

**February 21, 2023**

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## **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

[Looming Cuts to Emergency SNAP Benefits Threaten Food Insecurity in Rural America](#), *USA Today*, February 20, 2023

Impending cuts to SNAP benefits are set to harm people in rural areas most of all. Rural America is home to a higher proportion of SNAP recipients than metro areas, and higher levels of food insecurity and poverty as well.

"There's no way, that I see, that we're ever going to make up fully for what's being lost," says Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) SNAP Director Ellen Vollinger.

[Emergency SNAP Benefits Are Ending. Here's What That Means for Chicago Families](#), *Chicago Tribune*, February 15, 2023

In Chicago, food pantry operators are concerned that the imminent end of SNAP Emergency Allotments (EAs) will lead to a fresh wave of demand. Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach, a Northwestern University economist studying SNAP, says the sunset of EAs could increase food insufficiency by around 10 percent.

['Horrible Timing': Pandemic Food Relief Ends as Inflation Sends Families Scrambling](#), *The Guardian*, February 15, 2023

The passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, spelled the end of a pandemic-era program boosting SNAP benefits. In March, SNAP participants in 29 states, Guam, and Washington, D.C., will see their benefits return to pre-pandemic levels. "This has a lot of ramifications," says FRAC SNAP Director Ellen Vollinger. "When SNAP benefits are cut, it's not as if the problem of hunger goes away. People don't go anywhere. They still exist. But they now have to bear the brunt of figuring out what's their next so-called coping strategy."

[Lawmakers Consider Bills Addressing Huge Spike in Stolen SNAP and Cash Assistance](#), *WMAR-TV* (Baltimore, MD), February 21, 2023

SNAP recipients who have suffered electronic benefits theft are hoping a pair of bills under consideration by the Maryland General Assembly will immediately restore stolen benefits.

[SNAP Emergency Allotments Ending Soon, Impacting Grocery Spending](#), *Grocery Dive*, February 13, 2023

When SNAP Emergency Allotments come to an end in March, "it's not just low-income participants who lose their ability to be able to purchase food," says Maryland Hunger Solutions Director Michael J. Wilson. "It's going to

impact grocery stores. It's going to impact farmers markets. It's going to impact everyone who sells and produces [food]."

## **Healthy School Meals for All**

[Minnesota House Passes 'Universal' School Meals, Providing Free Breakfast, Lunch to Students](#), *CBS Minnesota*, February 9, 2023

On Thursday, February 16, the Minnesota House passed a bill providing free breakfast and lunch to all Minnesota students. A separate piece of legislation, also passed Thursday, would allocate \$5 million to support food pantries during a time of dramatically increasing demand.

[Universal School Meals Improve Attendance for Youngest Students](#), *K-12 Dive*, February 17, 2023

According to a new Syracuse University study, kindergarten students attending schools that offer free school meals to all students regardless of family income have better attendance records than children in schools without free meals. The study, which focused on over 130,000 kindergartners in New York City, associated Healthy School Meals for All policies with a drop of 5.4 percent in chronic absenteeism.

## **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**

[A Year Later, Formula Stock Has Recovered From the Shortage, but Parents Haven't](#), *CNN*, February 17, 2023

While various indicators show that the infant formula shortage has eased in recent months, parents across the nation are still feeling the crunch. Experts say half of formula purchased in the United States is bought using benefits from the WIC program. "If people didn't have WIC, these [numbers showing that families are struggling] would be enormous," according to Geri Henchy, director of Nutrition Policy and Early Childhood Programs at FRAC.

## **FRAC Chat**

[Show Love for Grandfamilies and Kinship Families in Your Community](#), February 21, 2023

"For 2.5 million children around the U.S., grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends show an ultimate form of love each day by stepping up to raise these children when their parents are unable to do so," writes Susan Beaudoin, program manager, Root Causes and Specific Populations, at FRAC.

[There Is A Lot to Love About Free Healthy School Meals for All](#), February 14, 2023

This Valentine's Day, FRAC Senior Child Nutrition Policy Analyst Alexis Bylander discusses key reasons to love Healthy School Meals for All.

[Three Actions to Help Ensure Eligible Immigrants' Access to SNAP Benefits](#),

February 13, 2023

In Part 2 of a series focused on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and eligible immigrant families, Alexandra Asbhook, director of Root Causes and Specific Populations, and Susan Beaudoin, Root Causes program manager, examine opportunities to address barriers that impede immigrant access to SNAP.

[A Menu of Resources to Celebrate Black History Month](#), February 9, 2023

In recognition of Black History Month, FRAC compiled a list of books, podcasts, Ted Talks, and other resources for anti-hunger and anti-poverty advocates.

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