Gov. Lee Says "NO" to Summer EBT 2025!

Summer EBT was established as a permanent program when P-EBT ended in 2023. Tennessee has opted into the program for 2024, which will support families struggling with hunger during the summer months. In a recent statement, however, Governor Lee said that he would not adopt this program to support families struggling with hunger in 2025 and beyond. Join the Summer EBT alert group (formerly P-EBT) to learn more and stay tuned for action to bring Summer EBT to TN in 2025.

READ THE ARTICLE

HUNGER IN TENNESSEE
DHS Addresses SNAP Backlog
The TN Department of Human Services (TDHS) is calling 22,000 households this week to conduct SNAP interviews. TDHS is addressing the severe backlog of almost 40,000 applications and over the past weeks they have conducted interviews with tens of thousands of SNAP applicants who have waited far longer than the required 30-day period.

SNAP interview calls may come from the following numbers: 866-311-4287, 615-984-0902, or 615-532-0762. To ensure a smooth process, answer calls from these numbers, and upload all required documents to the One DHS portal.

Check out recent news coverage of the SNAP problems in Tennessee:

READ THE ARTICLE

SNAP

Need Help Applying for SNAP?

These organizations help people complete a SNAP (“Food Stamps”) application and can help make sure the application gets submitted to DHS. These agencies only help with the
Tennessee continues to hold over $700 million in TANF ("Families First") funding instead of distributing direct funding to families in need. Even after passing legislation, TN still has almost $720 million stockpiled that could help Tennesseans and their families fight poverty. Read the full story below.

TENNESSEE LOOKOUT ARTICLE

CHILD NUTRITION

Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids TN 2024 Advocate Toolkit

End the lunchbox tax. Fund school meals for all TN kids.
Are you ready to advocate to **expand school meals** for all in 2024? This toolkit is your one-stop-shop for everything you need to communicate with your legislators, your community, and other advocates throughout the 113th Tennessee General Assembly.

SEE THE TOOLKIT

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**Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids TN**

No-cost school meals for Tennessee students is in the works! The Tennessee General Assembly reconvened on January 9. During last session, Republican legislators Representative Raper and Senator Lowe **proposed a bill** that would provide school meals for all Tennessee students, and it received overwhelming bipartisan support. Every child deserves to learn without hunger. Join the Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids partner group to support this change.

SIGN UP HERE!

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**WIC**
WIC Funding is Still at Risk!

On January 18, Congress passed the third continuing resolution for FY 2024, which will fund government programs through March 1 and March 8. Congress continues to debate a final FY 2024 funding package, and full funding for WIC must be included. WIC funding must include an additional $1 billion to avoid turning away up to 2 million WIC eligible families by September. Read more HERE, and use the button below to send a letter to your legislators.

WRITE A LETTER!

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND ACTION CENTER

STATE OF TENNESSEE
The Tennessee General Assembly is back in session. Contact your elected officials and watch for new legislation that will impact Tennesseans.

**Bill Would Impact TANF and SNAP in TN**

**HB 1886/SB 2078** would make changes to TANF (“Families First”) and SNAP (“Food Stamps”):

- It would repeal the "family cap" that limits cash assistance for newborn recipients. Tennessee is one of only 7 states that still has this policy.
- It would establish new benefits bans solely applicable to drug-related charges.

**Support No Cost School Meals**

**HB 255/SB 208** would provide all children in TN with no-cost meals while in school. Contact your legislators today and tell them that children learn best when they are fed and focused.

**CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS**

**FEDERAL**
Help us end hunger nationwide! Here are some actions you can take today!

**Protect WIC!**

Congress must act to fully fund the WIC program before March 1; over 2 million Americans could lose access to nutrition if they don’t. Urge your legislators to fully fund WIC by sending a letter.

[SEND A LETTER]

**Expand the Child Tax Credit!**

A bill has passed the House of Representatives that would expand the Child Tax Credit, allowing more families with children to be eligible for more funding. This bill has the potential to lift more than 400,000 children nationwide out of poverty. Read more below.

[CBS ARTICLE]

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**UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS**

**TODAY! - College Hunger Quarterly Call**

Wednesday, February 14 at 9:00am CT – Join us as we discuss the unique ways college students face hunger, how Tennesseans are addressing it, and how you can get involved.

[JOIN US!]

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**SNAP Access**
Thursday, February 15 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!

CONTACT US TO JOIN

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**Webinar: Know Your Rights: SNAP, WIC, & Child Nutrition**

Thursday, February 22 at 1:00pm CT – Policies exist to protect the rights of Tennesseans and their access to the safety net programs. When policies are not followed, or if they are misinterpreted, it is important that participants and organizations that support them understand the rules so that access to the programs is not wrongfully taken away. Join us for a “know your rights” session that covers important rules about the programs: language access, public charge, timeliness, appeals, and how to stay informed about your rights. Come learn how to advocate for yourself or your clients when navigating these programs.

REGISTER HERE

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**HEALTHY MEALS, HEALTHY KIDS TN**

Thursday, March 7 at 1:00pm CT - Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Tennessee are partners working to expand school meals for all Tennessee kids. Childhood hunger is a serious problem for Tennessee and access to school meals is a solution. If we work together, we can ensure more kids have access to nutritious, free meals.

JOIN US!

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**WIC Champions**

Thursday, March 14 at 9:00am CT – Connect moms and young children to nutritious food and health resources. This group meets monthly and is for people & partners who are interested in improving access for women, children, and caregivers of young children to the WIC program. Sign-up to get program updates, alerts and to receive the WIC Champions call information!

JOIN US!
If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).