



North Texas Food Bank 2023 State Legislative Agenda

*This is derived from the legislative agenda of the Texas Food Policy Roundtable, of which NTFB is a member.

Remove and/or Update the SNAP & TANF Vehicle Asset Test

- In 2021, the SNAP Vehicle Asset Test prevented nearly 48,000 Texans from accessing food assistance for which they otherwise would have been eligible. The current limits on a family's first and second vehicle are outdated – last updated in 2001 and 1973 respectively.
- This policy disproportionately affects Hispanic households, and recently many households have lost benefits at the time of their recertification due to inflation in the used car market.
- NTFB seeks to either eliminate or modernize the SNAP & TANF Vehicle Asset Test.

College Student Access to SNAP

- Hunger is on the rise at college campuses across Texas, as many low-income students struggle to pay tuition and afford food.
- Although most full-time college students do not qualify for SNAP under federal law, Texas has the flexibility to allow students at community colleges in vocational or technical programs to receive SNAP.
- NTFB seeks to expand college student SNAP eligibility, so low-income Texans aren't forced to choose between attending college and feeding their families.

Medically Tailored Meals

- Medically tailored meals are delivered to individuals living with severe illness through a referral from a medical professional or healthcare plan.
- Meal plans are designed to improve health outcomes, lower cost of care, and increase patient satisfaction.
- NTFB seeks to expand access to medically tailored meals that are funded by their healthcare plan and/or provider.

SNAP Pre-registration for Those Exiting the Criminal Justice System

- Research shows that formerly incarcerated individuals are especially vulnerable immediately after release. Early access to fundamental supports, such as food, mitigate the risk of rearrest or reincarceration, but SNAP applications can take upwards of 30 days to process.
- Several states have identified this issue as a concern and have undertaken efforts to allow incarcerated prisoners to apply for SNAP prior to release so that benefits can be available as of the date they leave prison.
- NTFB seeks to implement SNAP pre-registration for those exiting the criminal justice system.

Oppose efforts to restrict SNAP purchases, shame recipients, or in any way damage accessibility, adequacy, and eligibility of federal nutrition programs

