

FEEDING HUNGRY CHILDREN

A GUIDE FOR STATE POLICY- MAKERS



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A Guide for State Policymakers

Recent federal data indicate that more than 48 million Americans, including more than 15 million children, experience hunger and difficulty in gaining access to adequate food. This publication is designed to be a resource for state policymakers as they navigate the many federal and state government, private sector and nonprofit initiatives that address hunger and nutrition.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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ABOUT THE HUNGER PARTNERSHIP

The Hunger Partnership connects public, private and nonprofit sector partners whose focus is to improve the availability of healthy food for hungry families. The Partnership brings together legislators, legislative staff, nonprofit leaders and interested businesses to identify and share innovative and successful policies and programs to reduce hunger in America. The Hunger Partnership was launched in 2010 to raise the visibility of hunger in America and highlight innovative solutions.

Visit www.ncsl.org/hunger to learn more about our members, publications and events.

ABOUT NO KID HUNGRY

No child should go hungry in America. But 1 in 6 kids will face hunger this year. No Kid Hungry is ending childhood hunger through effective programs that provide kids with the food they need. This is a problem we know how to solve. No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength, an organization working to end hunger and poverty.



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Executive Summary



Throughout the country, on rural farms and in urban high-rises, our nation's children are experiencing a hunger crisis. Today more than one in six American children face hunger, living in households that lack the means to get enough nutritious food on a regular basis. This statistic is troubling, but there are concrete solutions available that can help to meet the needs of hungry kids.

Since the 1940s, the federal nutrition programs have strived to address childhood hunger and ensure children have a chance to grow up stronger, smarter, and healthier. These programs include:

- School Breakfast Program
- National School Lunch Program
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

More than 22 million kids get a free or reduced-price school lunch on an average school day, but only 12 million—a little more than half—of those kids get free or reduced-price school breakfast. The rates are even worse for children participating in programs when the school year ends. Only 18 percent of children who eat a free or reduced-price school lunch receive meals in the summer months. Innovative ways of serving breakfast—like Breakfast in the Classroom—can give many more kids a chance to benefit from breakfast at school, while alternative methods to deliver summer meals have reached more kids where they live with the nutrition they need. SNAP and WIC serve the whole household and enable families to fill nutritional gaps at home while pumping economic resources back into local communities and businesses. Increasing the rate of eligible children participating in these programs means additional federal resources available to states' school and family budgets.

This primer on six child nutrition programs provides state legislators with a program overview, steps state legislators can take, the challenges that exist in meeting the program's goals, and examples of state legislative action. Links to additional resources offer in-depth program information and additional best practices for state legislators to consider in their own communities.

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a white school uniform shirt over a green long-sleeved shirt, is sitting at a wooden desk. He is holding a pink pencil in his right hand and writing on a piece of paper. Simultaneously, he is holding a red apple in his left hand and taking a bite. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom setting.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST

BREAKFAST EQUALS SUCCESS

Research demonstrates the importance of providing breakfast to children and youth. Children who eat a good breakfast tend to perform better in school, have better attendance and exhibit fewer behavior problems. In addition, children who eat a good breakfast develop healthy eating habits, visit the school nurse less frequently, and are less likely to be obese. The School Breakfast Program offers kids a nutritious breakfast at school so they can start their day off right.

Program Overview

Created in 1966 as a pilot program and made permanent in 1975, the School Breakfast Program is administered at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). At the state level, the program is administered by state education agencies, which operate the program through agreements with local school food authorities in 89,000 schools and institutions.

Much like the National School Lunch Program, the USDA reimburses schools for each breakfast they serve, with higher reimbursements for reduced-price and free meals. Participating schools must offer free or reduced-price breakfasts to eligible children. In 2016, 14.6 million students ate a school breakfast. Meals must meet federal nutrition guidelines. Children from families with incomes under 130 percent of the federal poverty level receive free meals and children from families between 130 and 185 percent pay 30 cents or less.



The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 included new meal and nutritional standards set by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. The act included a \$.06 reimbursement increase per meal as schools change their menus to meet the new standards.

SBP Reimbursement Rates for the 2016-17 School Year¹:

\$1.71	\$1.41	\$0.29
FREE	REDUCED PRICE	PAID

- An additional \$.33 is provided for each free or reduced price breakfast served in “severe need” schools, where at least 40 percent of the lunches served during the second preceding school year were served free or reduced price.

In FY 2016, the School Breakfast Program was funded at \$4.3 billion and serves 14.1 million students.

¹ <https://schoolnutrition.org/AboutSchoolMeals/SchoolMealTrendsStats/> & <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-08-05/pdf/2016-18650.pdf>

What Legislators Can Do

RAISE AWARENESS

Legislators can help raise awareness and promote School Breakfast to families in their districts and states by recording PSAs; providing information on their websites and ensuring information is posted on state government websites; and using social media to promote the program.

CONVENE STAKEHOLDERS

Legislators can play the role of convener for state agencies, school administrators, teachers, parents and children, interested members of the business community, nonprofits and other community leaders.

