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Issue #15, April 18, 2016

Quote of the Week

"If SNAP funding is cut...a lot more people will be going hungry. We do the best we can, but food stamps have a pretty huge impact on peoples' lives."

[Linda Scoggins](#), Havasu Interagency Council, April 12, 2016



SNAP

[SNAP Over-the-Year Participation Dropped by More Than 1,000,000 People in January 2016 to Its Lowest Level Since April 2011](#) – FRAC, April 11, 2016

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation averaged 44,705,445 persons in January 2016, a decrease of 483,306 persons compared with December 2015. This is the lowest SNAP national participation level since April 2011. SNAP still matters for many Americans across the country, particularly as they struggle against problems of underemployment, stagnant wages and natural disasters.



[Nearly 20 percent of Mohave County residents get help from SNAP funding](#) – Havasu News, April 12, 2016

According to a recent report from the Arizona Department of Economic Security, 14 percent of Arizona residents received SNAP assistance in February 2016, and the number of families receiving SNAP nearly doubled from 219,500 in 2006 to 430,015 in 2016. Congress is currently proposing to turn SNAP into a block grant program and reducing funding. "SNAP is a huge deal in [Mohave County]," said Linda Scoggins, food assistance director for the Havasu Interagency Council. "If SNAP funding is cut...a lot more people will be going hungry. We do the best we can, but food stamps have a pretty huge impact on peoples' lives."



[SNAP changes will affect feeding programs, advocates say](#) – Charleston Gazette-Mail, April 3, 2016

The reinstatement of time limits in SNAP for childless adults without disabilities "[takes] money out of the economy and [puts] strain on local charities," said Rick Wilson, program director for the American Friends Service Committee. The change also comes at a time when the need for food assistance is growing, according to Chad Morrison, executive director of the Mountaineer Food Bank, one of two food banks in the state. SNAP is a "big part" of hunger relief, and [food banks] can't do it by ourselves," said Morrison. "Our distribution has grown exponentially over the last several years."



[Growing number of seniors expected to put strain on local food banks](#) – New Tribune, April 13, 2016

Washington State's Emergency Food Network (EFN) saw a spike in food bank visits during the recession, and now the need is decreasing for all age groups except for seniors, according to Helen McGovern-Pilant, executive director at EFN. This highlights the need to get more seniors enrolled in SNAP, she said. There could be as many as 20,000 eligible seniors in Pierce County who are eligible but have not applied, mostly because of the stigma attached, said Jeff Klein, executive director of Sound Outreach.

“We’re having to overcome that preconceived notion,” he said. “The way we frame it is that it’s not welfare, it is a benefit. It is something that folks are entitled to.”



[Governors Urge Congress To Lift Food Stamp Drug Testing Ban](#) – Daily Caller, April 12, 2016

Eleven Republican governors sent a letter to Congress urging lawmakers to allow for SNAP applicant drug testing. Currently, states are not allowed to test SNAP applicants for drugs. About the drug-test proposal, Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) asked, in *The Huffington Post*, “Why aren’t my Republican colleagues calling for drug testing for wealthy CEOs and oil company executives who receive taxpayer subsidies? Why is it that they always pick on poor people?”



Child Hunger, Nutrition and Child Care

[Too many hungry children in Oregon](#) – The Chief News, April 11, 2016

At a recent roundtable discussion* in Oregon on child nutrition, Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) said, “As Congress updates federal nutrition programs – like the school lunch and breakfast programs and summer food service – I’ll be advocating for commonsense measures that let more children benefit from these important programs.” Bonamici introduced bipartisan legislation last year that encourages more child care providers to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) by reducing paperwork and allowing a third meal to children in care for more than eight hours.

**Also in the discussion: Oregon Food Bank, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon, federal child nutrition program beneficiaries, and food security advocates.*



[Preschoolers’ Diets Improved After Federal Food Voucher Changes](#) – HealthDay, April 7, 2016

A University of California study published in early April in the journal *Pediatrics* reports that the addition of more fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat milk in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) food voucher package improved the diets of the approximately four million children participating in the program. Children also did not drink less milk after the switch from whole milk to low-fat milk.



[States Where Day Care Costs More Than College](#) – The Wall Street Journal, April 11, 2016

The Economic Policy Institute reports that in 23 states the annual cost for full-time child care for a four-year-old is greater than the average cost of in-state tuition at a four-year institution. Care for a preschooler, at \$12,781, is nearly 20 percent more than an average college tuition (\$10,702) in Massachusetts, which has the highest child-care costs. The average cost of child care in 40 states exceeded ten percent of a family of four’s median income.



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