



Agenda:

- Introductions
- Benefit Cliff/Martha O'Bryan
- Hunger Data/Second Harvest
- Benefit Cliff/SNAP
- Broad Based Categorical Eligibility
- Q&A

TJC Anti-Hunger Advocacy

Our mission: End hunger in Tennessee by protecting and strengthening the federal nutrition programs: SNAP, WIC, Child Nutrition Programs

- Improve access and remove barriers to programs
- Advocate for solutions to systemic issues
- Educate and inform
- Provide policy expertise
- Direct client work



Federal Nutrition Programs

SNAP Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program WIC Special
Supplemental Nutrition
Program for Women
Infant and Children

NSLP National School Lunch Program **SBP** School Breakfast Program

SFSP Summer Food Service Program

CACFP Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children:



Reduces Food Insecurity



Improves Dietary Intake and Health



Protects Against Obesity



Boosts Learning and Development



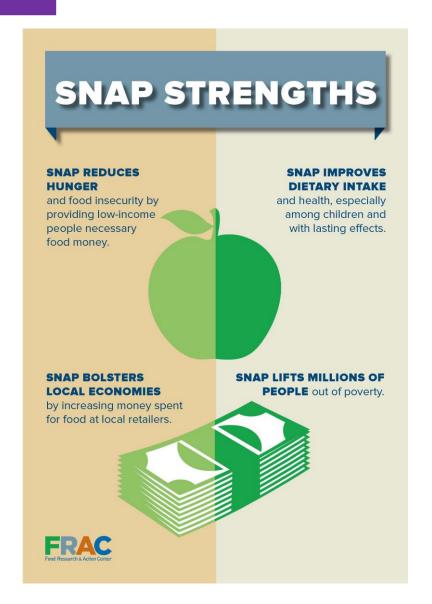
Supports Economic Security



Lifts Families out of Poverty



Acts as Stimulus for Local Economies





TAEM & Martha O'Bryan Center





Ain Ealey
Lead Wellness
Navigation Specialist

TAEM and Our ChanceTN Overview **TENNESSEE ALLIANCE** FOR ECONOMIC MOBILITY



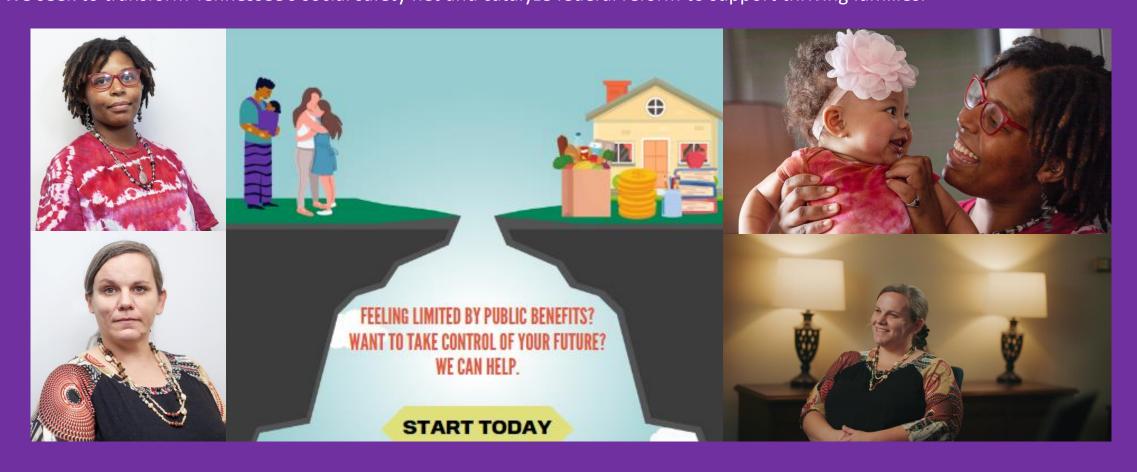
TENNESSEE ALLIANCE FOR ECONOMIC MOBILITY



What Is TAEM?

A public-private partnership comprised of 32 partners that is implementing the largest benefits cliff mitigation pilot in the country, working collaboratively across Middle TN to support 900 families in moving beyond the benefits cliff.

We seek to transform Tennessee's social safety net and catalyze federal reform to support thriving families.





What Is TAEM's Structure?

