

March 26, 2019

Presidential Budget Devastating to Nation's Most Vulnerable Citizens

While details are still emerging, the President's FY19 federal budget proposal continues an assault on the nation's disadvantaged. Although it will be overhauled in Congress, it continues a dangerous dialogue of cutting services to those in need.

The budget makes significant cuts to SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), reducing the program by more than \$213 billion in the next 10 years – a cut of more than 30 percent. It would also eliminate the currently pending rule to take away state waiver ability for ABAWDs (Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents) in high unemployment opportunities. The budget would eliminate a critical program for low-income seniors, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which provides more than 145 million meals a year. The President's budget proposal also resurrects his "Harvest Box" proposal to deliver pre-packaged boxes to SNAP recipients; this idea was widely denounced last year and has met the same response this year.

It would add millions to the ranks of the uninsured with repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and over \$700 billion in Medicaid cuts. These would combine with cuts to assistive housing programs and other non-defense spending to eliminate help and safety nets for millions of children, adults and older Americans.

Be prepared for calls-to-action against this punitive proposal. Watch for more detail!

Punitive ABAWD Rule Proposal Comment Period Coming to Close April 2

Just after Congress and the Trump Administration renewed SNAP through the farm bill, the Administration proposed to implement through executive action what it failed to get through legislation: taking food assistance away from struggling workers and families through harsh changes to SNAP! Help generate public comments making clear that this proposed federal regulation would increase food insecurity.

Federal law already limits SNAP eligibility to just three months out of every three years for unemployed and underemployed adults without dependent children unless they can document 20 hours of work a week. States can request waivers to exempt people from the time limit, such as those in areas with high unemployment or those who lack a high school diploma or face other high barriers to employment. Now, USDA proposes making the existing time limit harsher. USDA's proposal would undercut states' ability to waive time limits in many areas where there are too few opportunities. By USDA's own estimates, this would eliminate SNAP benefits for 755,000 adults and cut SNAP benefits nationally by \$15 billion over 10 years.

Find [templates](#) here and submit comments through [Feeding America's dedicated portal](#) to this issue. For additional information and talking points, also go to the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) page or the [Food Research & Action Center](#) page. Comments can be submitted individually or on behalf of organizations, so utilize all avenues in response to this proposal. Or, you can mail comments to: Certification Policy Branch, Program Development Division, FNS, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302. Ask employees, supporters and volunteers to also weigh in through these websites. Every comment counts; check out this great article on [grassroots advocacy](#) and this rule proposal!

Medicaid Work Requirement Approved for Ohio

The federal government recently approved Ohio's [work requirement](#) and community engagement waiver for able-bodied Ohioans in the Medicaid expansion population. Medicaid expansion enrollees will now need to demonstrate they work 20 hours per week or are engaged in other allowable activities, including



job search, education and training or community service. The requirement – and subsequent issues surrounding it - mirrors work requirements in other assistance programs.

SNAP Photo ID Bill Reintroduced

Legislation requiring the front of a SNAP debit card to include an adult household member photo has been reintroduced this session. House Bill 58 (Schaffer-R) has been assigned to the Ohio House Health Committee and is awaiting a first hearing. Although the bill includes exemptions for households with only children on SNAP as well as aged/blind/disabled populations, it would create issues for adult SNAP recipients when utilizing a household card. We will keep you informed if HB58 starts to move. When this was introduced in the last General Assembly, Mid-Ohio Foodbank CEO Matt Habash addressed the fallacies of the bill in a [letter-to-the-editor](#) of The Columbus Dispatch.

State Budget Introduced

The framework of Governor DeWine's first state budget bill was recently released. The Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program has been proposed for flat funding at \$19.55 million per year for the two year budget cycle. Mirroring the Governor's earlier stated priorities, funds are earmarked for children's initiatives throughout the budget as well as numerous changes to combat the opioid issue. We are continuing to review available documents as they are released and will share any resulting insights; or, for fact sheets and other primers made available by the Governor, go to <http://budget.ohio.gov/Budget.aspx>.

National Nutrition Month Drawing to a Close

March is National Nutrition Month is drawing to a close at the end of this month, but that does mean the need for education abates – this is an ongoing effort, especially in conjunction with SNAP and other supportive programs. For information on nutrition and ideas for continuing nutrition education, visit the [Feeding America Nutrition blog](#).

Advocacy Contacts

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