



December 2023

## HUNGER in TENNESSEE

TN is Reimbursing Stolen SNAP Benefits



Carisma is a mother in Trenton, TN who had nearly \$1000 in SNAP benefits stolen from her. TN has started reimbursing the stolen funds through the [One DHS Portal](#). Click below to read Carisma's full story.

READ CARISMA'S STORY

## SNAP

### USDA Skimming Reimbursement Tracker



The USDA has [created a tool](#) to track the reimbursement of SNAP benefits that were stolen from households across the country through a criminal process called skimming. So far, almost \$6 million have been reimbursed to 11,000 households. TN is not yet represented in this data but will appear as soon as TDHS processes applications for skimmed SNAP benefits. If you or someone you know has had benefits stolen, click the button below to request reimbursement.

[REQUEST REIMBURSEMENT](#)

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### Stop the Benefits Cliff

Many families are made to choose between higher wages and feeding their families because Tennessee has not adopted existing policy to stop this. Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) could help working Tennessee families to stay employed. Send a letter to Governor Lee to urge TDHS to adopt this policy.

[CLICK HERE TO SEND LETTER TO GOVERNOR LEE](#)

Watch our recent [webinar](#) to learn more!



## CHILD NUTRITION

### School Meals Fight Child Hunger in TN



1 in 8 kids in Tennessee are hungry and free school meals are a first-line response to this crisis. Explore the [Sycamore Institute](#) report titled Federal Funding for K-12 Education in Tennessee to learn how USDA federal reimbursements for meals served in the cafeteria support schools as they feed students.

**To read the full report, click the button below!**

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR K-12 EDUCATION IN TN REPORT

## Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids TN



Adopt no-cost meals for students in Tennessee! The Tennessee General Assembly reconvenes in January 2024, and during last session Republican legislators Representative Kevin Raper and Senator J. Adam Lowe proposed a bill that would provide school meals for all Tennessee students. Every child deserves to learn without hunger.

**Join the Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids partner group to support this change!**

JOIN US

**WIC**

**Calling All Healthcare Providers!**



TJC and our partners at Vanderbilt aim to increase participation in WIC by understanding how healthcare providers can better support the nutritional needs of their patients. If you are a healthcare provider or work in a healthcare clinic, please fill out this brief survey to share about your experience connecting families to WIC.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE HERE

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**Fully Fund WIC!**



**133,000 TN moms and children will lose adequate funding for fruits and vegetables on January 19 if Congress does not act NOW!**

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.

URGE YOUR LEGISLATORS TO FULLY FUND WIC AND INCLUDE THE CVB  
FUNDING HERE!

**LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND ACTION CENTER**

**Continuing Resolution-Funding the Government**



Congress passed a two-phase continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown in November. This resolution moves some funding deadlines to January and the rest to February. A final budget still must be set before these deadlines. This includes funding to fully meet the need of moms and young children through the WIC program, including the extra benefits for fruits and vegetables.

URGE YOUR LEGISLATORS TO FULLY FUND WIC

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## Farm Bill Extension



The Farm Bill, which funds many agriculture, conservation, and food programs, was set to expire on September 30. Congress has passed legislation to extend it for one year, giving themselves time to deliberate in 2024. This omnibus, which is recertified every five years, authorizes SNAP and several smaller food assistance programs. To follow the bills being proposed for this Farm Bill, visit our Nutrition Legislation page.

[NUTRITION LEGISLATION PAGE](#)

## UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

### WIC Champions Group

Thursday, December 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!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



## TENNESSEE SCHOOL MEALS

Thursday, December 14 at 1:00pm CT – Free school meal programs for all students improve health, reduce obesity rates, and improve education outcomes among children. Tennessee has the power to provide school meals to all children in the state free of charge, and state legislation has been introduced twice before to do exactly that. Leading up to the TN legislative session in January 2024, join us to learn about the Healthy Meals Healthy Kids TN partner group and why it is important for Tennessee students and schools. Let's support this important initiative together. We will discuss how it can be done. When kids are happy, healthy, and full, everyone wins.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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### SNAP Access

Thursday, December 21 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](#)

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### HEALTHY MEALS, HEALTHY KIDS TN

Thursday, January 4 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.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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