We operate with a collective impact approach that is led by a backbone team at Martha O'Bryan Center in collaboration with partners across the region. Between the backbone team and partners, there are 61 full-time staff and 14 part-time staff who are implementing the pilot.



The TAEM team is a dedicated team of professionals committed to fostering economic empowerment and prosperity within Tennessee. With a shared passion for creating positive change, this diverse and skilled team collaborates tirelessly to design innovative programs, advocate for policy reforms, and provide essential resources to uplift individuals and communities. Their mission is to break down barriers to economic mobility, ensuring that every Tennessean has access to the tools, education, and opportunities necessary to achieve financial stability and independence. Through their collective expertise, dedication, and unwavering commitment, the TAEM team works diligently to build a more inclusive and thriving future for all residents of Tennessee.



MEET THE TEAM



Marielle Lovecchio
TAEM Director



Shannon Beauchene
Assistant Director



Erica Coure
Childcare Navigation Specialist



Raven Wheeler
Transportation & Housing
Navigation Specialist



Ain Ealey
Wellness Navigation
Specialist



Barriana Woods Peer Ambassador Manager



JB Wheeler Lead Family-Centered Coach

MEET THE TEAM



Pat Hale Senior Finance Manager



Dale Babb Finance Manager



Mallory Dougal
Assistant Accounting Manager



Danielle Garcia

Data & Evaluation Senior

Manager



Sonya Feinberg Database Manager



LaSherrie McKinnie-Bates
Compliance & Accountability
Manager



Hector Cruz
Communications Senior
Manager

MEET THE PARTNERS

- A Step Ahead Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Inc.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee
- Catholic Charities of Tennessee
- Clarksville Housing Authority
- Dickson County Help Center
- EDSI (Educational Data Systems, Inc.)
- The Family Center
- Greenhouse Ministries
- Forward Sumner
- Manna Café Ministries
- Martha O'Bryan Center
- Metro Action Commission
- Metro Development and Housing Agency
- Motlow State Community College
- Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Nashville State Community College the following campuses:
 - Clarksville
 - Dickson
 - Nashville
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee
- Tennessee College of Applied Technology the following campuses:
 - Clarksville
 - Dickson
 - Hohenwald-Maury County
 - Nashville
 - Portland
 - Hartsville-Wilson County
- United Way of Greater Nashville
- Unlimited Potential
- Volunteer State Community College
- The Well Outreach
- Wilson Works
- Workforce Essentials, Inc.







MONTGOMERY - 150 FAMILIES

Clarksville Housing Authority (1) Manna Café Ministries (2, 1)



SUMNER - 75 FAMILIES

Catholic Charities (2, .5)

DICKSON - 75 FAMILIES

™ Dickson County Help Center (2)

• The Family Center (.5)

DAVIDSON - 300 FAMILIES

Martha O'Bryan Center (4, 2)) Metro Action Commission (2)

Metro Development and Housing Agency (2)

WILSON - 75 FAMILIES

Catholic Charities (2, .5)

MAURY - 75 FAMILIES

The Well Outreach (2) • The Family Center (.5)

RUTHERFORD - 150 FAMILIES

Greenhouse Ministries (4, 1)











1

WHAT IS OUR CHANCETN?

A pilot initiative launched by TAEM to support 900 families in moving beyond the benefits cliff

WHY FOCUS ON THE BENEFITS CLIFF?

We believe the benefits cliff is the greatest problem keeping families from thriving, and is estimated to impact 22.5% of Americans (Carey)

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF OUR CHANCETN?

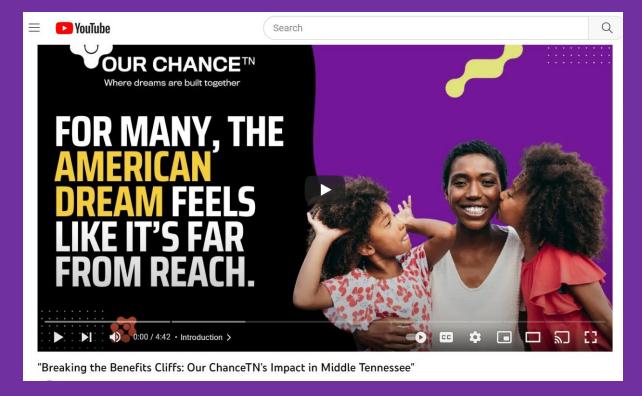
To support families in:

- Moving beyond the benefits cliff
- Increasing their self-sufficiency
- Improving their wellbeing

