

Advocacy Update 7.26.2019



At a glance:

- Proposed rule change for SNAP published in Federal Register
- Three Senate bills aim to improve Summer Feeding Programs
- City of Dallas targets food access as a priority

Proposed Rule Change Seeks to Change Broad Based Categorical Eligibility for SNAP

On Tuesday, a proposed rule change to change SNAP Broad Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) was published in the [Federal Register](#) looking for public comment over the next 60 days. During the 2018 Farm Bill process, the BBCE policy was reviewed and ultimately remained as law in the final bill. In response, the administration is using the Rule Making procedure to change that.

BBCE, allows households who qualify for [non-cash Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\)](#) or [State Maintenance of Effort \(MOE, section 2:page 29\)](#) funded benefits, to be eligible for SNAP.

In Texas, SNAP recipients who will be most impacted are those who have monthly incomes that exist between 130%-165% of the federal poverty limit; for a family of 4, that is between the \$2,720-\$3,452.

BBCE allows states flexibility to align SNAP asset tests with TANF programs.

For example, BBCE allows Texas SNAP households to own one vehicle worth up to \$15,000 and to have savings up to \$5,000. However, if BBCE is changed, household assets will not be able to exceed \$2,250 for most households and vehicles cannot have a resale value that exceeds \$4,650.

It is important to note, there is no automatic enrollment into SNAP. BBCE households still must complete a SNAP application, interview, produce all documentation, report changes and reapply like non-BBCE households.

BBCE is a complex policy that varies from state to state, and we are still seeking information about the impact this change could have to our state and our communities.

We encourage you to become engaged and [leave a personal public comment on this rule stating your support or opposition](#), just click the green button at the top. Please remember that all comments are public record and identities are recorded. **If you have any questions, please email me at policy@ntfb.org or click Reply on this email.**

Three Marker Bills Seek to Improve Summer Feeding for Children

Three bills that will fall under the Child Nutrition Re-Authorization and are looking for support.

[The Hunger Free Summer for Kids Act \(S.1918\)](#) wants to use Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards to reach children who are eligible for summer meals, but unable to get to summer meal sites in rural areas or communities ineligible to operate summer meal sites. Pilot programs showed huge success for this idea, especially in rural areas or in areas with unsafe transportation concerns (high traffic or high crime areas).

[To learn more, visit the one pager, here.](#)

[The Summer Meals Act of 2019](#) wants to lower the community eligibility for summer feeding sites from 50% to 40%. Meaning, schools or centers that have 40% or more children who qualify for free or reduced price school meals, would now be eligible to serve all the children summer meals. It also wants mobile distribution trucks to be eligible to serve summer meals to children, in order to increase access in hard to reach areas. [To read more about this bill, go here.](#)

[Child Summer Hunger Act of 2019 \(S.1941\)](#) also wants to use Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards to reach children during the summer. Cards issued would be valued at \$150 per child for the summer.

[To read the bill, go here.](#)

City of Dallas' Workplan includes food access

Laila Alequresh, the City of Dallas' Chief Officer of Innovation, revealed her department's workplan for the upcoming year during last month's City Council meeting. Included in her priority areas is to increase resident's access to affordable, healthy food. With nutritious food access as a priority of the City's new Chief Innovation Officer, we are excited to work with the city, and all of our partners, to address this important issue.

If you have any questions or just want to chat food policy, please reach out to me!

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