

Advocacy Update 2.12.2021



87th Texas Legislative Session

All About SNAP Review!

Greetings! Next week we will have a Day of Action for you to let your State Representatives and State Senators know that access to nutritious foods is important for our communities. SNAP supports our local and state economy by bringing in more federal dollars to our local grocery markets. It's a win-win.

So. Here's a quick review of our SNAP priorities and where they are in the Legislature right now.

- [SB 224/HB 701](#) Simplified SNAP Application for Seniors
 - [OUR DAY OF ACTION](#) is on February 17th (Wednesday), don't worry I'll remind you!
 - This is a common sense, bipartisan, makes sense bill - that needs to pass quickly
 - We thank Dallas Senator Royce West for co-authoring this bill!!
 - Main message?
 - Only 50% of eligible Seniors sign up for SNAP for many reasons, mainly it's too difficult and cumbersome
 - Seniors do not change income status often and it is unnecessary to have a lengthy application and short benefit period
 - The ability to purchase food for their diet and needs is critical for our senior citizens

- SNAP Employment and Training Expansion (Bill coming soon!)
 - 2.4M Texans are currently out of work due to the COVID-19 pandemic
 - SNAP should be available to low-income college students
 - Main message?

- Texas needs to expand its employment and training (E&T) opportunities via a third-party contractor to improve the program and help get people back to work
 - Texas should allow college students in vocational or technical programs to access SNAP, these college programs are employment & training after all!
- [HB 1230](#) Eliminate the SNAP Vehicle Asset Test
 - Texas uses the vehicle asset test to determine your SNAP eligibility by placing values on your cars, that if too high, disqualify you from the program
 - This outdated policy puts an asset limit on cars at \$15,000 for your first car and \$4,650 for your family's second car (that one was set in 1973!)
 - Main message?
 - This is Texas. Folks need cars to get to work, school, and medical appointments, penalizing them is counter-intuitive
 - It's a lot of paperwork. SNAP enrollment workers must collect ownership info from every applicant, costing the state time and money
 - This asset test fails to consider crisis! As we saw, many Texans lost their jobs overnight and needed SNAP as a safety net
 - 35 other states have gotten rid of this outdated policy, it's time Texas

Expanding Medicaid - Medicaid Expansion and Impact on Food and Financial Security - March 4, 2021, 1:00PM CST

Yes, it's complicated! But don't worry we have a panel of experts that will explain it all.

Please register for this free webinar here, hosted by the Dallas Coalitions for Hunger Solutions moderated by me, Val Hawthorne, but more importantly featuring these knowledgeable panelists:

Steve Love, President & CEO of the DFW Hospital Council
State Senator Nathan Johnson of Texas Senatorial District 16
Rachel Cooper, Senior Policy Analyst at Every Texan

[Sign Up Here Today!](#)

Federal Work

Feeding America is hosting a week of action next week to help ensure that federal nutrition programs make it into the new COVID-19 stimulus bill. To view and advocate for those items, [please visit here to send a letter](#) to your member of Congress.

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!



Questions or Comments? Hit reply!

[For your Texas bill of the day](#)

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