ENACT LEGISLATION

Many states have passed laws that expand access to the program. Examples include:

- In 2015, Nevada mandated Breakfast After the Bell in schools with at least 70 percent free or reduced-price eligibility. The state provided \$2 million over two years in the form of start-up grants to assist with the implementation of Breakfast After the Bell. (NV 2015-17 Budget). Other states with similar mandates include Colorado, New Mexico and Illinois.
- In 2013, the Arkansas legislature created the Arkansas Meals for Achievement program, a two-year pilot that provided \$490,000 in state funding in grants to schools to implement alternative breakfast models. (Arkansas Senate Bill 428)
- In 2013, Texas required schools to offer a free breakfast to all students if the school had 80 percent or more of its students qualify for free or reduced-price meals. The law allows schools to request a waiver for one year after a public hearing and only if approved by a vote of the governing body of the school. (Texas Senate Bill 376)

Challenges and Best Practices

Despite the many benefits of eating a school breakfast, program participation can be low for a number of reasons. Traditional school breakfast programs often operate too early for students to participate, particularly if bus or carpool schedules do not enable them to get there on time. Cafeterias can have long lines and students do not have enough time to eat before class. Stigma can also pose an issue as kids view the program as one for only poor kids. One of the most effective ways to significantly boost school breakfast participation is to make it part of the school day by implementing an alternative delivery model:

BREAKFAST IN THE CLASSROOM

Breakfast in the Classroom is a model where students eat breakfast in their classroom after the official start of the school day. Often breakfast is brought to classrooms from the cafeteria by students via insulated rolling bags, or served from carts in the hallways by school nutrition staff using mobile service carts. Breakfast in the Classroom typically takes 10-15 minutes to prepare, eat, and clean up. It can happen simultaneously with morning tasks such as attendance and morning work or it can be easily integrated with other instructional activities.

GRAB AND GO

Grab and Go offers students convenient pre-packaged breakfasts from mobile carts in high traffic areas, such as hallways, entryways or cafeterias. Students can eat in the classroom or elsewhere on school grounds before and after the bell has rung. Models that allow students to eat in the classroom after the bell typically have the highest participation.

SECOND CHANCE BREAKFAST

Second Chance Breakfast allows students to eat breakfast during a break in the morning, usually after first period for secondary students or midway between breakfast and lunch for elementary students. Meals can be individually packaged and served in the same manner as they are with Grab and Go breakfast.



Resources

- NCSL Hunger Partnership homepage: www.ncsl.org/hunger
- No Kid Hungry School Breakfast Legislation & Policy: <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/policy-and-advocacy/school-breakfast>
- No Kid Hungry School Breakfast website: <https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/school-breakfast>
- No Kid Hungry Playbook, Elected Officials Section: <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/playbook/elected-official>
- Federal Program Overview: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/breakfast/>
- State Administering Agencies Contacts: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/school-meals-contacts>
- USDA School Breakfast Toolkit: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sbp/toolkit>



SCHOOL LUNCH

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) provides low-cost or free nutritious lunches to almost 100,000 schools and residential child care centers. NSLP provided nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to more than 30.5 million children each school day in 2015.

Program Overview

The USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers the National School Lunch Program at the federal level. At the state level, the program is typically administered by state education agencies and operated by school food authorities.

The earliest federal food aid to schools began in the 1930s, and a number of states also passed laws authorizing school boards to operate lunchrooms. In 1946, the National School Lunch Act made the program permanent. In 1998, Congress expanded the program to include reimbursements for snacks served to children in afterschool educational and enrichment programs.

School districts and independent schools that choose to participate in the school lunch program receive cash subsidies and donated commodities from the USDA for each meal they serve. Schools can also receive "bonus" commodities when available from surplus agricultural stocks. In return, schools must offer free or reduced prices to eligible children, and school lunches must meet the USDA nutrition standards.



Any child who is enrolled in a participating school may purchase a meal through the National School Lunch Program. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals, for which students cannot be charged more than 40 cents per meal.

NSLP Reimbursement Rates for the 2016-17 School Year:¹

\$3.16
FREE

\$2.76
REDUCED PRICE

\$0.30
PAID

- Schools certified as meeting the new nutrition standards receive an additional \$.06 per lunch.
- An additional \$.02 per lunch is provided to schools in which 60 percent or more of the second preceding school year lunches were served free or reduced price.

In FY 2016, school lunch was funded at \$12.5 billion and served 30.5 million students.

¹ <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-08-05/pdf/2016-18650.pdf>

What Legislators Can Do

RAISE AWARENESS

Legislators can help raise awareness and promote the program to families in their districts and states by doing PSAs.

ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)

High-poverty schools or school districts can offer breakfast and lunch at no charge to students through CEP. Families no longer have to complete applications, and schools no longer have to verify each student's eligibility, reducing both stigma and administrative paperwork substantially. School meal service is streamlined because staff no longer collect payments or do individual student counting and claiming.

CONVENE STAKEHOLDERS

Convene state and local program administrators, parent and community leaders to take steps to improve program access for eligible children by reducing red tape.

Challenges

UNPAID MEALS

Many schools across the country are faced with the challenge of collecting fees from unpaid meals, a time-consuming and sometimes expensive endeavor. Eligible schools and districts that take advantage of the CEP can avoid the administrative burden of collecting fees, provide nutritious meals at no cost to students, and maintain the financial viability of their program. Some districts or states have opted to waive the reduced-price co-pay curbing unpaid meal charges and increasing participation for low-income students.²

COST FOR LOW-INCOME PARENTS

According to the School Nutrition Association (SNA), about 1 million children in the United States are eligible for a reduced-price school lunch but do not participate in the NSLP. Although the cost for lunch is only \$.40 per day, many children cannot participate because their parents cannot afford that fee. Schools that adopt CEP or waive the co-pay for school meals can increase access to nutritious meals for students that have difficulty affording meals.

Additional Resources

- NCSL Hunger Partnership homepage: <http://www.ncsl.org/hunger>
- No Kid Hungry Playbook, Elected Officials Section: <http://playbook.nokidhungry.org/elected-official>
- Federal Program Overview: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/national-school-lunch-program-nslp>
- State Agency Contacts: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/school-meals-contacts>

² <https://schoolnutrition.org/AboutSchoolMeals/SchoolMealTrendsStats/>



SUMMER MEALS

SUMMER IS THE HUNGRIEST TIME OF YEAR

Summer is a critical time for children's academic and physical well-being. During the summer, children are at a higher risk of both obesity and hunger. For many children and families who rely on free and reduced-price school meals, the summer months can be difficult. When school is out, more than half of these families find it harder to make ends meet: 73 percent report spending more on food, on average \$316 more each month.¹ Many families also face the stress of providing safe, supervised and affordable places for kids and teens to socialize, play and continue to learn.