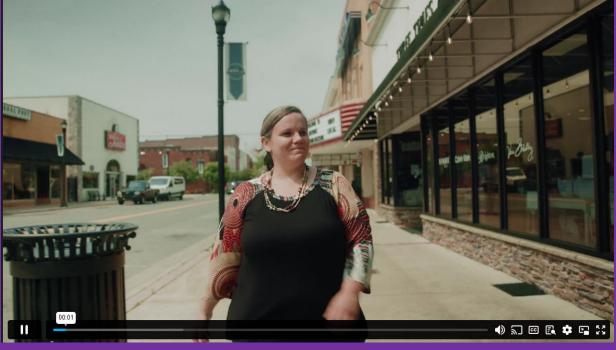




The Benefits Cliff Explained



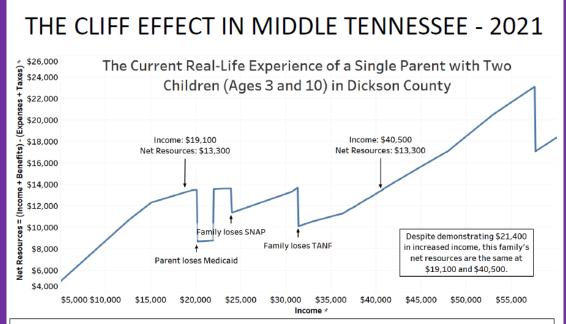








The Benefits Cliff Explained: Middle Tennessee



Graphs assume families are receiving all eligible benefits

Benefits used to calculate include: TANF/Families First, SNAP, Section 8, Medicaid for adult and child, CDCTC, CTC, & EITC. Expenses used to calculate include: Childcare, food, health care, rent utilities, transportation, and essential costs.

Expenses used to calculate include: Childcare, food, health care, rent utilities, transportation, and essential costs Data Sources: Ilin, Elias and Ellyn Terry. 2021. 'The Policy Rules Database.' Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

Available at www.frbatlanta.org/economic-mobility-and-resilience/advancing-careers-forlow-income-families/policy-rules-database.aspx.

TAEM modified benefits to include TANF and adapt SMI, FPL, and SNAP to reflect 2021 amounts



The benefits cliff places working families in an impossible situation. Pursuing a better job or higher pay could put families above the income eligibility threshold for public assistance programs. Due to the loss of these benefits, getting a better job often results in families being financially worse off (a benefits cliff) than before the wage increase.

Families choose what's best financially and thus, can't move forward.





- How Does It Work?
 - Families are randomly selected for one of three pathways (Dream, Hope, Inspire) and receive a different mix of services
 - Families in every pathway receive the following (for up to two more years):



+ \$1,000 of Client Assistance

Why Inree Pathways?

The Tennessee Opportunity Act, which created the Tennessee Opportunity Pilot Initiative and has provided funding to implement the Our ChanceTN pilot, requires that each pilot be evaluated by a third party and be a part of a study (funded by TDHS) that is being conducted to determine how the TOPI pilot programs help people improve their economic wellbeing and become self-sufficient. Each pilot is required to include a randomized controlled trial.



What Are the Pathways?



We want you to...

DREAM. HOPE. INSPIRE.



THE DREAM PATHWAY

This pathway consists of a high-intensity coaching plan with a transitional benefit.

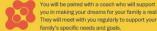
You will join a community of caregivers and access special community events that provide networking opportunities along with community and family engagement.



TRANSITIONAL BENEFIT

When your family is in a cliff, you will access a transitional benefit that will offset the cost of childcare, housing, and healthcare (for approved costs). Benefits are paid directly to providers.

DEDICATED COACH



you in making your dreams for your family a reality. They will meet with you regularly to support your family's specific needs and goals.



FINANCIAL COUNSELING

RESOURCE NAVIGATOR

family's childcare, health, housing, and

A resource navigator will help you navigate your

Learn how to budget and create spending plans based on your family's unique situation. You will access support related to credit report review and score improvement. debt reduction, savings-building strategies, and other support that will help you move beyond the benefits cliff.



We want you to...

DREAM. HOPE. INSPIRE.



THE HOPE PATHWAY

This pathway consists of a high-intensity coaching plan for you and your family.

You will join a community of caregivers and access special community events that provide networking opportunities along with community and family engagement.

