

# SNAP Time Limit Impact on Hunger

September 2024



TENNESSEE  
JUSTICE  
CENTER



# INTRODUCTION

# ANTI-HUNGER TEAM

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King Nutrition Fellow

# TJC ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCACY

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, Infants, and Children

**NSLP:** National School Lunch Program

**SBP:** School Breakfast Program

**SEBT:** Summer EBT

**SFSP:** Summer Food Service Program

**CACFP:** Child and Adult Care Food Program

**CSFP:** Commodity Supplemental Food Program

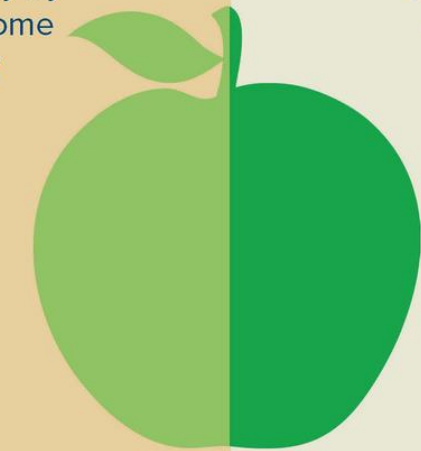
## SNAP STRENGTHS

### SNAP REDUCES HUNGER

and food insecurity by providing low-income people necessary food money.

### SNAP IMPROVES DIETARY INTAKE

and health, especially among children and with lasting effects.



### SNAP BOLSTERS LOCAL ECONOMIES

by increasing money spent for food at local retailers.

### SNAP LIFTS MILLIONS OF PEOPLE out of poverty.



**FRAC**  
Food Research & Action Center

# AGENDA

- **Objectives**
- **SNAP & Time Limits**
- **Barriers and Impact**
- **State and Federal Options**
- **Advocacy & Action**
- **Discussion**



# OBJECTIVES

- Learn about the SNAP 3-month time limit policy and who it affects
- Understand the barriers that SNAP time limits create
- Discuss advocacy opportunities



# SNAP

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- Formerly **Food Stamps**
- Allows participants to buy food with an **EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) card** at grocery stores and farmers markets
- Helps **mitigate hunger** for low-income people of all demographics





# SNAP 3-MONTH TIME LIMIT

- Policy requires individuals to work to keep SNAP
- If work requirements are not met, limited to 3 month of SNAP during a 3-year period
  - Current clock ends **December 31, 2024**
- Impacts "Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents" (ABAWDs)
- Must work **20 hours/week or 80 hours/month**



# ABAWD

## Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)

- Age 18-52\*
- No children or dependents
- Without disability or other qualifying exemption

\*Increases to 18-54 as of 10/1/24



# EXEMPTIONS

- Younger than 18 or older than 52\*;
- Live with a child under 18 (does not need to be a relative);
- Care for a disabled person or child;
- Are pregnant;
- **Are homeless;**
- **Are formerly in foster care and under 25;**
- **Are a veteran**
- [and more...](#)

\*Increases to 18-54 as of 10/1/24



# QUALIFYING ACTIVITIES

- Paid, unpaid, or volunteer work
- Informal care of child under 6
- SNAP Employment & Training
- On TANF (“Families First”)
- Pursuing a GED or High School Diploma
- Workforce development programs
- [and more...](#)



# INEFFECTIVE POLICY

## TIME LIMIT DOES NOT WORK

According to USDA study:

1. Time limits significantly reduce SNAP Participation
2. "No evidence that ABAWD time limit increased employment or annual earnings."

Source: [USDA Study](#)



# BARRIERS

- DHS workers do not always properly screen for exemptions
- Job Center waitlists
- Inability to provide training or match individuals to jobs that meet their skills
- Transportation
- Underemployment
- Bias/discrimination



# SYSTEMIC ISSUES

Does not address root causes of need, poverty, and hunger

- Racism & discrimination
- Lack of jobs and underemployment
- Implicit and explicit bias
- Wage stagnation
- Access to education

Source: [FRAC](#)

A magnifying glass with a black handle and frame is positioned over a spiral-bound notebook. The notebook has a light brown cover and a metal spiral binding. The word "BIAS" is printed in large, bold, black capital letters on the notebook's cover.

