October 2023

HUNGER in TENNESSEE
A Government Shutdown Would Harm Tennesseans

While a shutdown was narrowly avoided by funding the government until November 17, the nutrition safety net programs and Americans with low incomes are still at risk. Congress must pass a true spending bill to avoid another shutdown. Follow us here and on social media to stay informed about what comes next.

Share Your WIC Story
What is Your Experience With WIC?
WIC is a program that could see cuts if a budget agreement is not met, and the government shuts down. 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

SNAP

SNAP Time Limits Take Food From Tennesseans

On October 1, the 3-month access to SNAP for certain Tennesseans who must meet strict work reporting requirements has passed. SNAP food benefits will end for individuals who are underemployed or struggle to find work because the time limit policy was reinstated at the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE). Don’t get dropped from SNAP! Certain
requirements and exemptions can help individuals keep their SNAP. See the TJC time limit flyer for details.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SNAP TIME LIMITS

SNAP Benefits Experience Slight Increase!

Every October, USDA reviews cost-of-living and makes adjustments; this is called the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). USDA increased the maximum income requirements and the maximum benefits for SNAP to reflect economic changes effective October 1.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SNAP INCREASE

WIC

Fully Fund WIC!
The continuing resolution passed by Congress allows WIC to continue operating and provides full funding for fruits and vegetables until November 17. As Congress deliberates on a spending bill over the next month, they must include full funding to support WIC past November. Send a letter to your legislator urging them to fully fund WIC. 133,000 TN moms and children will lose adequate access to fresh fruits and veggies.

TAKE ACTION!

Physicians and WIC

Healthcare providers in TN can connect their patients who qualify to the WIC program. By doing this, they can help ensure the health of women, infants, and children in TN. To learn more about this, join our webinar!
Latinx Participation is Down

The Trump administration proposed policies to punish non-citizens who access public benefits when applying for citizenship. These policies were defeated but it created fear that still affects Latinx participation in the WIC program. Read more below:

LEARN MORE ABOUT DECREASED LATINX PARTICIPATION

CHILD NUTRITION

States Can Serve Meals to More Children - Community Eligible Provision (CEP) Rules Change
CEP allows schools to offer all students free meals if a certain percentage of them receive free meals. USDA recently changed that percentage from 40% to 25%, making more schools eligible for the provision.

MORE ON THE CEP CHANGE HERE

Food for Unhoused Kids

The U.S. Department of Education (DOE) released new guidance on how American Rescue Plan funds can be used to help homeless children and youth. Among other things, the guidance includes feeding youth outside of other programs like school meals.

READ THE ENTIRE MEMO HERE
No-Cost School Meals for Tennessee Learners

The Tennessee General Assembly will be back in session in January. During last session, HB0225/SB0208 was proposed. This would provide kids across the state with guaranteed meals while they are at school. Every child deserves to learn without hunger. Support this important legislation in TN! Register to join the School Meals for All work group and help us support Tennessee schools and children! The first virtual meeting takes place on November 2.

JOIN SCHOOL MEALS GROUP

Farm Bill 2023

The Farm Bill was due to be reauthorized by the end of September. Due to recent government unrest, it is likely we won’t see any movement on the Farm Bill until closer to the end of 2023, possibly moving into January. Stay up to date on nutrition issues by visiting our Nutrition Legislation page.

Learn about legislation and get involved by clicking the button below!

NUTRITION LEGISLATION ACTION
UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

WIC Champions Group

Thursday, November 19 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

SNAP Access

Thursday, October 19 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

Win with WIC! Webinar

Thursday, October 26 at 1:00 pm CT - The WIC program could help patients you care for. WIC protects and improves the health of families with young children and provides money to purchase healthy food. Poor nutrition, poverty and food insecurity have negative impacts on infants, children and on maternal health. Healthcare providers are trusted messengers and can help families connect to healthy food and additional health support by sharing information about WIC and partnering with your local WIC clinic to refer eligible families. Join us to learn more about this important program and how to support patients outside of the doctor’s office.

REGISTER HERE

School Meals for All Kick-off Meeting

November 2, at 11:00 am CT - Register to join the monthly meeting to discuss no-cost school meals for all and how we can make it possible for Tennessee Children.
Hall of Fame Gala 2023

Thursday, October 26 6:00p-8:00p CT - TJC will celebrate our annual Hall of Fame Gala at City Winery in Downtown Nashville. We are so excited to honor 4 visionary leaders who have seen us through the process of building and beautifying our new home and look forward to celebrating with you, our community of support. Purchase tickets, learn more and get involved here:

GET TICKETS

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