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## QUICK LINKS

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1. [Last opportunity to register for the WIC & Healthcare webinar TODAY 12/12 at 2:00pm CDT/3:00pm EDT.](#) This webinar is for everyone interested in childhood nutrition and health, not just healthcare providers.
2. Register for our college anti-hunger coalition call on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00pm CDT/3:00pm EDT by [emailing Sarah Henson.](#)

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## SNAP

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Final Rule issued on SNAP time-limits

Last week, the USDA [issued its final rule](#) on SNAP time limit waivers that will harm states' ability to help Tennesseans put food on the table in times of economic uncertainty. This executive order undermines the bipartisan support that passed the 2018 Farm Bill and is a step backwards for Tennessee. In 2017, Tennessee responded to the economic downturn by applying the time limit waivers to 86 out of 96 counties in the state to ensure that individuals struggling to find employment would not go hungry. The waivers allowed the state to lift the three-month limit to SNAP for unemployed and underemployed individuals between the ages of 19-49.

USDA's action will make it harder for Tennessee to apply these waivers in the future and slow the state's ability to respond quickly to an economic recession and sudden job loss nationwide. This rule will cut-off basic food assistance for nearly 700,000 individuals. The rule is scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2020.

Read TJC's statement: <https://www.tnjustice.org/snap-final-rule-time-limit-waiver-negative-impact-tn/>

## SNAP rules proposed to date and current status

- **Public Charge rule:** On October 10, 2018, USDA issued a proposed rule that would create an income test that will make it harder for most immigrant families to stay or be reunited in America. Under the rule, if someone receives Medicaid, nutrition benefits, or other aid for which they are eligible, they may be denied green cards or a change of immigration status. *Current status: The rule was issued on August 14 but halted after federal judges issued five nationwide preliminary injunctions. It was scheduled to go into effect October 15, 2019 but is now pending judicial review before implementation.*
- **Broad Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) rule:** On October 15, 2019, USDA proposed rule on BBCE that would gut states' options to eliminate SNAP asset tests and use a higher income test to serve more working households that have significant expenses for shelter and childcare. This means that fewer families will be able to access SNAP. The rule will most greatly impact working families with children, seniors, and people with disabilities. After the comment period closed it was found that nearly 1 million school children would lose access to school meals and USDA reopened the comment period. *Current status: pending final ruling from USDA.*
- **Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) rule:** On October 3, 2019, USDA published a proposed rule that would cut SNAP benefits a net total of \$4.5 billion over five years. The cut results from changes in how states calculate a Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) for determining a household's utility costs. Household utility costs affect the amount of SNAP benefits a

household receives. The comment period for this rule closed December 2, 2019. *Current status: pending final ruling from USDA.*

## SNAP Access Call

Do you work with people on SNAP? Are you interested in learning more about SNAP access in Tennessee? Do you have a story to share about trying to access SNAP? Join our monthly call every third Thursday of the month! Email Sarah at [shenson@tnjustice.org](mailto:shenson@tnjustice.org) to join us for our monthly update.

## Update from UTK Hunger and Homelessness Summit

On November 22, TJC presented on SNAP for College Students in Knoxville. Recent national data has highlighted the serious issue of college students struggling to meet basic needs and experiencing hunger, and campuses across Tennessee are no different. Data at the conference revealed that **1 in 3 Vols** at UTK experiences hunger. TJC highlighted the importance of **college students being able to access SNAP and WIC** – and shared best practices on how students, staff, and professors can connect others to these resources. For a copy of the presentation, email Sarah Henson [shenson@tnjustice.org](mailto:shenson@tnjustice.org).

## College Hunger

Did you miss our college hunger calls over the summer? We are starting them back up on January 22 at 2pm CT/1pm ET! Partners across the state who work with SNAP or students (or are students themselves!) will join in conversation about addressing student hunger in Tennessee. Each call will feature the work of a few key partners across the state, advocacy opportunities, and college hunger legislation. To join, email [shenson@tnjustice.org](mailto:shenson@tnjustice.org) or call at 615-846-4724.