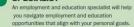
DEDICATED COACH



You will be paired with a coach who will support you in making your dreams for your family a reality. They will meet with you regularly to support your family's specific needs and goals.



EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST





RESOURCE NAVIGATOR

A resource navigator will help you navigate your family's childcare, health, housing, and transportation needs



FINANCIAL COUNSELING

Learn how to budget and create spending plans based on your family's unique situation. You will access support related to credit report review and score improvement, debt reduction, savings-building strategies, and other support that will help you move beyond the benefits cliff.



We want you to...

DREAM. HOPE. INSPIRE.



THE INSPIRE PATHWAY

This pathway consists of a low-intensity coaching plan with a transitional benefit.

You will join a community of caregivers and access special community events that provide networking opportunities along with community and family engagement.

DEDICATED COACH



You will be paired with a coach who will support you in making your dreams for your family a reality. They will meet with you quarterly to support your family's specific needs and goals.



RESOURCE SUPPORT

Your coach will provide referrals to support you in navigating barriers and opportunities along the way; whether related to childcare, health, housing, transportation, employment, or education.

TRANSITIONAL BENEFIT



When your family is in a cliff, you will access a transitional benefit that will offset the cost of childcare, housing, and healthcare (for approved costs). Benefits are paid directly to providers.



FINANCIAL COUNSELING

Learn how to budget and create spending plans based on your family's unique situation. You will access support related to credit report review and score improvement. debt reduction, savings-building strategies, and other support that will help you move beyond the benefits cliff.





What Are the Pathways?

THE **DREAM PATHWAY**

This pathway consists of a high-intensity coaching plan with a transitional benefit.

You will join a community of caregivers and access special community events that provide networking opportunities along with community and family engagement.



Redetermination process, a step-by-

step guide to navigating doctor's

appointments, stress management

services, mental health counseling,

addiction recovery services, or pre-

pregnancy family planning services

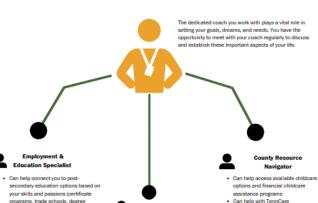
housing options, homeownership,

financial assistance programs, and

· Can help with accessing affordable

affordable legal aid services.

+\$1,000.00 in Financial assistance



- programs, trade schools, degree · Can assist with creating your resume. searching and applying for jobs, then
- practicing for an interview . Help you learn to network and attend iob fairs
- · Can help connect you to vocational training and post-secondary education
- Financial Counseling tailored for
- · Access a transitional benefit when you're in a benefits cliff
- · Gain an understanding of how the benefits cliff impacts your family (at what income your family would lose specific benefits) so you can plan how to move beyond the cliff(s)
- · Access support related to credit report review and score improvement, debt reduction. savings-building strategies, and other support that will help you move beyond the benefits cliff.

CHANCE™

THE HOPE **PATHWAY**

This pathway consists of a high-intensity coaching plan for you and your family.

You will join a community of caregivers and access special events that provide networking opportunities and community and family





- Can help connect you to postsecondary education options based on your skills and passions (certificate programs, trade schools, degree
- · Can assist with creating your resume, searching and applying for jobs, then practicing for an interview
- · Help you learn to network and attend job fairs
- · Can help connect you to vocational training and post-secondary education
- · Financial Counseling tailored for
- · Gain an understanding of how the benefits cliff impacts your family (at what income your family would lose specific benefits) so you can plan how to move beyond the
- · Access support related to credit report review and score improvement, debt reduction, savings-building strategies, and other support that will help you move beyond the benefits cliff.
- · Can help access available childcare options and financial childcare assistance programs
- Can beln with TennCare Redetermination process, a step-bystep guide to navigating doctor's appointments, stress management services, mental health counseling, addiction recovery services, or prepregnancy family planning services
- Can help with accessing affordable housing options, homeownership. financial assistance programs, and affordable legal aid services.

+\$1,000.00 in Financial assistance

THE **INSPIRE PATHWAY**

This pathway consists of a low-intensity coaching plan with a transitional benefit.

You will join a community of caregivers and access special community events that provide networking opportunities along with community and family engagement.





The dedicated coach you work with plays a vital role in setting your goals, dreams, and needs. You have the opportunity to meet with your coach four times a year to discuss and establish these important aspects of your life. Additionally, the benefit specialist coach acts as a valuable resource, providing referrals to various resources, creating a convenient one-stop-shop experience for you.



