

Advocacy Update 10.14.2019



NTFB VOICE Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS

In Brief

- Changes to Public Charge are temporarily blocked
 - The Healthy Foods Initiative Innovation Challenge is LIVE
 - Education: What does Impeach really mean?
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Nationally

Three federal courts have blocked the changes to Public Charge determination

The changes to the Public Charge determination were set to go into effect on October 15, 2019, however three separate federal courts have blocked this process.

Judge Daniels, in his order, faulted the government for not adequately explaining why it was changing the definition of a "public charge" or why the change was needed. "*The Rule is simply a new agency policy of exclusion in search of a justification.*"

As a reminder, the determination on whether or not someone will become a "public charge" is an administered test, used in the immigration process. Here's a quick summary of the change, now temporarily blocked.

*Under the new regulation, caseworkers would consider enrollment in the widely used **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**, certain federally funded Medicaid benefits and a variety of forms of government-subsidized housing, including the popular Section 8 vouchers. Officials would deem an immigrant a "public charge" and deny the application if they determine he or she is more likely than not to use one of the considered benefits for 12 months or longer over the span of three years.*

For more information and expansion about the block, [read more here](#)

Your Ideas Can Solve Hunger!

The City of Dallas has an innovation challenge open for all to participate

Do you have a great idea about how to solve hunger? The City of Dallas, Communities Foundation of Texas, the Healthy Food Access Initiative and the Caruth Foundation want to know all about it!

To submit your idea, [click the link](#). You may submit ideas as individuals or organizations for the general public (including you) to then vote on. The ideas with the highest votes will be transformed into grant proposals by the Healthy Food Access Initiative cohort. Following a favorable grant review process, the top project(s) will be funded and implemented.

From the City of Dallas:

City of Dallas launches challenge to address food insecurity

The City of Dallas Office of Innovation, in partnership with the Communities Foundation of Texas, is seeking creative ideas to increase access to local, nutritious and affordable food options for all Dallas residents. The Food Idea Innovation Challenge, which launches this week, will allow Dallas residents the opportunity to submit ideas and solutions on how the city can work towards solving food inequities in their communities.

[Ideas can be submitted online through a crowdsourcing idea management tool.](#)

Written submission forms will also be available at Dallas Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Centers, libraries and recreation centers throughout the city. Once ideas have been submitted, residents are encouraged to vote on their favorite idea. Proposals will then be reviewed by city staff and stakeholders. Selected ideas will then be piloted by the city. Ultimately, the Food Idea Innovation Challenge will aid the city's efforts in having better food access, healthier food choices, more locally grown food and reduce food waste.

"Rather than producing a solution from City Hall initially, we are first seeking ideas from our constituents," said Laila Alequresh, Chief Innovation Officer for the City of Dallas. "We look forward to co-creating solutions with our residents that cater to the challenges facing our communities. We are proud to partner with the Communities Foundation of Texas on this initiative."

In Dallas, 36% of residents live in a federally defined food desert and it is estimated that 1 in 5 children live in food insecure households according to the North Texas Food Bank.

The deadline to submit ideas is Thursday, November 21, 2019. The review process and piloting of selected submissions will begin Spring of 2020.

Education: What Does Impeach Actually Mean Again?

With Congress returning from break, the most dominating topic in the news cycle is "impeachment." For coffee shop conversation, remembering your political science class will keep you at the top of the discussion. [For your review, here is a terrific 5 minute video that reminds us what impeachment actually is.](#)

Questions or Comments? You ARE a hunger expert, remember to vote for your favorite ideas!

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