

Advocacy Update 11.19.2021



NTFB VOICE

Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS

In Brief -

- Build Back Better Act passes the House
- USDA - TEFAP to incorporate Indigenous foods
- SNAP will change for college students after declarations are gone

BUILD BACK BETTER PASSES HOUSE, NOW MOVES TO THE SENATE

This morning the US House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better (BBB) Act. The next step is for the Senate to act upon it, which will not happen until after the Thanksgiving break. Then...it goes back to the House. The chances for a Presidential signature before the New Year need all the optimism we can muster. Many items included in the BBB are a win for anti-hunger advocates.

From the anti-hunger perspective, the provisions within the bill are expected to:

- expand the number of schools that would be able to offer free meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
- give states the option to implement the CEP statewide
 - As a reminder the CEP allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications.
 - Schools that adopt CEP are reimbursed using a formula based on the percentage of students eligible for free meals based on their participation in other specific means-tested programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- provide \$30 million for school kitchen equipment
- provide \$250 million for a Healthy School Meal Incentives demonstration projects

- extend the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program nationwide for students who receive free or reduced-price school meals through a benefit card like the P-EBT program
- allow states, as well as Indian Tribal Organizations, that participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to provide Summer EBT.
- The child tax credit expansion would reach 91% of Texas children (6.7M) and lift 489,000 Texas children out of poverty (CBPP)
- [The health insurance provisions would insure 770,000 Texans who make too much for our Texas' Medicaid threshold, but not enough to afford private insurance.](#)

IMPROVED INCLUSION OF INDIGENOUS TRIBES, BUSINESSES, AND PEOPLE AT THE USDA

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) welcomes Indigenous Foods to its catalogue offerings.

The USDA Office of Tribal Relations announced this week that it will partner with several Native-led organizations to raise awareness of Indigenous perspectives about food and agriculture.

The initiative will include:

- The North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems will develop recipes using traditional Indigenous foods and foods provided to tribal communities through the federal Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).
- Healthy recipes and cooking videos using ingredients native to the west and southwestern United States
- A video series on wild food foraging and sustainable gathering practices
- A program to help market Indigenous Foods and bison production
- A report on regulatory changes needed at the USDA to empower tribal self-governance of federal food programs

THE END OF COLLEGE SNAP BENEFITS AFTER DECLARATION

You'll hear a lot more about all the changes that are coming next month. But know there are going to be large and drastic changes to SNAP after the COVID-19 Pandemic Disaster/Emergency Declarations expire on December 31, 2021.

One of those will be the end of expanded SNAP benefits for college students.

Before the pandemic, most full-time college students did not qualify for SNAP because they were unable to satisfy the 20-hours per week work requirement. However, the CARES Act allowed the eligibility criteria to expand to automatically include all students who had a family contribution of zero dollars and for all students that were eligible for work-study programs.

This expansion allowed 8 million students in the US to be eligible for SNAP benefits. Most of these students will lose that eligibility post-declaration.

Questions or Comments?

[RECALL: Some years it's romaine, this year it's onions](#)

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