Health and Wellness; coach by-step guide to navigating doctor's appointments, stress management, mental health counseling, addiction recovery services, or pre-pregnancy

family planning services.



Financial Counseling; coach helps learn how to budget and create spending plans based on your family's unique situation. Access support related to credit report review and savings-building strategies, and othe support that will help you move beyond the benefits cliff. Gain an understanding of how the benefits cliff impacts your family (at what income your family would lose specific benefits) so you can plan how to move beyond the cliff(s)







Transportation: coach helps access free or affordable car repair options, assist in education around purchasing a vehicle, and obtaining legal documents to



Housing; coach helps access homeownership, financial affordable legal aid services.

 Access a transitional benefit when you're in cliff

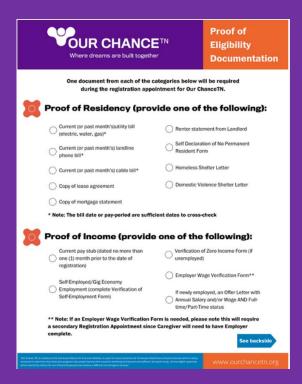
- Example expense 2: mental health counseling, addiction recovery services, or prepregnancy family planning

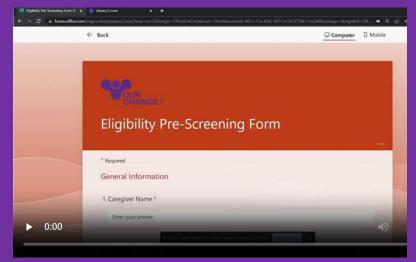
+\$1,000.00 in Financial assistance



Eligible Families

- Have 1 or more children aged 17 or under
- Have a household income that is less than or equal to 185% of the
 Federal Poverty Level
- Are enrolled in 1 or more public benefits: TANF, SNAP, Medicaid (TennCare), Housing Choice, Vouchers/PublicHousing/PBRA, or Free/Reduced Lunch
- Want to work and are willing to work towards gaining employment or increasing their pay/employment
- Are U.S. Citizens
- Live in Cannon, Cheatham, Davidson, DeKalb, Dickson, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Maury, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, or Wilson counties (new counties launching soon)









Recruitment, Pre-Screening of 900 Families

- Affordable Housing Providers
- American Job Centers
- Courts, Legal, Criminal Justice Services
- Community-Based Organizations (e.g. County Resource Navigation Partners, Family-Centered Coaching Partners)
- Community and Technical Colleges
- DHS Offices
- K-12 Schools
- Branded Materials
- Social Media
- TV
- Partners utilize toolkit to recruit families via partner programming /services, events, presentations, 1:1 conversations, social media
- Peer Ambassadors and other trusted voices Workforce Essentials Benefit



Registration & Randomization



Specialists

Enrollment

Low-intensity familycentered coaching

> High-intensity familycentered coaching

Family-Centered Coaching Partners **Family-Centered Coaches**



Workforce Essentials Employment & Education Specialists





County Resource Navigation Partners County Resource Navigators





PROGRESS ON OUR CHANCETN SIGNS OF SUCCESS AND OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES

SIGNS OF SUCCESS (during the pilot)

- Families meeting with Coaches and getting referred:
 - 1,699 coaching visits
 - 671 internal referrals (to Benefit Specialists, County Resource Navigators, Employment & Edu. Specialists, Lead Financial Empowerment Specialist)
 - 200 Navigator meetings
 - 36 Financial counseling meetings
 - 395 Employment & edu. coaching sessions
 - o 30 Intensive financial counseling meetings
 - # Care coordination meetings
 - 694 External referrals
- Recording of Progress
 - 933 Goals Recorded (456/48.9 % set, 381/40.8% in progress)
 - 6 families have moved into a cliff (increased earned income beyond eligibility for 1 or more benefits & are receiving a transitional benefit)
 - 83+ families increased income
 - Educational achievement-
 - 17 families enrolled in education
 - 2 families completed education
 - Employment
 - 52 caregivers new job placement
 - # caregivers advanced employment

INTENDED OUTCOMES (by the end of the pilot)

