



Working together toward a hunger-free and healthier community.

JANUARY 10, 2019

Mid-Ohio Foodbank

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### **SNAP February Benefits Being Released Early Due To Government Shutdown**

The U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that February SNAP benefits would be available early in response to the current partial government shutdown. The release details how state and local government agencies will access the benefits. To read the release, go to [USDA SNAP release](#). As additional insight is released on the status and impact of the shutdown, we will share it via this newsletter.

### **Ohio Hourly Minimum Wage Increases in 2018 by 25 Cents**

A reminder that the hourly minimum wage for Ohio increased by 25 cents for 2019, from \$8.30 to \$8.55 for non-tipped employees. For tipped employees, the minimum wage rises from \$4.15 to \$4.30 an hour.

### **Rules Still Pending for ABAWD, Eligibility and Public Charge**

Late in December, the USDA announced a rule proposal to limit state waivers on ABAWD SNAP eligibility. States use the waivers to allow ABAWD recipients living in high unemployment areas to continue receiving benefits beyond time restrictions (ABAWDs may receive benefits for three months in a 36 month period). Ohio is one of several states utilizing SNAP waivers and this change could eliminate tens of thousands from receiving needed SNAP benefits. The actual rule has yet to be published; once it is, a public notice will be posted establishing a time line for comments to be submitted. We will share information when the rule is published and the timeline established.

The Ohio Legislature in December passed House Bill 119 which requires SNAP eligibility verification four time a year instead of one. With HB119 signed into law in late December, the next step will be development of enabling rules; no timetable has been set for when this process will start, so watch for updates. For the official analysis of the bill as passed by the Ohio Senate, [click here](#).

The Public Charge rule proposal is still pending at the federal level. The comment period for the proposal has ended; the next step will be for the Department of Homeland Security to determine if they wish to change the proposal, withdraw it or move forward with it as is. In conjunction with that decision, previous comments will be made available as well as new comments solicited. However, at this point, no further steps have been taken on this proposal. For its current version and status, go to [Public Charge on Federal Register](#).

As a note, the Federal Register, the U.S. Government's daily journal that publishes rules and related material, is one of the agencies impacted by the government shutdown. Therefore, the website is not being routinely updated and the rule-making process is being impeded. Anyone searching for information on the Federal Register needs to keep in mind that information may not be current and that the rule- making process in general is greatly slowed during the shutdown.

### **Advocacy Contacts**

For questions or information, contact your advocacy team: Tim White, Advocacy Manager: (614) 317- 9480 or [twhite@midohiofoodbank.org](mailto:twhite@midohiofoodbank.org); or, Marilyn Tomasi, Vice President, Marketing, Communications and Public Affairs (614) 317-9446 or [mtomasi@midohiofoodbank.org](mailto:mtomasi@midohiofoodbank.org). Or, for federal advocacy information, you can also visit the [Feeding America](#) and the [Food Research and Action Center \(FRAC\)](#) advocacy sites.

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#### **Connect with Us**



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