

FW: FRAC Weekly Program Update - September 15, 2023

Karis Engle <kengle@gladesinitiative.org>

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To:Updates <updates@gladesinitiative.org>

From: Food Research & Action Center <shayward@frac.org>**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 3:46 PM**To:** Karis Engle <kengle@gladesinitiative.org>**Subject:** FRAC Weekly Program Update - September 15, 2023

UPDATE

September 15, 2023*Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your web browser](#)*

Advocating for SNAP

Expanded SNAP Time Limits, New Exemptions Go into Effect

This month sees the expansion of the age limit for underemployed and unemployed individuals. It also begins the limited exemptions for foster youth, military veterans, and unhoused individuals. FRAC and the National Women's Law Center created [a fact sheet](#) documenting the harm that time limits have on women, LGBTQIA+ people, and their families.

Class Action To Prevent Delays in SNAP Issuance

The [Western Center on Law and Poverty](#) and [Impact Fund](#) have filed a class action lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Office of Management and Budget to prevent a delay in providing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to 42 million Americans. The lawsuit asserts that the USDA should exercise available strategies to order the continuation of SNAP benefits while Congress works on passage of the funding bills. With the filing of this case, the courts can issue a temporary restraining order to require the defendants to continue operation of the SNAP program and get benefits released to the 42 million Americans in need.

Deadline Approaches for Enhance Access to SNAP Act Sign-On Letter

This is the last week to join FRAC, UnidosUS, and the National Urban League in their sign-on letter supporting the Enhance Access to SNAP Act. This act would no longer condition the eligibility of college students with low incomes to perform 20 hours of outside employment or work-study. Removing these barriers will ensure more equitable SNAP access for college students with low incomes and better respond to their economic needs. [Find the letter here](#). National, state, and local organizations are all invited to sign on. [Sign on here](#). The deadline is Tuesday, September 19.

Disaster Assistance for Hawaii

USDA announced that Hawaii residents with low incomes who are recovering from the devastating wildfires beginning August 8, 2023, could be eligible for assistance from the USDA's [Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (also known as D-SNAP).

Medicaid/CHIP: Keep People on SNAP Covered

Help prevent SNAP participants from losing their Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program benefits as a result of the end of the Federal Public Health Emergency. [Partner](#) with your state Medicaid agency by using this [toolkit](#) to provide information about renewals.

Legislative Update

FY 2024 Appropriations and Prospects to Avoid a Government Shutdown

The House and Senate are now both back in session and working feverishly to pass a short-term spending bill (continuing resolution, "CR") to avoid a government shutdown on October 1.

FRAC is urging Congress to include additional (emergency) funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) requested by the administration. This emergency funding is necessary in the CR for WIC to continue to serve expected caseloads and to avoid any disruption in services.

FRAC is in coalition with others urging Congress to avoid a government shutdown on October 1 and to keep federal programs funded. 680 groups told Congress to: Responsibly fund needed services and reject the chaos of a government shutdown. See the Coalition on Human Needs [press release](#) and [letter](#).

While CR negotiations are ongoing, efforts to advance yearlong fiscal year (FY) 2024 funding bills continue. The Senate swiftly passed a procedural hurdle to take up a spending package, a "minibus," which bundles three of the less controversial bills, including the [Agriculture-FDA](#) spending bill. The Senate is expected to resume consideration on the bill next week.

House Republicans' FY 2024 [Agriculture-FDA spending bill](#) that stalled in July is officially dead, ravaged by an intraparty dispute that could not be resolved. FRAC [opposed](#) the House bill. A [Senate Appropriations version](#) is significantly better than the House's, but still falls short of providing enough funding to

accommodate expected caseloads in the WIC program.

On the Road to the Farm Bill

Agriculture Committee chairs continue to draft and negotiate provisions for their respective Farm Bills. Although all “four corners” (chairs and ranking members of the two committees) continue to stress the need for bipartisan bills, it is reported that negotiations on the nutrition (Title IV) and commodity (Title I) provisions are points of contention preventing bill progress. The timetable for Farm Bill consideration is also delayed due to the difficulty in passing the annual FY 2024 spending bills.

FRAC is urging Members of Congress to support [SNAP priority legislation](#) in the Farm Bill. Push out [this link](#) to send emails directly to them.

[NOW](#)



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About Us

The [Food Research & Action Center](#) (FRAC) improves the nutrition, health, and well-being of people struggling against poverty-related hunger in the United States through advocacy, partnerships, and by advancing bold and equitable policy solutions. To learn more, visit [FRAC.org](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#).

Contact Us

Food Research & Action Center
1200 18th Street, NW Suite 400
Washington, District of Columbia 20036
(202) 986-2200
shayward@frac.org

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