



Mid-Ohio Foodbank

Working together toward a hunger-free and healthier

10/1/2018

HAM

As the calendar turns to October, Hunger Action Month has also come to a close. And while Hunger Action Month comes to an end, our journey to end hunger continues. Thank you all for helping shed further light on efforts to end hunger!

Farm Bill Misses Deadline; Now What?

House and Senate Farm Bill Conference Committee leaders last week acknowledged legislation was not going to pass before the September 30 end of the federal fiscal year, impacting funding for critical programs. This made more important the appropriations bill that covers the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) which allocates program funding.

SNAP services would have continued regardless of whether or not any action was taken. SNAP is permanent law - which ensures funding is available even if authorizing language is not in place. However, this appropriations bill allocates funding for SNAP and other programs for when the Farm Bill is passed.

The Continuing Resolution provides ongoing funding for programs that are not permanently authorized, allowing them to operate through December 7 or until the Farm Bill is enacted. This ensures critical services are not interrupted.

We will provide updates as action occurs on all of the Nutrition Title programs.

Administration's Public Charge Rule Changes Draw Opposition

Following is the statement from Matt Knott, President of Feeding America, in opposition to the release by the Trump Administration of a proposed change to public charge doctrine. We applaud and support the statement and position of Feeding America:

"This past weekend, the Administration announced a deeply troubling proposal to change the way families in this country access food assistance. The proposed executive action will impact legal immigrant families and increase their likelihood of being food insecure.

Currently, federal immigration policy allows officials to deny entry, or legal permanent residency, to immigrants on the basis that they are likely to become a public charge, or dependent on government benefits as their main source of support. To make this determination, officials consider only receipt of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash benefits and Medicaid long-term care during case evaluation. Assessing under a narrow scope ensures that everyone in the United States with legal status can receive essential services, such as nutrition benefits, without fear of jeopardizing their standing in this country.

The proposed rule departs significantly from longstanding precedent by broadening the definition of public charge to include whether an individual received certain public services, such as food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Effectively, this creates another hurdle in the fight to end hunger, with food assistance threatening an individual's lawful residency or citizenship. In addition, it will create fear and confusion that may dissuade immigrant communities - regardless of whether they are impacted by the rule - from seeking food assistance of any kind.

Federal nutrition programs were designed by Congress to be there for citizens and legal immigrants during difficult times and eligibility for those programs reflects that intent. For those eligible for assistance, tying participation to ability to reside lawfully in this country would roll back this longstanding principle. On behalf of our network of 200 food banks and 60,000 meal programs nationwide, Feeding America opposes this misguided policy and urges the Administration to rescind this rule.”

Advocacy Resources

Contact your advocacy team for federal, state and local government-related issues and questions:

- Tim White, Advocacy Manager: (614) 317-9480 or twhite@midohiofoodbank.org.
- Marilyn Tomasi, Vice President, Marketing, Communications and Public Affairs (614) 317-9446 or mtomasi@midohiofoodbank.org.
- For information on the Farm Bill and grassroots advocacy, visit the [Feeding America](#) and the [Food Research and Action Center](#) (FRAC) advocacy sites.

Connect with Us



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