• Families have increased access to support and resources









- 8.25% (77) caregivers have attained their goals
- 42 families have improved their self-sufficiency
- 22 Families have increased their feeling of connection to something greater than themselves
- Families have increased their feeling of connection to a network or a team of support
- Families have increased their net resources
- 2 Families have moved beyond 1 or more benefits cliffs
- Families projected lifetime earnings
- Families have improved their wellbeing

INTENDED IMPACT (beyond the pilot)



• Families increase their ability to thrive



• Families increase their economic mobility



· Families are more well

INTENDED IMPACT OF TAEM ON THE SYSTEM LEVEL

SIGNS OF SUCCESS (during the pilot)

• Childcare, wellness, housing, transportation, employment, education, and family-centered resources are strengthened



INTENDED OUTCOMES (by the end of the pilot)

• Families have increased access to support and resources



INTENDED IMPACT (beyond the pilot)



• Ecosystems to support families in thriving are cultivated/strengthened









- Increased their earned income/wage benefits beyond eligibility for one or more benefits (# families receiving a transitional benefit)
- # impressions of Faces Campaign, Our ChanceTN website, "Our Dreams, Our Chance" campaign, Our ChanceTN website, TAEM website, "Breaking the Benefits Cliff" video, emails, TAEM LinkedIn account; # of attendees at outreach presentations; # attendees at webinars, conferences, and consultancies where TAEM is presenting



- Families' reduce dependency on government benefits
- Increased awareness about the benefits cliff and how families are moving beyond the benefits cliff
- Increased support for fixing the benefits cliff problem



Return on investment (increase in federal tax payments)



Policy reforms to support families in thriving catalyzed by TAEM's work



Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast TN



CARTER • GREENE • HANCOCK • HAWKINS

JOHNSON • SULLIVAN • WASHINGTON • UNICOI

Cecile WimberleyAdvocacy Manager

Second Harvest Food Bank

Food is provided to non-profit agencies that serve hungry children, seniors living on fixed income, individuals and families in

need in an eight-county region of Northeast Tennessee.

Counties served:

Carter, Greene,
Hancock, Hawkins,
Johnson, Sullivan,
Unicoi and Washington

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF NORTHEAST TENNESSEE

CARTER • GREENE • HANCOCK • HAWKINS

JOHNSON • SULLIVAN • WASHINGTON • UNICOI

FEEDING MEMBER OF AMERICA

Population: 513,957

Area: nearly 3,000 square miles



1020 Jericho Drive Kingsport, TN 37663 (423) 279-0430 www.netfoodbank.org





1 in 7 people face hunger in Tennessee.



Hunger in America

Millions of children and families living in America face hunger and food insecurity every day.

- More than 33.8 million people in the United States struggle with hunger.
- Households with children are more likely to experience food insecurity. More than 9.2 million children under the age of 18 live in food insecure households.
- Every community in Tennessee is home to families who struggle with food insecurity.
- Many households do not qualify for federal nutrition programs and need to rely on their local food banks and other hunger relief organizations for support.

Hunger in Tennessee Map the Meal Gap

Feeding America's most recent Map the Meal Gap shows that 800,970 (or 11.5%) Tennesseans may be food insecure. USDA defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in a household to live an active, healthy life. Food insecurity can affect workforce participation, and impact the health of working adults driving up healthcare costs.



Hunger in Tennessee

Vanderbilt Center for Child Health Policy conducted a poll in the fall of 2022 and found that over 40% of Tennessee families reported low or very low food security (an increase of almost 10% over 2021.)

The poll also indicated that almost 30% of the families polled had parents skipping meals and over 70% of those polled indicated they had to change spending due to increased in food prices.



Hunger in Tennessee Map the Meal Gap

Map the Meal Gap also shows that 197,490 (or 12.8%) of children in Tennessee may be food insecure. Meaning they may not always have reliable access to the food they need either at home or at school depending on income levels of families.

Of these children, 22% are likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs, including federal lunch programs, because their families have incomes slightly

above qualifying maximums. Broad based categorical eligibility could change that for Tennessee families.