Program Overview

Two federal programs provide meals for kids in the summer: the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) operated through the National School Lunch Program. These summer meals programs are funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), administered by state agencies such as state departments of education and run by public and private organizations, including schools, community centers and faith-based organizations.



At the local level, SFSP works through sponsors and sites. Sponsors are organizations responsible, financially and administratively, for running the program. Agencies determine sponsorship through an application process that varies by state.² Sponsors can include schools, local governments (such as parks and recreation departments), nonprofits (such as the Boys and Girls Club and Feeding America food banks), colleges and camps. Sponsors receive payments based on the number of meals served multiplied by the appropriate combined administrative and operating rates for reimbursement. Sites are the physical location, such as schools, parks, recreation centers, libraries, churches and housing complexes where meals are served. Sponsors may operate, upon state approval, up to 200 sites.

In FY 2015, states and territories received more than \$428 million from the federal government to administer the Summer Food Service Program and provide reimbursements to sponsors. Payments average about \$8 million per state, ranging from less than a half million dollars in Hawaii to more than 54 million dollars in New York. Reimbursement rates increase annually. From 2012 to 2015, total meals served have increased by 14 percent while cash paid to states has increased by more than 22 percent.

What Legislators Can Do

RAISE AWARENESS

Legislators can help raise awareness and promote the program to families in their districts and states by recording public service announcements or automated phone calls, promoting summer meals hotlines and texting numbers on their websites and ensuring information is posted on state government websites. and using social media to promote summer meals programs. Legislators can also visit summer meals sites in their districts and participate in summer site launches.

WORK WITH YOUR COMMUNITY TO ESTABLISH SUMMER MEALS SITES

Legislators can work with faith and community leaders, schools and local officials to ensure that there are enough accessible summer meals sites in their districts. State agencies can provide a list of summer meals programs and identify underserved areas.

¹ 2013 National Survey of Low-Income Families: <https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/summer-meals/summer-meals-survey-findings>

² State Agency contacts: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/school-meals-contacts>

SUPPORT A PLAN FOR SUMMER MEALS EXPANSION

States that have established clear goals for participation and convened public and private stakeholders to develop and implement a plan for expansion have been able to increase the reach of the program. Legislators can take a lead in convening stakeholders or encourage the state agency to do so and provide an update on progress to the legislature.

SPONSOR LEGISLATION

State legislatures can allocate funding to encourage site expansion and implementation of programming, require participation in high-need areas, and make changes to enhance administrative efficiencies.

- In 2014, Oregon's legislature's H.B 4090 provided funding for summer meals programs to purchase equipment, meet health and safety regulations, support program activities, or fund outreach activities and materials.
- The Texas legislature's 2013 H.B. 749 aims to increase participation in SFSP, especially in rural areas, by developing a five-year plan in collaboration with Baylor University's Texas Hunger Initiative.
- Illinois' Public Act 96-0734 of 2013 requires participation in the summer meals program for school districts that have a summer school program operating during the summer months in a school where 50 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.
- Maine's SP 472 requires participation in the summer meals program for school administrative units with at least one public school in which at least 50 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals.
- Nebraska's 2012 Legislative Bill 1090 sought to strengthen participation in SFSP by empowering the Nebraska State Department of Education to award grants up to \$15,000 on a competitive basis to SFSP sponsors to cover the initiation or expansion of the program, conduct outreach, acquire equipment, and train SFSP staff.
- In 2011, the Texas legislature passed S.B. 89, requiring that school districts in which 50 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch provide or arrange for the provision of a summer nutrition program for at least 30 days during the period in which district schools are recessed for the summer.

Challenges

While summer meals programs have seen historic growth in recent years, these meals still only reach about one in every six children who receive a free or reduced price lunch during the school year. Progress has come from addressing persistent barriers within the program with cross-sector collaboration, public and private resources to create new sites and support existing programs, and increased efforts to help families learn about and access programs in their area.

AWARENESS

One reason the program is so underutilized is that the majority of people it is intended to serve don't know about it. A 2013 nationally representative survey of low-income families found that only 40 percent of families knew about summer programs in their area. Raising awareness has been a major strategy at

the local and national level, seeking to both introduce the idea of the program and let families find a site near them using USDA's site-finding website, No Kid Hungry's national texting service, or local options such as 2-1-1 or state websites.

AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAMS

For a child to receive a summer meal, there must be a site operating in their area. However, in many cities and counties across the country kids have no opportunity to access meals because there are no sites—or local sites only operate during summer school and close for many weeks in the summer. Recent collaborations between USDA, state agencies, sponsors, No Kid Hungry Campaigns and others have focused on increasing sponsors and sites in underserved areas, building partnerships, and supporting existing sites and sponsors to expand their programs by operating more sites, increasing participation at existing sites, adding additional meals and extending service days.

TRANSPORTATION

In many communities, when school buses stop running, kids and families are left without transportation options to reach summer programs. This problem is particularly felt in rural areas where homes may be miles from schools or any location suited to host a summer meal site. To address this barrier sponsors have increasingly used a Mobile Meals model to efficiently deliver packaged meals to kids closer to their homes. Using refrigerated trucks, school buses, vans or even cars with coolers, sponsors provide a short meal service at multiple locations a day such as housing complexes, parks or sidewalks. Some sponsors have also developed partnerships with local transit groups to coordinate resources and align public transportation with summer programs.

