

# Nutrition Note



TENNESSEE JUSTICE CENTER

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Hi {{FirstName or 'friends'}},

Happy New Year! Thanks to everyone who worked with us in 2019 and to the generous donors who supported us during Giving Tuesday and throughout the year. We look forward to fighting hunger with you in 2020 through the SNAP, WIC, and the Child Nutrition Programs. We start off the New Year with a new webinar series and 2020 brings the Census, which is important to programs that address health and hunger. Read on to learn more about the nutrition programs and how you can engage with us to end hunger in Tennessee.

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## SPRING 2020: WEBINAR SERIES SCHEDULE

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January 14, 2020 at  
3:00pm CDT/4:00pm  
EDT

### [SNAP Restrictions on Adults Who Struggle with Hunger](#)

This webinar will explore SNAP time limits, how state waivers of these limits help Tennesseans struggling with job security, and the

concerning downward trend of granted waivers in Tennessee.

January 30, 2020 at  
2:00pm CDT/3:00pm  
EDT

## [Where Hunger Meets Housing: The Role of the WIC Program in a Housing Crisis](#)

This webinar will explore how food insecurity and housing crises intersect and provide guidance to partners who work with people experiencing homelessness.

February 6, 2020 at  
2:00pm CDT/3:00pm  
EDT

## [Senior Hunger and SNAP](#)

Senior hunger in Tennessee has serious consequences for older Tennesseans and our entire community, leading to poor health outcomes and higher health care costs.

February 13, 2020 at  
2:00pm CDT/3:00pm  
EDT

## [Children's Health and SNAP Benefits](#)

This webinar will discuss the importance of SNAP to children's wellbeing and explore how child advocates can support this important nutrition program.

March 5, 2020 at  
2:00pm CDT/3:00PM  
EDT

## [Successful Reentry Requires Food Security \(& How SNAP and WIC Can Help\)](#)

Over 10,000 people are released from prison in Tennessee each year. These individuals reenter their communities with complex needs and challenges including food security.

March 12, 2020 at  
2:00pm CDT/3:00pm  
EDT

## [Gearing up for SFSP in TN](#)

This webinar will discuss best practices for sponsors, the process to become a sponsor, and if you are not a sponsor there are opportunities in advocacy to improve the programs and outreach to support local sponsors.

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# CENSUS 2020

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Census 2020 is coming soon and it's important for you and your community to be counted. Work with us to share information about why the census is important and urge your network and clients to be counted. The census impacts funding for programs and services that affect our daily lives and is crucial to federal programs like WIC, TennCare, and many other programs that support low-income communities.

### Census Jobs and SNAP

Tennessee Department of Human Services applied for a [USDA waiver](#) that allows this temporary work to be waived from income when applying for SNAP. That means working for the census won't cut anyone's SNAP benefits in Tennessee!

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# SNAP

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## SNAP Partner of the Month...

...is University of Memphis Dean of Students Office and Tiger Pantry!

TJC will highlight work of our partners across the state who are making a difference with SNAP and we are excited to announce that our very first SNAP Partner of the Month is the [University of Memphis Dean of Students Office and Tiger Pantry](#)! The staff here actively fights food insecurity for students on campus with not only a pantry and meal swipe program for students but assesses other student needs and creates long term solutions for students by connecting them to other resources like SNAP. Beginning this month, they are receiving a grant from the TN Dept of Human Services and USDA to hire a staff member specifically for SNAP Outreach. Way to go U of M Tiger Pantry! Learn more about them on our College Hunger Collaborative Calls, beginning January 22 at 3pm ET/2 PM CT. [Register here](#).

## SNAP Time Limits Changes

In December USDA released a 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 95 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 18-50.

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

## College Hunger and SNAP: Intro to Call Series

January 22, 2020- 3:00 PM ET/2:00 PM CT

College hunger is a growing concern and SNAP is an underutilized food resource that could support students. Student demographics are changing while college tuition and fees are skyrocketing, forcing students to make tough decisions between school, healthcare, childcare, rent, and food. Our college hunger series resumes this month to take a closer look at college hunger in Tennessee. Joining us on the call will be community organizations, students, school officials, and interested individuals. We will share resources, success stories, and address barriers as a collective group. Participants in this series are encouraged to share experiences or stories. If you are interested in joining the conversation or in sharing your story please [register here](#).

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# WIC

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## New USDA data shows WIC Participation Down in Tennessee

[National- and State-Level Estimates of WIC Eligibility and WIC Program Reach in 2017](#). This report, the latest in a series of annual reports on WIC eligibility, presents 2017 national and state estimates of the number of people eligible for WIC benefits and the percent of the eligible population and the US population covered by the program, including estimates by participant category.

The report also provides estimates by region, state, U.S. territory, and race and ethnicity. Tennessee's participation rate—the number of eligible persons receiving WIC benefits—decreased from 43.0% in 2016 to 42.9% in 2017. This is significantly lower than the regional southeast average (49.0%) and the national average (51.1%).

## Joining the 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 this exciting WIC advocacy group, [please complete this short interest form](#).

## Participate in our WIC Survey

TJC is surveying WIC eligible individuals. If you work with individuals who might be eligible for WIC and might be interested in sharing information about their experience, please contact Kelli at

kklein@tnjustice.org.

