

September 13, 2017

Closing the Hunger Gap Conference

Stand Up, Fight Back: Trump-Era Policy Updates and Brainstorm Deep Dive

Immigration:

What are your organizations doing or planning on doing on this issue?

- Programs to help community leaders have tools they need
- Get police to have a town hall or make a statement from a remote location—has been attempted but with mixed (mostly poor) results
- If you are not directly involved with policy programs at your agency, at least share stories of clients back to the center
- Create safe spaces and back them up
- Talk one on one with families
- Refer to the hotlines for renewal information regarding DACA
- Sharing resources from partners (ACLU Know Your Rights)
- Invest time and resources in community based food pantries or in staffing your organization with members of communities that are effected by immigration policies

What challenges or barriers might your organization be facing in working on this issue?

- Some programs use federal funding and therefore require collecting data like social security numbers→ how do we make a clear separation between programs that require data collection and those that don't?
- No paid staff/all volunteers
- Push back from leaders regarding not collecting data/different states have different reporting requirements
- Keeping people's information private

What are some key messaging ideas to help build political will among emergency food providers and their supporters?

- Bring back conversation to the mission statement
- Vital to give correct information to clients, volunteers, and staff
- If you have information regarding immigration policies and how they impact people it is your responsibility to bring it this topic up in as many circles as you can
- We want pathways to citizenship and nonarbitrary decision making
- Don't just share information in English
- Supporting DACA recipients has bipartisan support

What other kinds of organizations may be new or key allies?

- InterAmerican Human Rights Council
- Right to Food

- Committee on World Food Security
- Latino Network (Portland specific)
- State Farm Bureau
- Local Legislative Action Days
- Chamber of Commerce
- Restaurant industry
- Health care providers

What are some strategies we can do to ensure inclusion and involvement among food bank program participants and people of color?

- Voter registration table weekly
- Make space in staff for others who more accurately reflect the community
- Empower our communities, particularly with alternative modes of promoting food security
- Host potlucks!
- Participant advisory council- get a few dedicated people then build from there
- Speakers Bureau
- Ask folks how they want to participate

Health Care:

What are your organizations doing or planning on doing on this issue?

- Advocating to keep Medicaid and the ACA
- Fighting for full funding for Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP)
- Sharing resources like the Kaiser Family Foundation website, which has digestible information and information on free clinics
- Forming partnerships with the Department of Human Services and community organizations to give information about ACA eligibility and to sign families up for healthcare
- Bringing in navigators instead of for-profit companies to the food distribution line
- Having set staff for advocacy

What challenges or barriers might your organization be facing in working on this issue?

- Food banks/pantries jobs don't provide a living wage that enable people to work on these issues
- States that haven't expanded Medicaid
- Coverage for only citizens
- Navigators that reflect only their target populations and communities
- Sliding scale health care facilities

What are some strategies we can do to ensure inclusion and involvement among food bank program participants and people of color?

- Learn about your representatives, specifically their interests and passion projects

Farm Bill:

What are your organizations doing or planning on doing on this issue?

- Hosting a 40th birthday party for SNAP
- Educating local government about SNAP
- Build partnerships with agricultural organizations—a clear natural partnership!
- Paper plate campaign where you write a message on plates and send those pictures to representatives
- Storytelling to win hearts and minds
- Farm bill events that mobilize partner agencies
- Focus on Education and training and Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents breakdown by legislative district
- Leveraging CBPP material to make local videos
- Focus on governors

What challenges or barriers might your organization be facing in working on this issue?

- Being a governmental employee makes advocacy difficult
- Not sure when to act and/or to call community to action
- Assuming people already know what SNAP is—need more SNAP outreach
- Unsure how to advocate/reach outside of “blue” lawmakers
- Food choice issues like progressive partners and health groups that support limiting choices (not accepting sugar/processed foods)

What are some key messaging ideas to help build political will among emergency food providers and their supporters?

- Real stories about real people that fight stereotypes because data closes people down
- Share our strength (Food Research and Action Center and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities)
- The benefits people receive from the government are totally inadequate

What other kinds of organizations may be new or key allies?

- Anyone doing SNAP outreach/training
- National Food Policy Score Card
- Food Action
- Big Agriculture (not just progressive agriculture)
- Grocers and retailers
- Food processors and truckers

What are some strategies we can do to ensure inclusion and involvement among food bank program participants and people of color?

- Target specific law/policy makers and get them to use their relationships
- Speakers Bureau with people who are comfortable speaking about their personal experiences with SNAP

Anti-Poverty State Legislative Efforts

What are your organizations doing or planning on doing on this issue?

- Working to educate individuals and organization regarding advocacy work
- Encouraging storytelling as a mode of advocacy
- Connecting community to law makers
- Empowering people most impacted to influence change

What challenges or barriers might your organization be facing in working on this issue?

- How to get those who are using our services to lawmakers
- Depending on your employer or funders you may not be able to advocate → perhaps focus on education, outreach, and research

What other kinds of organizations may be new or key allies?

- Food Action Network
- Statewide Poverty Action Network
- NW Harvest

What are some strategies we can do to ensure inclusion and involvement among food bank program participants and people of color?

- Get community members to the table to gather research to influence advocacy
- Present data along with storytelling
- Utilize existing organizations to plug into the work that is already being done

Notes and General Info:

General Notes:

- How to elevate the stories and voices of those being served
 - Mass mobilizing to advocate to elevate problems
 - How do we think of supporting those we serve to participate in advocacy?
 - Transportation stipends
 - Childcare
 - Add Board Members that are low-income
 - Recruit through relationship building

Notes from Budget and Tax Cuts:

- The House and Senate continue to work towards a budget resolution that would trigger tax reform through the [budget reconciliation process](#). The House Budget Committee passed a version that includes deep cuts to programs that help end hunger, such as SNAP, Medicaid, and refundable tax credits. Simultaneously, both chambers are working on fiscal year 2018 spending bills that must pass by December 8 to avoid a government shut down. Continue to urge members to reject cuts to anti-hunger programs and pass a budget that will end hunger by 2030.
- Call (800-826-3688) or [email your representative and senators](#) and urge them to oppose budget cuts to critical programs, such as SNAP, refundable tax credits for low-income families (EITC and CTC), and international development.
- *For more information on this issue:*
 - [2017 Offering of Letters: Doing Our Part to End Hunger](#)
 - [House Budget Resolution Cuts Programs for Poor and Hungry People](#)
 - [Budget Reconciliation 101](#)
 - [Budget 101](#)
[Budget 101: Block Grants, Flexibility, and Per Capita Caps](#)