Additional Resources

- NCSL Hunger Partnership homepage: www.ncsl.org/hunger
- No Kid Hungry Summer Meals website: <https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/free-summer-meals-kids>
- No Kid Hungry Playbook, Elected Officials Section: <http://playbook.nokidhungry.org/elected-official>
- Sodexo Outreach Toolkit: <https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/summer-meals/sodexo-stop-hunger-foundation-summer-meals-outreach-toolkit>
- Summer Meals Site Visit Toolkit: <https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/summer-meals/summer-site-visit-toolkit>
- USDA Summer Meals Toolkit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-meals-toolkit>
- Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation report: <http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/frac-summer-breakfast-report-2016.pdf>

AFTERSCHOOL MEALS

HUNGER DOESN'T STOP AT 3 P.M.

Many children and teens do not have a balanced dinner waiting at home, and for some, their next meal won't be until they return to school the next morning for breakfast. Growing children need extra fuel to keep their bodies active and brains focused during afterschool programs. Families face not only the stress of stretching their food budgets to cover afterschool meals, but also finding a safe place for their kids while at work. In a national survey of low-income parents, 59 percent reported that tight household budgets made it difficult to provide food for their kids after school, and a quarter were worried that their children did not have enough to eat between lunch and breakfast the following day.¹



Program Overview

The At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides funding to offset the cost of meals and snacks served to hungry kids after school hours as well as during weekends or breaks throughout the school year. The meal must be offered as part of a supervised educational or enrichment program such as arts and crafts, homework assistance, tutoring, life skills, remedial education, fitness activities, or community service.² In addition, programs must be located in eligible low-income areas where at least 50 percent of students qualify for a free or reduced-price school meal.

CACFP is a federal entitlement program overseen by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). It is administered in each state by a designated agency, such as the state department of education.

At the local level, CACFP works through institutions and sites. Institutions are public or private organizations that take financial and administrative responsibility for running CACFP at one or more sites, which may include afterschool programs. Institutions must apply directly to the state agency through a training and approval process that varies by state.³ Institutions that operate multiple sites are known as sponsoring organizations. A sponsoring organization could be a local YMCA chapter with multiple branches, a school district with several participating schools, a Feeding America food bank that delivers meals to programs throughout the community, or a government agency such as the parks and recreation department.

Institutions receive payments based on the number of meals and/or snacks served multiplied by the current reimbursement rate for each. All meals served through the Afterschool Meals Program are reimbursed at the highest rate, known as the “free” rate. For July 2016 through June 2017, the rates are \$3.16 plus \$0.23 in commodities per supper and \$0.86 per snack. Sponsoring organizations may retain up to 15 percent of the meal reimbursements to cover administrative costs.

CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION

Although permanently authorized, CACFP is periodically revisited by Congress as part of the Child Nutrition Reauthorization process. The Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 2010, known as the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, allowed the nationwide rollout of the Afterschool Meals Program, which had originally only reimbursed snacks and then meals in select states. The Act also mandated updates to the nutrition requirements, which have been finalized and will take effect on Oct. 1, 2017.

ALTHOUGH FORMALLY NAMED THE AT-RISK AFTERSCHOOL MEALS COMPONENT OF THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM, IT GOES BY MANY NAMES AND ACRONYMS. IT IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE AFTERSCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM, BUT IT IS SOMETIMES CALLED THE AT-RISK PROGRAM, THE AT-RISK AFTER SCHOOL (ARAS) PROGRAM, OR THE SUPPER PROGRAM (IN REFERENCE TO THE TYPE OF MEAL MOST COMMONLY SERVED).

1 No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices in partnership with APCO Insights (2014). “National Afterschool Meals Program Survey Findings.” <https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/afterschool/afterschool-meals-survey-findings>.

2 U.S Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (2015). “At-Risk Afterschool Meals: A Child and Adult Care Food Program Handbook.” <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/atriskhandbook.pdf>

3 See state agency contact list: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-contacts>.

What Legislators Can Do

RAISE AWARENESS

Legislators can help raise awareness and promote the Afterschool Meals Program to families in their districts and states by recording PSAs; providing information on their websites and ensuring information is posted on state government websites; and using social media to promote the program. Legislators can also visit sites participating in the Afterschool Meals Program in their district or state.

FACILITATE COLLABORATION

Legislators can play a role in bringing together relevant agencies and departments, such as the CACFP state agency with the administrators of other child nutrition programs, to streamline and improve service delivery. The health department or other agencies may need to help clarify the health and safety requirements for afterschool programs. Additional stakeholders can help develop a plan for outreach and expansion.

WORK WITH YOUR COMMUNITY TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING SITES

Legislators can work with faith and community leaders, schools, and local officials to ensure that there are enough accessible sites in their districts. State agencies can provide a list of participating programs, and state or local anti-hunger organizations can help to identify underserved areas.

SPONSOR LEGISLATION

State legislatures can allocate funding for afterschool programming broadly or more specifically for equipment, supplies, or services necessary to implement or expand food service operations. Legislation can also require participation in high-need areas and make changes to enhance administrative efficiencies. In some cases, it may be necessary to create or simplify the licensing or health and safety regulations to make it easier for afterschool programs to participate.

- In 2014, the Arkansas state legislature passed HB 1007 to provide funding for grants to school districts to offer afterschool and nutrition services.
- Oregon's 2014 HB 4090 provided funding for grants to school districts, community organizations, and government agencies to purchase or upgrade equipment, comply with sanitation requirements, conduct outreach, or fund program activities.
- In 2013, the Maine state senate resolution SP 729 created a taskforce to study issues associated with the Afterschool Meals Program and design a program to increase participation in school nutrition programs.¹

Challenges

In the six years since the Afterschool Meals Program was authorized nationwide, the number of suppers served has grown fivefold. The total number of afterschool snacks and suppers served through the CACFP has grown from 60 million in Fiscal Year 2010 to more than 230 million in Fiscal Year 2016. Last year, nearly 3,000 organizations provided meals at more than 22,000 locations across the country. However, there is still substantial opportunity for growth in the CACFP Afterschool Meals Program: only one afterschool supper or snack is served for every 16 free or reduced-price school lunches.

