

## Advocacy Update 12.3.2020



### In Brief:

- ALDI now accepts SNAP Online
- Senior SNAP bill has been filed
- Feeding America end of year priorities
- Healthy Food Dallas Initiative Program Application is Open

### **ALDI Now Accepts SNAP Benefits for Online Shopping in Texas**

In addition to larger Texas food retailers who now allow online purchasing using SNAP benefits (currently, H.E.B., Amazon & Walmart) the USDA has announced that:

Beginning December 2, 2020, ALDI grocery stores will launch SNAP online purchasing in California, Florida, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Texas. ALDI had launched SNAP online purchasing in Georgia last month and plans additional state rollouts in mid-December and January.

Being able to use SNAP benefits to purchase food online can help many families who do not wish to or cannot travel to their local grocery retailer for a variety of circumstances. SNAP benefits do not cover any fees such as delivery or additional charges for online shopping.

With more local retailers joining the online purchase program, signing up more eligible households for SNAP is of the utmost importance to increase the nutritional health of our communities and infuse federal dollars into local stores.

## Simplified SNAP Application for Seniors Bill Has Been Filed

Feeding Texas proudly announced yesterday that bills [HB 701](#) (House) & [SB 224](#) (Senate) have been filed during pre-filing of the 87th Texas Legislature.

The bills were filed by Texas House Representative Armando Walle (D-Houston) and Texas State Senators Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) and Royce West (D-Dallas).

We will need all anti-hunger advocates to help us support these bills through session. During the last legislative session in 2019, we were almost to the finish line in getting this piece of legislation passed. We hope with early filing and bi-partisan support in 2021, this will be the year to get the Governor's signature on this necessary bill.

As a reminder, this bill would require the Texas Department of Health & Human Services to utilize a simplified SNAP application for seniors (60+) with no earned income, who are applying for SNAP, and extend the SNAP certification period from 12 months to 36 months. New this year to the bill is the inclusion of persons with disabilities who would also be eligible for the simplified application and extended benefit period.

There's no action to take just yet but instructions on how you can help will be coming to you soon!

## December Priorities for the Emergency Feeding Network

Feeding America is asking all anti-hunger advocates to promote two asks this December for Congress. The chances of another COVID-19 Relief Package look unlikely by the end of the year. Therefore, we ask Congress to include two items in their end of year spending legislation.

As a reminder the Continuing Resolution (CR) that is currently funding most of the federal government runs out on December 11th. To prevent another government shutdown, Congress must either pass a complete budget or another CR.

The two asks for our federal lawmakers to include in the end of year budget are:

1. Increase SNAP benefits for all recipients by increasing the maximum benefit by 15% and the minimum benefit from \$16 to \$30 for the duration of the economic downturn to provide critical food assistance and to help promote economic stimulus.
2. Increase funding for food purchases to support food banks, specifically through an additional \$500 million for food purchases through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Congress should also ensure any additional funding to help support USDA food purchases of commodities impacted by COVID-19 supply chain disruptions are distributed through established USDA food distribution programs.

The Day of Action will be Thursday, December 10th, 2020. I will send out a note early next week with actions you can do to support the emergency feeding network on that day.

## Healthy Food Dallas NOFA

A reminder that the notice of funding availability from the City of Dallas has been posted. This program seeks to increase the number of non-traditional food access points in low-income and underserved areas of Dallas. Previous recipients of these funds used the funds to help support the launch of mobile food pantries, purchase capital equipment, establish food access points, and other ideas to serve their communities. [If you are interested, please visit the application site here.](#)

Thank you all and have a great rest of your week!



Questions or Comments?  
Fun Fact: ALDI owns Trader Joe's  
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