



SNAP: USDA Proposed Rule to Eliminate Time Limit Waivers

USDA Reopens the Public Comment Period on the SNAP Rule (April 8-10)

Comment in Opposition to Help Tennesseans Escape Hunger and Poverty

[The USDA proposed rule](#) would increase hunger in Tennessee, making it harder for people to access food assistance because they are unable to find or keep a job. The rule would eliminate states ability to get waivers to feed their citizens in communities of high need, and limit state flexibility. This goes against Congress's overwhelming bipartisan support of the farm bill that was just passed.

The Threat

The proposed rule threatens to block food assistance to Tennesseans who face hunger and live in poverty. These waivers serve as an important tool to protect food assistance benefits during difficult economic times. There is no evidence that eliminating a waiver will increase employment and earnings. The opposite is true. It will be harder for Tennesseans to find a job if they are at the same time struggling to eat.

About SNAP Time Limits

SNAP time limits apply to able bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs), who are childless adults aged 18 to 49, and are unemployed or underemployed (working less than 20 hours per week). USDA estimates that under the proposed rule, 755,000 SNAP participants would be newly subject to the time limit, meaning if they can't find and maintain employment at 20 hours per week, they will only be eligible for three months of SNAP benefits over three years.

SNAP benefits play a critical role in alleviating hunger and food insecurity for over 900,000 Tennesseans each month. SNAP benefits provide a substantial boost to the economy delivering over \$100 million in spending at grocery stores across the state each month.

Comments opposing the time limit rule are due on April 2, 2019. TJC will share Tennessee specific comment templates in the upcoming week. Please reach out to Signe Anderson (sanderson@tnjustice.org) for help submitting a comment.

[Click Here to Submit a Comment Opposing Time Limits](#)

Comment period reopens April 8-10

- [See TJC's letter template for guidance](#)
 - Ask others to submit a comment
- [Check out our webinar recording](#) about the proposed rule

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