¹ Task Force to End Student Hunger in Maine. January 2015. <http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/studenthungerreport.pdf>

AWARENESS AMONG AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

In recent years, schools, YMCA branches, and Boys and Girls Clubs have begun to participate in the program, but there is still room to grow. In addition to targeting these organizations, 21st Century Community Learning Center grantees are excellent candidates since they are already offering enrichment programming. Partnering with a state-wide afterschool network or alliance is also a way to promote afterschool meals to existing programs. At the state government level, the state agency that administers CACFP can help with outreach, and the staff that administer the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) can facilitate outreach to schools.

AWARENESS AMONG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

According to a national survey by Share Our Strength of low-income parents, only about one in three were aware of a program or location where their children could obtain free meals after school. However, over 80 percent of parents surveyed were interested in free or affordable afterschool programming, and almost three-quarters of them would be even more interested if healthy, free meals were available. This same survey revealed that parents look to schools as their most trusted source of information, so it is important to ensure that schools have the resources to promote afterschool programs and meal sites in the area. Any sponsors that operate open or drop-in programs should also announce the details publicly, such as through public service announcements or flyers posted in community locations like libraries, grocery stores, and places of worship.

PROGRAMS ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE

Many kids cannot participate in after school programs because they lack transportation to or from meal sites, or because meals are made available only to children participating in specific activities. Recently, schools have begun to implement innovative models that have dramatically increased kids' access to nutritious meals. Examples include "Supper in the Classroom," providing a meal along with enrichment in the classroom immediately after the bell rings but before the bus leaves, and the "Umbrella Model," which expands afterschool meals programs to serve any student on campus regardless of their participation in activities.

Additional Resources

- NCSL Hunger Partnership homepage: www.ncsl.org/hunger
- No Kid Hungry Afterschool Meals website: <https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/afterschool-snacks-meals>
- No Kid Hungry Playbook, Elected Officials Section: <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/playbook/elected-official>
- No Kid Hungry Afterschool Meals Outreach Toolkit: <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/programs/afterschool-meals/promoting-to-kids-and-families>
- Supper in the Classroom handout: <https://www.nokidhungry.org/supper>
- Umbrella Model handout: <https://www.nokidhungry.org/umbrella-model>
- USDA At-Risk Afterschool Meals Handbook: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cn/atriskhandbook.pdf>



WIC

HEALTHY FUTURES START HERE

LET IT ROLL

EVADA

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federal program that provides low-income pregnant and post-partum women, infants, and children up to age five with nutrition education, supplemental food, breastfeeding support and healthcare referrals.¹

Recognized as a public health program by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), WIC provides early intervention to avoid malnutrition and poor health among low-income pregnant women, infants, and children during key stages of cognitive and social development. FNS reports that almost half of all infants in the United States participate in WIC. Each month, WIC helps approximately 9 million mothers and children nationwide. Every \$1 spent on WIC saves American taxpayers up to \$4.21 in Medicaid expenses. WIC's reach and public savings make it a popular bipartisan program.

Program Overview

Started as a pilot program in 1972 and made permanent in 1975, WIC is authorized every five years under the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act. However, because WIC is a discretionary spending program, it must go through the appropriations committee process each fiscal year.² FNS is responsible for administering funds to 90 WIC state agencies or health departments who then redistribute the money to 1,936 local agencies and 9,000 clinics all across the United States. States are not required to make financial contributions to the program.



Pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age five with income at or below 185 percent of the U.S Poverty Income Guidelines are eligible for WIC.³ Women also qualify for WIC if they are enrolled in TANF, SNAP or Medicaid. In addition to meeting the income and categorical requirements, applicants must have nutritional risks such as anemia or a poor diet. WIC clinics can verify applicants free of charge or applicants can provide written statements from a health professional such as a physician, nurse, or nutritionist.⁴

WIC participants receive nutrition education, counseling services, screening, referrals to other health or social services, and supplemental food assistance. In 2007, WIC food packages were revised for the first time since 1980 to align with standards established by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and infant feeding practice guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics.⁵ Changes to the food packages allowed WIC participants to purchase fruits and vegetables, choose healthier and more nutritious options, and buy more culturally appropriate food. WIC participants receive an average of \$61.24 in food per month. However, as a result of discount agreements between the USDA and vendors, WIC food packages only cost the federal government an estimated \$42.70 per participant.⁶ WIC participants receive vouchers

1 <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/women-infants-and-children-wic>

2 <http://s3.amazonaws.com/aws.upl/nwica.org/WICFundingProcess.pdf>

3 <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/wic-income-eligibility-guidelines>

4 <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/wic-eligibility-requirements>

5 http://frac.org/pdf/frac_brief_revised_wic_food_package_impact_nutrition_retail.pdf

6 <http://www.cbpp.org/research/policy-basics-special-supplemental-nutrition-program-for-women-infants-and-children>

for pre-selected food based on the stage of their pregnancy or post-partum. Some states have eliminated vouchers and transfer WIC benefits to participants electronically through an electronic benefit card. By 2020, all states are required to switch from paper vouchers to electronic benefits.¹

In FY 2016, Congress appropriated \$6.35 billion for WIC and served approximately 9 million mothers and children nationwide.

What Legislators Can Do

RAISE AWARENESS

Encourage more collaboration among WIC agencies, health providers and social service agencies to reach more eligible women and families. Individuals who receive TANF, SNAP or Medicaid automatically qualify for WIC. However, many low-income pregnant or post-partum women do not apply for WIC because they are not aware of this qualification. Through thoughtful marketing campaigns, states can both raise awareness and reduce the stigma associated with public assistance and ensure that low-income pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children under five have the nutrition and healthcare necessary to grow and become healthy, productive adults.