BIAS

# WHO'S MISSED?

## Some work is not captured:

- Gig, seasonal, and migrant work
- Contract and project-based work
- Cash-paid or unreported labor
- Tipped-wage work





# WHO'S MISSED?

## Rural individuals are hit harder

- Farming work can be hard to track
- Transportation issues
- Access to infrastructure like internet
- Fewer job opportunities

**1/3 of areas with job deficits are rural**

Source: [Dept. of Labor](#)



# WHO'S MISSED?

- Women, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ people are disproportionately affected
- People with health issues
  - Mental or physical
  - Lack of healthcare access
  - People with disabilities not recognized by SSDI
- “Invisible” situations like domestic violence

Source: [FRAC](#)



# IMPACT

## What are the consequences of SNAP time limit policies?

- Decreased access to food and nutrition contributes to chronic health issues
- Loss of benefits creates burden on families
  - takes away from other budget areas like healthcare and shelter costs
- Creates barriers to other programs



HUNGRY

# AREA WAIVERS

- Allow for entire geographic areas to be exempt from time limits because of low job availability
  - Unemployment must be 20% higher than national average
- DHS/Governor must request waivers for eligible areas

Source: [TN.gov](https://www.tn.gov)





# AREA WAIVERS

Currently, 26 counties qualify



Source: [CBPP](#)

# DISCRETIONARY EXEMPTIONS

- Allow DHS to exempt one person for one month for any reason
- Up to 8% of total caseload

Banked	New in 2024	Used in 2023	Total
302,433	17,164	22,548	307,761

Source: [USDA](#)



# FRA23

- [Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023](#)
- Lowered discretionary waivers from 12%-8% of caseload
  - Waivers now only last for one year
- Raised time limit age to 18-54
- Added exemptions for veterans, unhoused, and foster care up to age 24

Source: [USDA](#)





# DISCUSSION

# ADVOCACY AND ACTION

# ADMINISTRATIVE ADVOCACY

## Urge DHS to Adopt State Waivers:

**Time Limit Area Waivers** can exempt entire geographic locations from work requirements, in cases of unemployment and underemployment

**Broad Based Categorical Eligibility** would expand who can access SNAP, reducing the benefit cliff



# LEGISLATION

## H.R. 1510 - Improving Access to Nutrition Act of 2023

- **Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee (CA)**
- **Farm Bill**
- This bill would abolish the 3-month time limit for most SNAP recipients who don't meet work requirements.



# ADVOCACY

Contact your legislators via phone, letter, or email.

Ask them to support these and other legislation/policies that removes access to nutrition programs because of time limits.

- **Federal:** Find your Legislators [HERE](#)
- **State:** Find your Legislators [HERE](#)



# WORKING GROUPS

- [WIC Champions](#)
  - Second Thursdays at 9:00am CT
- [SNAP Access](#)
  - Third Thursdays at 10:00am CT
- [Healthy Meals Healthy Kids TN](#)
  - First Thursdays at 1:00pm CT
- [Summer EBT Advocacy Call](#)
  - Third Wednesdays at 3:00pm CT
- [College Hunger Quarterly Call](#)
  - Next Meeting September 24, 2024 1:00pm CT



# NUTRITION NOTE

## Join Nutrition Note!

- Our monthly anti-hunger newsletter
- Updates on changes and news
- Sign up [HERE](#)



# RESOURCE

- [SNAP Eligibility FAQ](#)
- [SNAP Fact Sheet \(English & Espanol\)](#)
- [WIC Fact Sheet \(English & Espanol\)](#)
- [WIC Fact Sheet \(English & عربي\)](#)
- [SNAP Application Assistance Flyer](#)
- [SNAP 3-Month Time Limits in TN](#)
- [SNAP for College Students](#)

All other resources can be found on our [Tools and Trainings](#) page!

Share  
your  
resources  
in the  
chat!



# QUESTIONS

# CONTACT US

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