

Advocacy Update 2.10.2020 Addendum

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NTFB VOICE Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS

In Brief -

- Addendum to Yesterday's Update -
The President's Proposed Budget Cuts \$180B From SNAP
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The President releases his PROPOSED budget

DECREASING SNAP FUNDING BY TIGHTENING ELIGIBILITY

The President released his plans for the FY2021 budget today. The Federal Budget must be passed each year, and the first step in the process is for the President to issue his version.

The President's Budget is more symbolic and not "the budget", however, it gives insight into what the President would like to see come out of Congress.

In his budget, there is a \$2 trillion dollar cut to safety net programs.

This cut is done by increased work requirements for SNAP, Medicaid, and Section 8 housing assistance. For SNAP particularly, we see a suggested \$180 billion dollar cut over the next 10 years.

Cutting the SNAP budget by this amount is calculated through a change in the policies for general work requirements. In his proposal, all adults 18-65 who are able-bodied would be required to work or engage in training at least 20 hours a week.

This would change the general work requirements by increasing the age up from 59 to 65, and would no longer allow a work exemption for those who have dependents under the age of 6.

A spokesperson from the White House said "the changes are necessary given that too many Americans remain on public assistance. Despite significant economic improvement and a strong job market, participation has not yet declined to prerecession levels, and too many people are still missing the opportunity to move from dependence to self-sufficiency."

HARVEST BOX

It's back...again the President has indicated he would like to fund a pilot that would give SNAP households a monthly box of USDA boxed & canned foods instead of allowing SNAP recipients to use their full benefits to shop at grocery retailers who accept SNAP.

AS A REMINDER

The President's Budget is only a nod to Congress on what he would like to see in their draft of the budget. Congress makes the budget, the President can either sign or veto their final version.

There's more to come as the full budget is analyzed, but the proposed changes to SNAP would greatly impact hunger in North Texas. Cutting SNAP benefits does not cut hunger, and charity would be expected to make up the difference.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Be the calm voice that reminds folks that this is not the final FY2021 budget and support your members of Congress by letting them know how important SNAP is to your community. Also, stay tuned as more updates roll out.

Questions or Comments?

Did you listen about the bananas??

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Don't want these updates any longer? Email policy@ntfb.org and I'll remove you quickly but cry harder than I did about the banana podcast...

