

Advocacy Update 03.06.2020



NTFB VOICE Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS

In Brief -

- Another new proposed rule change for SNAP
- Census response begins March 12th
- Coronavirus causes school meal waivers

A proposed rule change tightens job training for SNAP

This Thursday the USDA proposed a new rule change that would require State Agencies that oversee SNAP (here in Texas it's Texas Health & Human Services Commission) to redesign and expand their employment and training programs for food stamp recipients.

The rule change is a whopping [120 pages long](#) and I'm still getting through it all. In my next update I'll provide a summary of the changes, what's good, what's not good, and how you can share your thoughts about these rule changes.

Of the utmost concern is states will be forced to create and expand employment and training (E&T) programs, when the results of the \$200M E&T pilot programs have yet to be released. States looking for guidance and best practices will have a difficult time finding those results, if available at all.

Brandon Lipps, called on state commissioners to “leverage the opportunity afforded to us by the longest economic expansion in U.S. history to get to work

| on getting people to work.”

The SNAP E&T program provides states with \$100 million dollars a year to run all their employment and training programs. As a reminder there are approximately 3.8 million able-bodied adults without dependents. Of those, approximately 74% are currently unemployed, which means an allocation to states of approximately **\$37.50 per person/year** to run programs that get people connected to work. *We can all think on that.*

The NTFB Census Campaign is gearing up to March 12!



There will be many ways to participate in the Census this year. By phone, by mail, and online. March 12th will be the first day you and your family can respond to the 2020 Census online. You will receive your code in the mail that will allow you to fill out your form. If you forget or lose your code, not to worry, you can still fill it out by using your home address.

This week and until the end of April, North Texas Food Bank Census reps will be out in the community reminding everyone that they count!

[You'll fill out your form here starting March 12th!](#)

Washington kids get school meals amid school closings

[The USDA stepped up this week in Washington State to offer school meals to low-income children](#) and even offer them in non-group settings. This waiver is one that school meal

advocates have been fighting years for and applaud the flexibility of the USDA to proceed forward. It's unfortunate it took a public health scare crisis to implement such a waiver.

This non-congregate meal site waiver expires June 30, 2020 but leaves many advocates hopeful. If this effort proves successful and efficient at getting food to children, it could be expanded/continued to encompass a variety of scenarios that children and adults face on a regular basis.

If schools continue to close, child hunger advocates will need to ask for these waivers and look at ways to get meals to kids who are in different situations (rural settings, homebound, childcare facilities, etc.)

Questions or Comments?

Wash your hands, carry on.

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Apologies if you received this twice, the kinds are stubborn!