ADVOCATE FOR CHOICE

Allow families to plan meals based on their cultural and religious needs. States can choose to expand the WIC package and include more cultural food options that reflect the dietary needs of their constituents. Although a majority of WIC participants are predominately white, the 2015 USDA WIC Participant and Program Characteristic report reveals that 41.6 percent of WIC participants are Latinos. States with a larger Latino community could allow families to choose whole grain tortillas instead of whole grain bread.

REDUCE BARRIERS TO WIC

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act grants state agencies more flexibility over their WIC program. States can reduce barriers to WIC by combining WIC applications with other social programs such as TANF, SNAP or Medicaid. Additionally, the new provisions allow agencies to certify children to receive WIC benefits every year rather than every six months. Streamlining and extending the time between certification reduce administrative burdens and costs and ensure that more low income pregnant and post-postpartum women receive the nutrition and healthcare they need.

INCREASE ACCESS

In some neighborhoods, grocery stores are not accessible. Many families depend on corner stores for their groceries. Legislators could provide incentives that would encourage corner stores to become WIC retailers and carry more WIC approved items.

¹ <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdamediafb?contentid=2016/02/0053.xml&printable=true&contentidonly=true>

LEVERAGE FEDERAL WIC DOLLARS

Utilize the federal money appropriated through the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). In FY 2013, 3,322 farmers' markets accepted FMNP coupons. FMNP generated over \$13.2 million in revenue for farmers in 2013. States can stimulate local economies and increase access to fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables by creating a grant program that will match the amounts WIC participants spend of their WIC benefits. Existing SNAP farmers' market matching grant programs provide a great model that can be applied to WIC.

Best Practices

- The Washington State Department of Health has a family health hotline and a texting service that families can utilize to connect with over 200 WIC clinics across the state.
- Baby-Friendly Hospital Collaborative—Established by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the collaborative supports hospitals by providing training and resources to create a “baby-friendly” environment and promote breastfeeding among mothers.
- Baby-Friendly Skills Workshops Program—The City of Dallas Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program collaborated with local hospitals and healthcare providers to support and train breastfeeding mothers.
- WIC Shelf Labels—The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) works with WIC food vendors to create labels that make it easier for WIC participants to find WIC approved items. MDH also provides vendors with resources and materials such as a cashier training guide, cashier WIC food list guide and other labels free of charge.



Challenges

WIC IS A DISCRETIONARY SPENDING PROGRAM

Funding for WIC is established by Congress on an annual basis, making the program vulnerable to budget changes. This also means that not everyone who qualifies and needs WIC will be able to utilize the program.

BECOMING A WIC VENDOR

Many retailers do not accept WIC benefits because EBT cash register systems can be complex and expensive. Big retailers can offset the cost of training employees and implementing WIC systems. However, federal rules and food package regulations can be intimidating for smaller retailers. Accepting WIC can be an opportunity to attract new customers and gain revenues; however, many retailers have to negotiate the cost and benefits of becoming a WIC vendor. Small neighborhood stores may not have the support and knowledge to navigate the WIC vendor application process.

STIGMA

Stigma towards WIC participants act as a barrier that can prevent other women from enrolling in the program. Paper vouchers can take time to process at the check-out line. Shoppers have to separate their WIC items from the rest of their groceries. Some women reported being chastised for holding up the line or taking up too much time.

Additional Resources

- National Conference of State Legislatures Hunger Partnership: www.ncsl.org/hunger
- National WIC Association: <https://www.nwica.org/>
- FNS WIC website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/about-wic-wic-glance>
- FNS WIC State Agencies: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/contacts>
- WIC Program Funding Process: <http://s3.amazonaws.com/aws.upl/nwica.org/WICFundingProcess.pdf>
- WIC Contacts by State: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/wic-contacts>
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/policy-basics-special-supplemental-nutrition-program-for-women-infants-and-children>
- NWICA Funding amount by year: https://s3.amazonaws.com/aws.upl/nwica.org/wic_bythenumbers2.pdf
- USDA FNS Farmers' Market Nutrition Program: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fmnp/overview>



SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SNAP WORKS

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly called the Food Stamp Program, serves as the foundation of the nation's nutrition safety net. SNAP is federally funded with states splitting the cost of administering the program. SNAP supplements the food budgets of low-income families and individuals by providing them with a monthly benefit on electronic debit cards which can be used at most grocery stores, some farmers' markets and other food retail outlets. Independent evaluations have shown that participation in SNAP reduces hunger, improves health, lifts families out of poverty and stimulates the economy.¹ USDA research indicates that every \$5 in new food stamp benefits generates \$9 of economic activity in local communities.²

SNAP's Impact on Children

SNAP HELPS MILLIONS OF CHILDREN IN AMERICA GET THE FOOD THEY NEED³

- Nearly half (44 percent) of all people who participate in the SNAP program are kids.
- Households with kids receive two-thirds (66 percent) of all SNAP benefits.

SNAP HELPS CHILDREN ESCAPE POVERTY AND HUNGER⁴

- In 2014, SNAP benefits lifted 2.1 million kids out of poverty.
- Food insecurity among kids falls by roughly a third (33 percent) after families have been receiving benefits for about six months.

SNAP AFFECTS A CHILD'S ABILITY TO LEARN⁵

- The SNAP benefit cycle is linked to test scores. Families get their SNAP benefits monthly, and for many families, this benefit runs out before the end of the month. When SNAP benefits run out, kids struggle in school.
- A research project in North Carolina tracked student test scores against when their families received their SNAP benefits. Scores were highest among students whose families got their SNAP benefits two to three weeks before a standardized test (meaning the kids had food during the learning and test prep). At the same time, scores were lowest among kids who were trying to study during the last days of their family's SNAP benefit cycle (or when food budgets were most likely to be exhausted).
- A separate study found that early access to SNAP leads to an 18 percentage point increase in the likelihood of high school graduation.