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# WIC

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## WIC and Healthcare Providers Webinar TODAY

WIC & Healthcare Providers  
Webinar

Thursday, December 12  
2:00 pm CDT/3:00pm EDT

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

On December 12, 2019 at 2:00pm CDT/3:00pm EDT the Nutrition Team will host a webinar about the important role that healthcare providers can play in supporting the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Food security is critical to good health, especially during the early stages of life, so anyone working to improve the health of Tennesseans

is encouraged to join us to learn more about this vital nutrition program for women, infants, and children.

This webinar covers the basics of the WIC program, common misconceptions, and how food insecurity intersects with healthcare. This training also offers an opportunity to troubleshoot problems that an organization might have regarding WIC referrals.

Register to reserve your spot in the webinar [here](#).

## WIC Champions Group

We are seeking motivated, passionate individuals committed to improving the lives of Tennessee women, infants, and children to join our statewide WIC working group. This group comprises leaders from across the state and will address issues regarding WIC education, recruitment, and retention.

If you are interested in joining the state's leading WIC advocacy group, please email Kelli at [kklein@tnjustice.org](mailto:kklein@tnjustice.org).

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# LEGISLATIVE ENDORSEMENTS

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The Tennessee Justice Center endorses the following federal legislation:

- **The Caregivers Access and Responsible Expansion (CARE) for Kids Act of 2019** (S. 2760) would help support children who are being raised by grandparents or relatives other than their parents by ensuring automatic access to free school meals. See FRAC's fact sheet: [Support the CARE for Kids Act of 2019](#).
- **The Universal School Meals Program Act** would provide free school breakfast, lunch, and afterschool suppers to all children, among other provisions. You can read a summary of the legislation [here](#).

## Legislation Tracker

Wondering what bills have been introduced related to hunger and nutrition? [Here's](#) a great resource for a list of bills you can follow along with us.

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# CHILD NUTRITION

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Missed our webinar on Child Nutrition Reauthorization? [Our recording is now available on demand!](#) Learn about the basics of this important federal process and how you can help with #TJCNutrition and Cecile Wimberley from Second Harvest Northeast Tennessee Food Bank.

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# SOCIAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

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In November, we highlighted the issues of veteran hunger, and hunger and homelessness among college students. Our [top tweet](#) was about veteran hunger in Tennessee. [Click here](#) to share it.

**Get tweeting! Here's an easy way to join the anti-hunger conversation in Tennessee. Please share the following tweets:**

Solutions exist for reducing hunger and poverty among young children. Programs like #SNAP, #WIC & #CACFP support health & well-being during early childhood & beyond. Check out how TN is faring with new fact sheets #ThinkBabies @tnjusticecenter <http://bit.ly/2Nuirvt>

The @USDA just released a report that 44% of SNAP recipients are children. We want TN children to have access to healthy food through programs like #SNAP, #WIC, and #schoolmeals. @tnjusticecenter #handsoffSNAP #protectSNAP

Low-income students face impossible decisions when it comes to eating, healthcare, and paying for school. Did you know college students might be eligible for #SNAP to get help paying for food? @tnjusticecenter can connect you! DM or  shenson@tnjustice.org

#didyouknow seniors & people with disabilities could get higher benefits with #SNAP if they send in medical bills to their local DHS office? @tnjusticecenter can help! DM or  shenson@tnjustice.org

## News you can use

- Babies born to mothers with WIC are 33% less likely to die in the first year of life. <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/babies-born-mothers-wic-33-die-1st-year/story?id=67523105>
- The Trump Administration releases a rule that makes it harder for Tennessean's struggling to find work or maintain consistent work hours.

<https://www.newschannel5.com/news/more-americans-will-have-to-work-for-food-stamps-under-new-trump-rule>

- 'We Need The Food That We Lost'; Low-Income Families Still Reeling From Blackouts. <http://www.capradio.org/articles/2019/12/01/we-need-the-food-that-we-lost-low-income-families-still-reeling-from-blackouts/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=28cd3e4c-f9c7-4c94-aa9c-e072daa91126>

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Tennessee Justice Center  
211 7th Ave N  
Suite 100  
Nashville, TN 37219  
United States

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