

FRAC WEEKLY NEWS DIGEST

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School Meal Block Grant Proposal

[Block Granting Child Nutrition Programs Would Increase Hunger and Abandon Nutrition Standards, Says Food Research & Action Center](#) - FRAC, June 15, 2016

"Block grants are bad policy," said Jim Weill, president of FRAC. "They would undermine the years of progress made against child hunger, and would deny millions of children the nutrition they need for their healthy growth and learning. It is imperative we don't go down this dangerous path."

[Advocates: School meal budgets could lose millions under GOP plan](#) - The Hill, June 15, 2016

The Republican proposal to test block granting school meal programs in three states would likely cut school meal reimbursements, according to critics of the plan, which include FRAC. It's estimated that, under block grants, California could lose \$78 million in federal reimbursements, Texas could lose \$72 million, Georgia \$30 million and North Carolina \$24 million annually.

Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation

[Summer Nutrition Programs Close Hunger Gap for Millions of Children, Report Finds Growth Slowing, Need for Redoubled Efforts](#) - FRAC, June 14, 2016

If every state had reached the goal of 40 children participating in Summer Nutrition in July 2015 for every 100 receiving free or reduced-price lunch during the 2014-2015 school year, an additional 4.9 million children would have been fed each day, and states would have collected an additional \$384 million in child nutrition funding in July alone (assuming the programs operated 22 weekdays).

[Vermont ranks 3rd for providing summer meals for children at risk of hunger](#) - Vermontbiz.com, June 14, 2016

FRAC's summer meals report found that Vermont's rank in serving children free summer meals improved from fourth to third and average daily participation in the state increased 14 percent in July 2015 compared to July 2014. The number of summer meal sites also increased six percent. "The rural nature of our state presents unique challenges for sponsors who provide summer meals to children," said Marissa Parisi, executive director of Hunger Free Vermont. The organization has been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and local communities to feed more children summer meals at sites including libraries, day care centers, and housing developments.

[More than 1,200 NJ locations offering free meals to children this summer](#) - NJ101.5, June 15, 2016

FRAC reports that only 18.5 percent of the 427,000 New Jersey children relying on subsidized school lunch also received free summer meals in July 2015. "Our staff has been working diligently to increase the number of meals sites, especially in communities with high child poverty," said the state's Agriculture Secretary Douglas Fisher. The state reports that the number of meal sites has increased, from 1,100 in 2015 to 1,200 this year.

[Over 25K KY children fed in 2015 summer meals programs](#) - WTVQ, June 14, 2016

According to FRAC's summer meals report, Kentucky ranks in the bottom three performing

states for participation in summer meals in 2015. However, the state experienced a 10 percent increase in participation from the previous year, with one in 13 low-income children – 25,437 – receiving free summer meals in July 2015. For every 100 children receiving school lunch, 7.7 children received summer meals. “Congress can better meet the need through the pending Child Nutrition Reauthorization by making strategic and thoughtful investments in the Summer Nutrition Programs that bolster their capacity to serve even more children,” said FRAC President Jim Weill.

[No Vacation from Hunger: MI Children Missing Out on Summer Meals](#) – Public News Service, June 15, 2016

Michigan’s participation in the free summer meals program decreased seven percent, with 13 low-income children receiving free summer meals last year for every 100 participating in school lunch, according to Crystal FitzSimons, director of school and out-of-school programs at FRAC. FRAC’s recent report on summer meal participation shows that if Michigan increased participation to 40 children out of 100, the state would receive \$12,000 in additional federal funding and 151,000 additional children would be fed each day.

[Summer Lunch Programs Could Serve More Children](#) – Capital Public Radio News, June 14, 2016

California would receive an additional \$40.7 million in federal reimbursements if an additional 515,622 children participated in the summer meals program during the month of July, according to a recent analysis of the Summer Food Service Program by FRAC. Only 20 percent of students qualifying for free or reduced-price school lunch in 2015 also participated in the summer meal program last July, notes the report.

[Summer meals closing the hunger gap for Indiana children](#) – Tribune Star, June 14, 2016

Only one in six low-income Indiana children received free summer meals in July 2015, and the number of participating children decreased 7.5 percent from the previous year, reports FRAC in its recent analysis, *Hunger Doesn’t Take a Vacation*. “We are working to reverse this trend this summer by engaging in aggressive outreach to raise awareness of summer meals with the Indiana Department of Education and many nonprofit and local partners across the state,” said Emily Weikert Bryant of Feeding Indiana’s Hungry.

[Study: Number of Low-Income Missouri Youth Getting Summer Meals Declining](#) – KSMU, June 14, 2016

The number of Missouri children receiving free summer meals decreased in July 2015 by 13 percent, reports FRAC in its annual summer meal program analysis. Only nine children received free summer meals for every 100 receiving school lunch. The numbers are troubling, said Jeanette Mott Oxford, executive director of Empower Missouri. Oxford noted that more aggressive outreach is needed to raise awareness about the program.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

[Bigger Food Stamp Benefits Wouldn’t Be Wasted On Junk Food, Study Says](#) – The Huffington Post, June 14, 2016

Researchers working for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities report that an additional \$30 a month in SNAP benefits would result in healthier eating by recipients. “[C]onsumption of tomatoes and yellow vegetables would increase by almost three percent and green vegetables by just over two percent, while consumption of fast food would fall by over 2.5 percent,” notes the report. Federal data show that diets of SNAP recipients are only marginally less healthy than those not receiving benefits. The study comes as states are cutting benefits to about one million recipients as federal time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents are reinstated.