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## ENDING HUNGER IN MID-TN: ANTI-HUNGER SUMMIT

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March 26, 2020 - Join the Tennessee Justice Center and the Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee for a summit on ending hunger in Middle Tennessee. We will explore how hunger impacts the region, hear from partners that are currently working to address the issue and find ways that we can collectively work together to end food insecurity in our communities. The agenda will include sessions on SNAP, WIC and the Child Nutrition programs. Stay tuned for a more detailed agenda in March. [Register here.](#)

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## CHILD NUTRITION

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### Summer Meals Program -TN DHS Summer Meals Summit

Hunger spikes during the summer months for many children in low-income households who rely on free and reduced price meals during the school year. The summer nutrition programs provide free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children in low-income areas get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow throughout the summer months when they are out of school.

The Tennessee Department of Human Services will host a summer summit to share information and resource and provide a networking opportunity for organizations to start or grow the summer meal programs in communities throughout Tennessee. **Register by emailing Natalie Adeleke at [natalie.f.adeleke@tn.gov](mailto:natalie.f.adeleke@tn.gov).**

**What:** TN DHS meeting for summer meals sponsors. DHS will present on and encourage new sponsors to go out to areas of need and feed children that live in food deserts and low-income areas.

**When:** January 23, 2020 from 9:00am to 3:00pm CDT.

**Where:** Tennessee State Guard on 3041 Sidco Drive, Nashville TN 37204

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# TN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENES

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Tennessee Legislators are back in session as of January 14! During legislative session, Tennessee legislators will meet and in various committees to discuss potential bills and decide rules and laws that impact us all. TJC will actively monitoring bills that impact programs like SNAP, WIC, and child nutrition; and highlight proposed rules through email alerts, the Nutrition Note, and social media. If you would like to weigh in with your elected officials, meet legislators, or share a story, please reply to us or reach out to Sarah (shenson@tnjustice.org).

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## SOCIAL MEDIA

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Whew! TJC was active in December with comment period deadlines for the SNAP Standard Utility Allowance rule and the TennCare Block Grant, as well as the release of the final ruling on SNAP time limit waivers – there was a lot from us! Thanks for liking, retweeting, and commenting on our media!

Here are our top 4 tweets of the month. Feel free to copy and paste these or retweet them directly by clicking on the link.

SNAP ruling impacts communities of color (12/15/19)

[Discrimination in the job market still affects communities of color. And cutting programs like SNAP — which helps people put food on the table when wages aren't enough— kicks people when they're down. Use #HandsOffSNAP to fight back.](#)

SNAP ruling impacts victims of domestic violence (12/17/19)

[Escaping an abusive relationship can mean a loss of financial support, housing, or health care. And many survivors rely on SNAP for financial independence. Trump's proposed cuts to the program could jeopardize that. #HandsOffSNAP #ProtectSNAP](#)

Women disproportionately impacted by SNAP cuts (12/27/19)

Women are overrepresented in the low-wage workforce & those jobs often come with unpredictable schedules. Trump's new requirements mean that thousands of women could lose SNAP—because they can't get enough hours at work. #ProtectSNAP #HandsOffSNAP

People on SNAP are working (12/29/19)

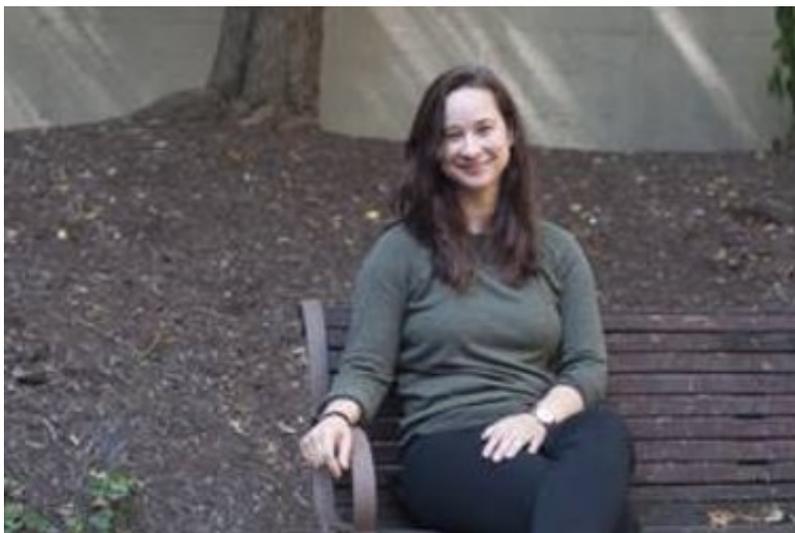
The majority of people who use SNAP have jobs...but those jobs pay poverty wages and have unstable hours. In this unpredictable job market, people shouldn't also have to worry about where their next meal is coming from. #HandsOffSNAP

# THANK YOU TO OUR GIVING TUESDAY DONORS!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the nutrition team on Giving Tuesday! Our work would not be possible without your generous support and encouragement.

Sincerely,

Signe, Sarah, and Kelli



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**Stay connected:**



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

info@tnjustice.org | 1-877-608-1009 | <https://www.tnjustice.org>

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