



August 2023

HUNGER in TENNESSEE

New SNAP Time Limits Ease Hurdles for Unhoused Individuals



SNAP rules are clear, unhoused individuals who meet the eligibility requirements are eligible for SNAP. Yet, a Memphis mom and her child waited six months to gain access to SNAP because she was unhoused, and the SNAP application process in Tennessee did not accommodate this hardship. The mom and her 12-year-old son did not have an address, nor a phone which makes it easier for the state to process an application. Additionally, the state SNAP agency wrongfully required that the mom provide proof that she and her son were homeless.

New SNAP time limits rules improve access for unhoused individuals. People who are experiencing homelessness will have one less administrative hurdle to accessing the vital resources SNAP provides. To read her full story, click the button below.

[LEARN MORE](#)

TJC is Hiring!



Join us to fight hunger and improve access to healthcare. We are hiring for the following positions:

WIC Referral & Data Specialist
WIC Partnership & Outreach Coordinator
Child Anti-Hunger Advocate
Staff Attorney

If you are passionate about ensuring Tennesseans have equitable access to nutrition programs, we want you!
Learn more about these positions here:

[LEARN MORE](#)

We Want to Hear from You!

What is Your Experience With Food Insecurity?



If you have participated in nutrition programs like SNAP, WIC, P-EBT or school meals, we want to hear about it.

[SHARE YOUR STORY](#)

SNAP

What You Must Know about SNAP Time Limit



SNAP time-limit work rules are among the most complex SNAP regulations, and now that the public health emergency (PHE) has lifted these rules have returned. Implementing these regulations requires SNAP case workers to make sensitive judgments about individuals' "fitness for work," have a strong understanding of education and training resources in their area and explain complex rules and processes. While this is a challenge for state workers who implement this policy, it is an even bigger challenge for the participants, many of whom are difficult to reach, lack access to other social support systems, and face barriers to meeting the work requirements.

Starting July 1 certain SNAP participants will be limited to just 3 months of SNAP if you do not meet an exemption or do not have enough work hours.

Who is impacted?

Adults ages 18 to 49, without children are limited to just 3 months of SNAP unless they work at least 20 hours a week. New rules will increase the age requirement to 50 starting September 1, 2023. And on October 1, people ages 51 and 52 will be time limited to SNAP.

Who is exempt?

People who are pregnant, have children, and have a disability are examples of people who have been exempt in the past. New rules now include veterans, housing insecure individuals and children aging out of foster care up to age 24.

For more details about the rule or if you're a SNAP participant who think you may lose your SNAP because of this rule, see the USDA Guidance [HERE!](#)

WIC

Increased Fruit and Vegetable Benefits - Make it Permanent!



The WIC fruit and vegetable benefit increase is set to expire on September 30! Previous benefit amounts offered \$9-\$11, but with the boost mothers and children now receive as much \$24-\$47 per month for healthy produce purchases. This benefit to afford fruits and vegetables is critical to ensuring children will have access to healthy food. Take action! Urge your legislators to extend this benefit for WIC families beyond September 30 and make this a permanent increase.

[FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS](#)

WIC PSA!

WIC public service announcements are airing now on radio stations across the state of Tennessee in both English and Spanish. Listen for this important message between your favorite songs!

[LISTEN TO WIC PSA](#)

CHILD NUTRITION

National School Lunch Program



Tennessee children are returning to school. The National School Lunch Program (NSLP), otherwise known as free or reduced school meals, ensures that children are fed and ready to learn. If your household participates in SNAP, TennCare, or TANF, or if your child attends a Community Eligibility Provision (“CEP”) school, they will automatically receive free meals. Even if you don’t fit into these categories you may still be eligible. For more information, click the button below.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Summer P-EBT Distribution Continues



P-EBT benefits have been distributed for School Year 2022-2023 and Summer P-EBT as of June 16, 2023. **Some benefits are still being distributed** between now and September 30, 2023. If you submitted an appeal and were approved, your benefits may still be on the way. There is no application for children who were enrolled in free and reduced-price school meals.

Learn more about Summer P-EBT [HERE](#).

If you believe your child is eligible and you don't receive benefits by September 30, here are some steps you can take:

1. Lost or misplaced a P-EBT card? Go to [ConnectEBT.com](#) (or call 888-997-9444) to request a replacement card.
2. Log on to [OneDHS](#) to ensure the child's address and information is up to date.
3. Questions? Call the P-EBT Hotline at 833-419-3210 or the Family Assistance Center line at (866) 311-4287

Summer Meals in Tennessee



Summer is a time of higher food insecurity for many low-income families. The Summer Meal Program provides meals to many children but could reach more Tennessee children according to the [Food Research & Action Center](#) recently released [Summer Meals Report](#). National numbers show a decline in summer meal programs participation. Tennessee also saw a decrease in Summer Meal average daily participation (ADP) of 48%. In July 2021, the average daily participation was 92,695 children and in 2022 that number dropped to 48,227.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SUMMER MEALS

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND ACTION CENTER

Federal Legislation



House Agriculture Committee Appropriations Act

Every year, Congress reauthorizes spending limits for a variety of programs, including SNAP and WIC. This year’s proposed bill threatens cuts that would impact thousands of Tennesseans and increase hunger in our state. The bill would impose stricter restrictions on SNAP and reduce the access to healthy food through WIC for young families. Now is the time to speak up. While your elected officials are back home in their districts, contact them via phone, email, letter, or even in person to tell them to oppose any legislation that would block access to federal programs for Tennesseans.

FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS

Farm Bill 2023

The 2023 Farm Bill provides an opportunity to make significant changes to the SNAP program. The House Democratic Task Force on Agriculture and Nutrition is asking for your opinions on what to include as a priority. Give feedback [HERE](#). Learn more about high priority bills to support, how to protect SNAP and ensure all Americans have access to food and urge your legislator’s support here.

NUTRITION LEGISLATION ACTION

UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

SNAP Access

Thursday, August 17 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 10:00am CT, so join us to discuss SNAP!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Back to School Webinar

Thursday, August 24 at 1:00 pm CT - In 2022 over 666,000 Tennessee children participated in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). School Meals are important to student health and well-being especially for low-income students. Research shows that school meals can reduce food insecurity, obesity rates and poor health. We will discuss the importance of school meals, how they are connected to SNAP, what options schools are using to better reach students with healthy meals and how Tennessee can better serve children with school meals.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

WIC Champions Group

Thursday, September 14 at 9:00am CT – Join us to improve access to the WIC program in Tennessee. We will share information, discuss barriers and best practices, strategize and learn from community partners across the state. The goal of these monthly convenings is to improve awareness, increase referrals and participation; and discuss how to improve redemption of benefits.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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