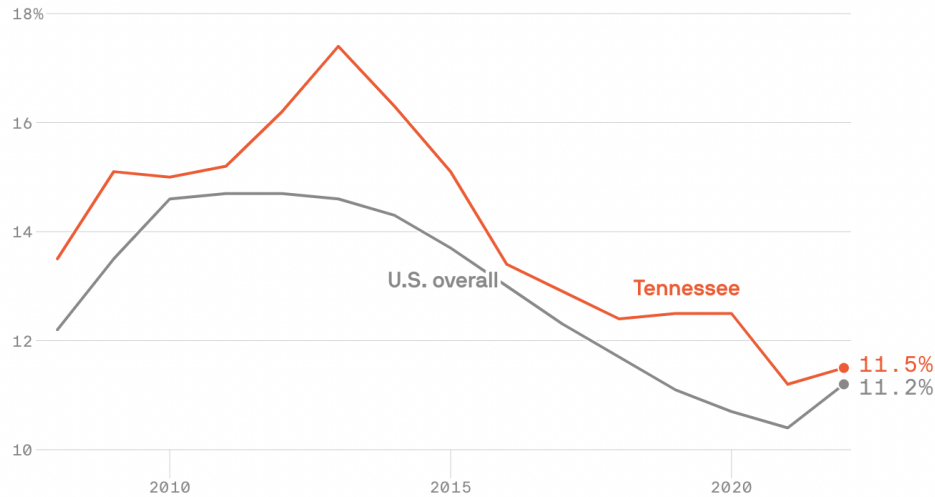


A mother in Portland, TN tells her story about why the extra WIC benefits for fresh fruits and vegetables is vital for her and her child. Congress must protect WIC funding. Read her full story to understand why this issue is so important:

The Numbers are In: Tennesseans Need Food

Share of Tennessee households that are food insecure

Three-year rolling average estimate; Annually, 2008-2022



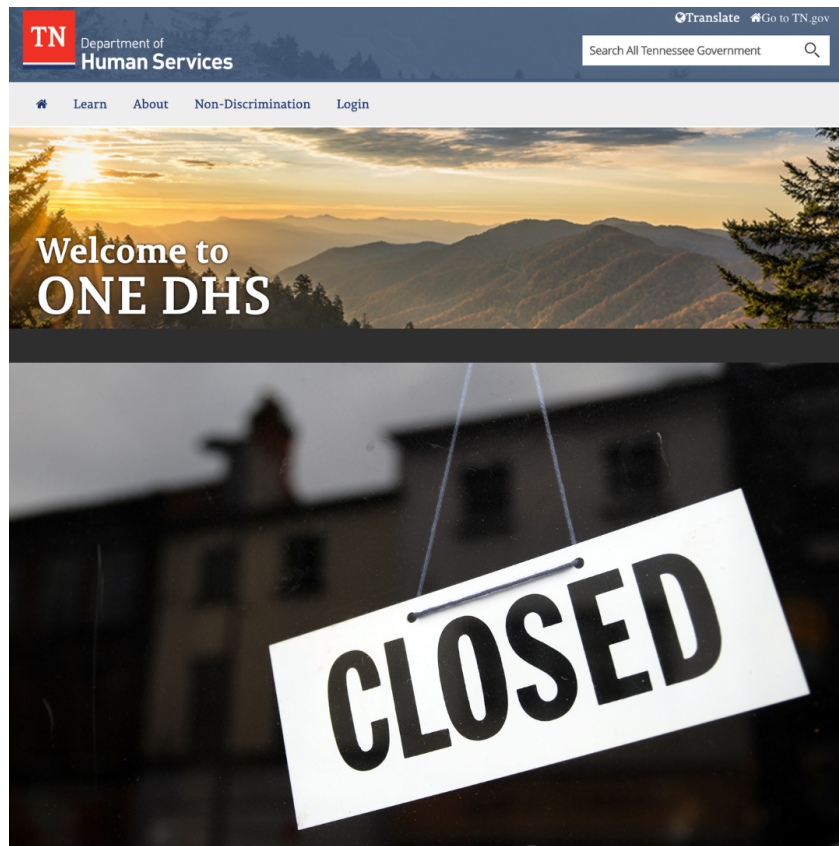
Data: [USDA Economic Research Service](#); Chart: Axios Visuals