Tennessee Justice Center



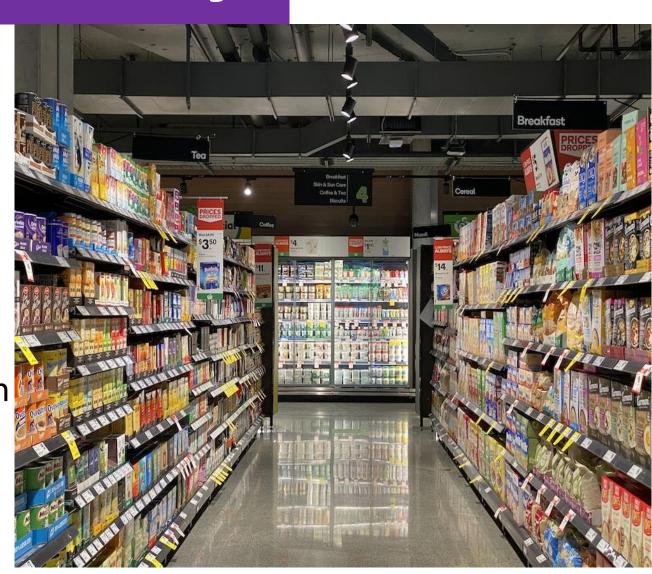
Signe Anderson
Senior Director of
Nutrition Advocacy

SNAP & Our Economy

6,400 TN grocers/authorized retailers take SNAP benefits

SNAP contributed **\$1.8 billion** to local TN economy (2022 USDA data)

\$1.00 SNAP benefits generates \$1.50 in local economic activity





BENEFIT CLIFF



Benefits Cliff

Small income increase



Significant Public Benefits Loss



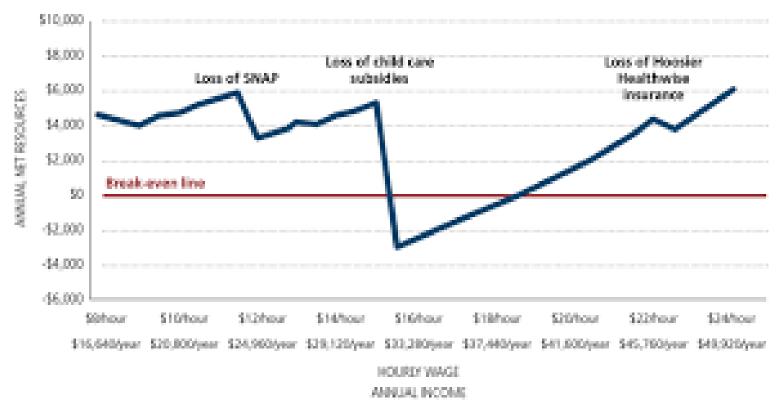




Benefits Cliff



Sudden and often unexpected decrease in public benefits that can occur with small increase in earnings



Source: Motional Center for Children in Poverty's Family Resource Simulator, Indiana 2011

Benefits Cliff



Small income increase



Significant
Public Benefits
Loss



Stalled Job
/Career Progress







Who is Impacted by the Cliff

- Working poor
- Households w/ children
- Have high expenses housing childcare

130% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) = \$32,318 – family of 3

Example: Single mom w/ 2 children
Works full-time (\$12.50/hr.) 125% FPL
Receives \$161/mo. SNAP – food stamps



Cliff Effect

Example: Single mom w/ 2 children
Works full-time (\$12.50/hr.) 125% FPL

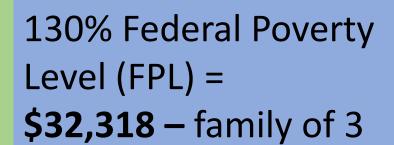
Receives \$161/mo. SNAP – food stamps

Gets **\$0.50** raise! = **\$86/mo**.

Puts her at **131% FPL &** loses SNAP = **(- \$161/mo.)**

\$161 - \$86 = \$75

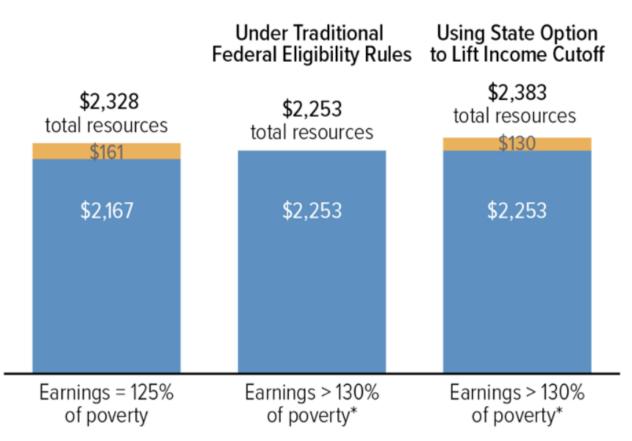
She has \$75 less to feed her kids every month!