SNAP AFFECTS A CHILD'S HEALTH⁶

- Studies show that when pregnant moms have access to SNAP, it reduces the likelihood of low birth weight by 23 percent. Low birth weight is linked to infant mortality, cognitive development and chronic disease later in life.
- When kids in need had access to SNAP while in utero and before the age of five, there is a significant reduction in "metabolic syndrome," which leads to obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes, including a 16 percentage point reduction in the likelihood of being obese.
- With kids, SNAP is also linked to improved health outcomes including the likelihood of being hospitalized, needing multiple doctor visits and missing school.

1 *Current and Prospective Scope of Hunger and Food Security in America: A Review of Current Research: A Review of Current Research by RTI International*, Center for Health and Environmental Modeling, July 2014.

2 *The Food Assistance National Input-Output Multiplier (FANIOM) Model and Stimulus Effects of SNAP* by Kenneth Hanson, Economic Research Report No. (ERR-103) 50 pp, October 2010.

3 *Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Families: Fiscal Year 2015* by Kelsey Farson Gray, Sarah Fisher, Sarah Lauffer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services, Office of Policy Support, November 2016.

4 *Long-Term Benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*, Council of Economic Advisers, December 2015.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

Program Overview

SNAP, created as a pilot program in 1961 and authorized permanently by the Food Stamp Act of 1964, is a federal entitlement for low-income individuals and families at or below the federal poverty line with 42 percent of participating families having incomes at less than half of the federal poverty threshold.⁷ Program participation tracks with the economy, expanding and contracting with the growth and reduction in the number of people living in poverty.

In an average month in fiscal year 2015, SNAP provided benefits to 45.8 million people living in 22.5 million households. Seventy-five percent of SNAP households included a child, an elderly individual, or an individual with a disability, and these households received 82 percent of all benefits. In fiscal year 2015, 64 percent of all SNAP participants were either children (44 percent), elderly adults (11 percent), or non-elderly adults with disabilities (10 percent). About two-thirds (69 percent) of children were school age (age 5 to 17).⁸

The federal cost of the program in fiscal year 2016 was \$70.8 billion, \$66.6 billion of which went to SNAP benefits and the balance to program administration, employment and training services, and nutrition education services. Benefits, nutrition education services, and the majority of employment and training services are 100 percent federally funded, while administrative costs and some employment and training services costs are shared equally by federal and state governments. Combined, nutrition education and employment and training funds make up less than one half of one percent of the total SNAP budget.⁹

At the federal level, SNAP is administered through the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). In state government, the agency responsible for administering the program is often located within the state department of human services.

SNAP benefits can only be used for food. They cannot be used to buy nonfood items, such as alcoholic beverages, tobacco, vitamins, or medicines, nor can they be used to purchase hot food or any food that will be eaten in the store. The minimum monthly benefit is \$10. In FY16, the average monthly benefit was \$125.51 per person.¹⁰

Eligibility for SNAP is based upon household income and resources. A household is considered a person or group of people who are living together and who purchase and prepare food together. For most households, except for those with an elderly or disabled member, gross income cannot exceed 130 percent of the poverty level. All households must show that their monthly net income does not exceed 100 percent of the poverty level. For example, the federal poverty level for fiscal year 2017 for a family of three is \$20,160. To be eligible for SNAP, gross monthly income must be at or below \$2,829, and net monthly income, after deductions, must be at or below \$1,680.¹¹

Household resources, such as a bank account, cannot exceed \$2,250. Households that include senior citizens or disabled individuals can have resources up to \$3,250. States have a fair amount of flexibility in setting vehicle asset rules: 32 states exclude the value of all vehicles, 21 states exclude the value of at

7 *Long-Term Benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*, Council of Economic Advisers, December 2015.

8 *Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Families: Fiscal Year 2015* by Kelsey Farson Gray, Sarah Fisher, Sarah Lauffer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services, Office of Policy Support, November 2016.

9 Program Information Report (Keydata): U.S. Summary, FY 2015- FY 2016, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Program Data Branch, September 2016.

10 Ibid.

11 <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligibility>

least one vehicle per household and the two remaining jurisdictions exempt an amount higher than the federal level.¹²

U.S. citizens and certain eligible, lawfully present noncitizens may qualify for SNAP if they meet the income and resource requirements. Some may be eligible without a waiting period, such as legal immigrant children, refugees, or military, while others must wait five years before becoming eligible.

The SNAP program has time limits for the receipt of benefits for non-working adults without children. Referred to as ABAWDS (Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents), these individuals can only get SNAP for three months over the course of three years if they do not meet certain special work requirements. To be eligible beyond the time limit, an ABAWD must work at least 80 hours per month, participate in qualifying education and training activities at least 80 hours per month, or comply with a workfare program.

What Legislators Can Do

RAISE AWARENESS BY TAKING THE SNAP CHALLENGE

The SNAP Challenge gives state policy makers firsthand experience of what life can be like for millions of low-income Americans. Most participants take the Challenge for one week, living on the average daily food stamp benefit (about \$4 per person per day). Challenge participants find they have to make difficult food shopping choices, and often realize how difficult it is to avoid hunger, afford nutritious foods and stay healthy.¹³

RAISE AWARENESS BY ATTENDING A NUTRITION EDUCATION OR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING CLASS

SNAP teaches important life skills that promote self-sufficiency and healthy eating. Highlighting these programs and their participants helps reduce stigma about SNAP participants and misperceptions about the program.

PROMOTE THE PROGRAM

States have taken a lead in reaching people who are eligible but do not apply for federal benefits because they may be unaware of or misinformed about the program or may perceive stigma and procedural hurdles.

- **Outreach Plan:** Ensure your state agency has a strong outreach plan with community partners. As an approved administrative activity, state agencies and community-based organizations can receive a 50 percent reimbursement for educating prospective participants about SNAP. Community partners can be effective in promoting the programs in their community and can alleviate some of the burden on state agencies.