USDA's Food & Nutrition Services released a new report detailing how levels of food security and hunger have changed since pandemic assistance has ended. The data shows that 11.5% of TN residents are food insecure, and 4.7% have VERY LOW food security. This data underscores the importance of supporting families during the unwinding of the Federal Public Health Emergency. Read the full report [HERE](#), and read TJC's statement in last week's report by Axios Nashville by clicking the button below:

TJC'S STATEMENT

SNAP

One DHS Online Portal Closures



TDHS will close the online portal, [OneDHS](#), on weekends and holidays for the foreseeable future as they make upgrades to the system. During these closures, clients will be unable to submit applications, renewals, appeals, or changes for SNAP, Families First (TANF), or Child Care Payment Assistance. Important information must be submitted by 5:00pm CT the day before closures. During the closures, clients can still upload documents and check case status.

TN Victims of SNAP Skimming Theft are Being Reimbursed



Tennesseans who have had their SNAP benefits stolen due to skimming crimes can now have that money returned to them. Here's what you need to know:

- Applications are to be submitted through the [OneDHS](#) portal or via a paper form from their local office.
- Only applies to SNAP and D-SNAP, not P-EBT
- Funds stolen from 10/1/22 to 11/5/23 must be submitted by 2/5/24 to be considered.
- Funds stolen from 11/6/23 to 9/30/24 must be submitted within 30 days of discovering the fraud.

To learn exactly how this will work and what to expect, click the button below:

SNAP THEFT REIMBURSEMENT INFO

CHILD NUTRITION

Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids TN



Join us to help bring no-cost meals to every student in Tennessee! The Tennessee General Assembly reconvenes in January, and during last session republican legislators, Representative Raper and Senator Lowe proposed a bill that would provide school meals to all Tennessee students. Every child deserves to learn without hunger.

Join this growing movement by signing up below!

JOIN US

After-School Meal Participation Numbers are Down



According to a new study by [FRAC](#), students eating supper at after-school programs has decreased significantly across the country. In Tennessee, participation in these programs is down 15% from October 2019.

To read the full report, click the button below!

READ THE FRAC REPORT

WIC

Fully Fund WIC!



133,000 TN moms and children will lose adequate access to fresh fruits and veggies if Congress does not act by November 17.

The U.S. Government is heading toward another shutdown and Congress must decide on a budget to continue funding important programs like WIC. Current negotiations threaten to reduce funding and would cut extra benefits for fruits and vegetables. As Congress deliberates on a spending bill over the next month, they must include full funding to support WIC. Send a letter to your legislator urging them to fully fund WIC.

URGE CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND WIC

Share Your WIC Story!



If you or someone you know participates in WIC, take this survey and share what impact a loss of funding would have on you.

SHARE YOUR STORY

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND ACTION CENTER

Government Shutdown



Congress is heading toward another government shutdown. If they do not agree on a budget by November 17. Here are a few of the negative impacts that would result from a shutdown:

- Major cuts to WIC funding
- Tens of thousands of government workers would be furloughed, and those that continue to work will not be paid. During the last shutdown this resulted in many government workers struggling to pay bills and afford food. Many turned to SNAP and other government assistance to get by.

[Contact your Congressmembers and urge them to avoid a government shutdown!](#)

2023 Farm Bill



The Farm Bill was due to be reauthorized by the end of September. SNAP and other programs continue to operate under the current Farm Bill. More conversations on the Farm Bill will come in January 2024. Stay up to date on nutrition issues by visiting our Nutrition Legislation page.

[NUTRITION LEGISLATION PAGE](#)

UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

WIC Champions Group

Thursday, December 14 at 9:00am CT – Join us to discuss SNAP advocacy, casework best practices, and nutrition program updates. We meet every month on the third Thursday at 10:00am CT, so join us to discuss SNAP!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

SNAP Access

Thursday, November 16 at 10:00am CT – Join us to discuss SNAP advocacy, casework best practices, and nutrition program updates. We meet every month on the third Thursday at 10:00a CT, so join us to discuss SNAP!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

The SNAP Benefit Cliff: Broad Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) Webinar

Thursday, November 30 at 11:00 am CT - Tennessee could take common sense steps to address the benefits cliff but has not. TN is just one of eight states that has not adopted a policy that would significantly reduce the benefits cliff for working families in TN. Implementing BBCE in Tennessee would mean that thousands of families who receive TANF would be automatically eligible for SNAP, lessening barriers to accessing food assistance. We will talk about this and how you can support this important option.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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