SNAP's Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility Encourages Work





children

W/ BBCE...

Mom keeps SNAP = \$130/mo.

keeps raise = \$86/mo.

Better off overall = \$55/mo.

^{*}Earnings are equal to 130.1% of poverty or \$2,253 per month, just above the federal gross



Broad Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE)

BBCE

Broad Based Categorical Eligibility/Cat-El

Policy

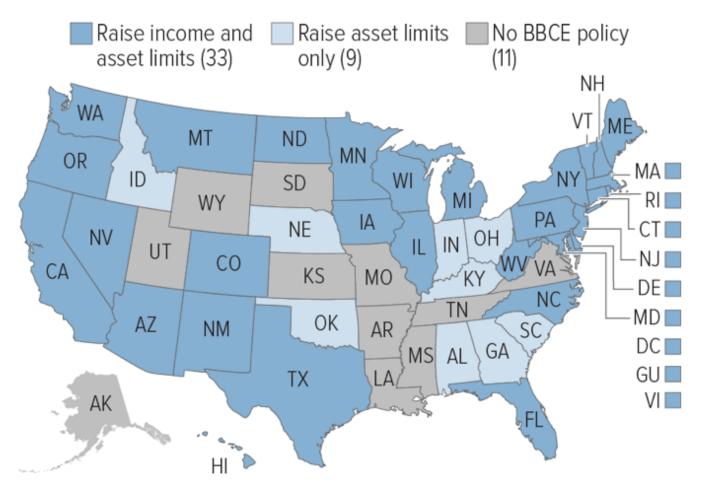
- **Income eligibility limits** (from 130% up to 200%)
- Less restrictive asset test (>2,500)

How does it Help:

- Helps working families
- Allows low-income households save for future
- Simplifies SNAP administrative burden



Over 40 States Use Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility



Note: Broad-based categorical eligibility (BBCE) enables states to qualify certain low-income households for SNAP if they receive a non-cash benefit funded by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant.

Source: Department of Agriculture, "Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility," October 2018

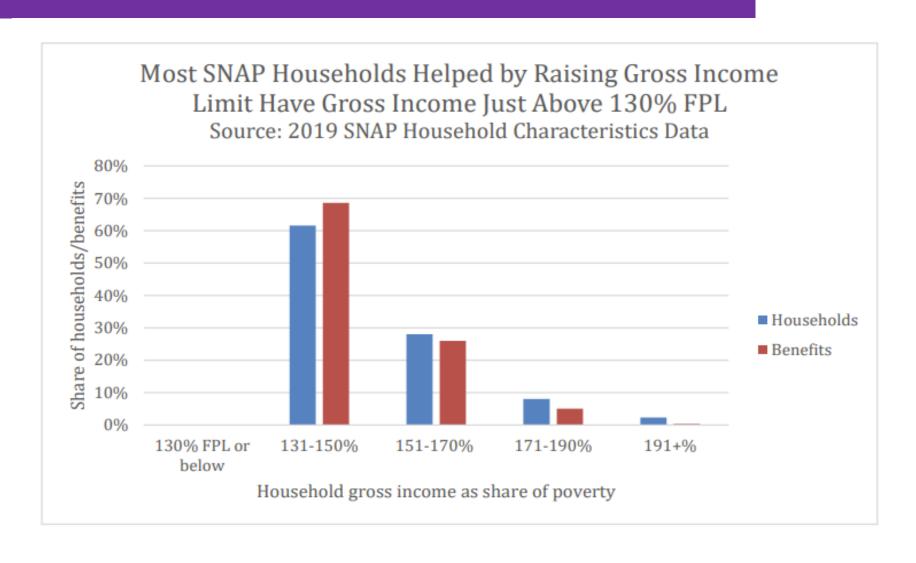
If TN Adopted BBCE

- 7,000 to 16,000 Additional households could receive SNAP
- \$16 \$38 million more SNAP benefits in TN
- Impact Free School Meals –
 More children eligible





Policy Impact for TN



How to Change BBCE Policy

Administrative – TN-DHS/Gov. Lee
The agency could change this policy

Legislative

Lawmakers could amend this by proposing legislation





Questions?

Contact Us:

Signe Anderson
Senior Director of Nutrition
Advocacy
sanderson@tnjustice.org









WWW.TNJUSTICE.ORG