¹² <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligibility#Resources>

¹³ <http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/take-action-snap-challenge-toolkit.pdf>

- **Reaching Seniors:** Just over 40 percent of senior citizens who are potentially eligible for SNAP, do not participate. States can explore The Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP), which is intended to increase SNAP participation among low-income seniors by streamlining the application and certification process. Additionally, many seniors who are receiving retirement benefits or social security don't experience frequent changes in their incomes. States can make SNAP more accessible reducing the times seniors have to recertify for their benefits.
- **Reaching College Students:** A study from the University of Wisconsin found that half of all community college students struggle with food insecurity.¹⁴ States can raise awareness about hunger among students and encourage schools to implement outreach plans around their campuses.

REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS AND EXPAND PROGRAM ACCESS

States have flexibility to adopt policies that will reduce paperwork for staff, minimize the burden on families and ensure that benefits are reaching people in need. For example, states can simplify reporting, implement document imaging and expand categorical eligibility for the program. See the USDA's State Options Report for a summary state policy and administrative options and to understand which options your state has already adopted.

IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES

States should ensure that all participants subject to time limits have the opportunity to participate in meaningful employment and training services so they can be successful in the labor market. Additionally, close coordination with a state's workforce development system can create efficiencies and help fill vacancies in growth industries.

ENCOURAGE PURCHASE OF FRESH PRODUCE BY SUPPORTING A FARMERS MARKET MATCHING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Farmers markets are a great source of locally-grown produce and other healthy foods. Across the country, healthy incentive projects enable more SNAP customers to shop at farmers markets by providing matching bonus tokens or coupons to supplement their SNAP purchases. The incentives are typically funded by private foundations, nonprofit organizations, and local governments.

- 2015 California AB 1321: Establishes the Nutrition Incentive Matching Grant Program in the Office of Farm to Fork to collect matching funds from the Federal Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Grant Program and other public and private sources to encourage the purchase and consumption of fresh fruits, nuts, and vegetables of the State by nutrition benefit clients.
- In Michigan, the Fair Food Network's Double Up Food Bucks initiative, supported by a broad group of community foundations and corporations, works to "match" SNAP spending in farmer's markets. Eligible shoppers who use their federal benefits to purchase food at a farmer's market receive a match of up to \$20 in Food Bucks tokens that can be used to purchase additional locally grown produce. This public-private partnership encourages buying fruits and vegetables and supports local farmers and business.
- Wholesome Wave Georgia created the Healthy Food Incentive Program. Every SNAP, WIC or Farmers Market Nutrition Program dollar spent at a Wholesome Wave Georgia partner farmers market or direct marketing farm is matched. SNAP recipients can double up to \$50 EBT dollars every time that they attend a market.¹⁵

¹⁴ http://wihopelab.com/publications/Wisconsin_hope_lab_hungry_to_learn.pdf

¹⁵ <http://www.wholesomewavegeorgia.org/georgia-fresh-for-less/>

Challenges

LACK OF AWARENESS

Some individuals may not know they are eligible for the program. States have developed State Outreach Plans that include a range of community partners to ensure that the program is promoted widely through different venues. A few states have also invested in data matching that allows them to identify potentially eligible individuals by comparing SNAP data to other data sets such as energy assistance and Medicaid. For example, a project in Pennsylvania that identified seniors who had applied for the Low-Income Subsidy for Medicare Part D but were not enrolled in SNAP increased applications by 11 percent.¹⁶

ACCESSIBLE OFFICES

Applicants may have a difficult time visiting SNAP offices due to transportation barriers, child care or inability to take off work. To address these concerns, many states have placed SNAP enrollment at convenient locations, made applications available online, waived in person interviews and extended office hours to include some evenings or weekend days.

SNAP FRAUD/TRAFFICKING

SNAP continues to have one of the lowest fraud rates for Federal programs. Over the past several years, the rate of trafficking in larger grocery stores and supermarkets—where 82 percent of all benefits were redeemed—remained low at less than 0.5 percent. USDA has taken steps to improve SNAP oversight through its SNAP Stewardship Solutions Project.¹⁷

Additional Resources

- NCSL Hunger Partnership homepage: www.ncsl.org/hunger
- No Kid Hungry Playbook, Elected Officials Section: <http://playbook.nokidhungry.org/elected-official>
- USDA FNS SNAP website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>
- SNAP State Names: https://www.usac.org/_res/documents/li/pdf/samples/SNAP-Programs-by-State.pdf
- SNAP Eligibility: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligibility>
- SNAP Hotline in each state: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-informationhotline-numbers>
- CBPP: A Closer Look at Who Benefits from SNAP: State-by-State Fact Sheets: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets>
- SNAP Participation/Costs over the years: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

¹⁶ <http://www.bdtrust.org/study-shows-data-driven-bdt-pilot-successfully-increased-snap-participation-among-low-income-pennsylvania-seniors/>

¹⁷ <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/2013/fns-001213>



ABOUT THE HUNGER PARTNERSHIP

The Hunger Partnership connects public, private and nonprofit sector partners whose focus is to improve the availability of healthy food for hungry families. The Partnership brings together legislators, legislative staff, nonprofit leaders and interested businesses to identify and share innovative and successful policies and programs to reduce hunger in America. The Hunger Partnership was launched in 2010 to raise the visibility of hunger in America and highlight innovative solutions.

Visit www.ncsl.org/hunger to learn more about our members, publications and events.



ABOUT NO KID HUNGRY

No child should go hungry in America. But 1 in 6 kids will face hunger this year. No Kid Hungry is ending childhood hunger through effective programs that provide kids with the food they need. This is a problem we know how to solve. No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength, an organization working to end hunger and poverty.