



# Policy Priorities Talking Points

## Hunger in Louisiana

- Louisiana is ranked 47th in the nation for the percentage of food insecure households.
- More than 683,000 people in Louisiana are food insecure.
- Louisiana ranks 2nd for child hunger with more than 234,120 food insecure children.
- Louisiana ranks 1st in the nation for senior hunger.
- 23% of college students are food insecure.
- More than 279,000 Louisiana households are eligible for SNAP but are not enrolled.

## Priorities

### Hunger Free Campus

In 2022, Louisiana created a hunger-free campus program through Act 719, sponsored by Baton Rouge State Representative Barbara Freiberg. The program establishes criteria for higher education institutions to earn a designation and includes a competitive grant program.

#### Action Needed:

Provide funding for the competitive grant program to ensure the success of the college pantry and their work to end hunger on their college campuses.

### Food Procurement from Louisiana Farmers

Procuring food from local Louisiana producers directly supports the community by ensuring fresher, more nutritious options are available for hunger relief programs. This approach not only bolsters the local economy but also reduces food miles, contributing to environmental sustainability. Ultimately, it creates a resilient food system that can more effectively address food insecurity within the region.

#### Action Needed:

Support the allocation of \$5 million to Feeding Louisiana to purchase Louisiana produce and goods to support the five Feeding America food banks.

## Bill Digest

- ↓ **HB 260 Representative Troy D. Romero**  
Limits types of food purchases with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.
  - Doesn't provide dignity of the neighbors.
  - Limits freedom to choose foods that meet the best needs of the family receiving SNAP benefits.
  - Administrative burden for grocers.
- ↑ **HB 287 Representative Jason Hughes**  
To make supplemental appropriations for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year to fund Summer EBT.
  - Funding Summer EBT for FY 2025 which means each household with school age children would be able to receive \$40 on EBT card for their children during the summer.
  - Supporting feeding children breakfast and lunch when school is on break for three months during the summer and free breakfast and lunch are not available.

↓ **HB 303 Representative Chad Boyer**  
Provides for the reduction of SNAP benefits upon a juvenile entering department of corrections custody.

- Lack of support for families with juveniles that are incarcerated.
- Inconsideration of family circumstance and food insecurity needs.

↑ **HB 594 Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.**  
Creates and provides for the Free School Breakfast Program to be administered by the state Department of Education.

- Supports feeding children a nutritious free breakfast at school in case the child's family cannot afford to provide them with breakfast before school.
- Supports feeding children that arrive late to school with a healthy meal to foster better learning opportunities throughout the day.
- Advocates for low income and working-class families and saves the families money on additional groceries for breakfast
- Groceries are at an all-time high. This bill understands the need to provide a healthy and nutrition breakfast to children within the school setting.

↑ **HB 670 Representative Edmond Jordan**  
Removes funding limitations on the financing program and project funding provided in the Healthy Food Retail Act.

- Removes the available funds exemption for the financing program
- Permits an eligible project to qualify for program funding more than once and removes the rule that program funding is awarded on a competitive one time basis
- Provides grants and loans to eligible healthy food retailers to increase access to healthy food in underserved communities.

↓ **SB 195 Senator Blake Miguez**  
Provides relative to work requirements within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- Lacks consideration of family circumstance, physical and mental wellbeing of an individual
- Lacks consideration and assessment of transportation availability, cost, needs and requirements of families to be able to get to and from work.

↓ **SB 196 Senator Blake Miguez**  
Dept. of Children and Family Services to implement program integrity measures to verify ongoing eligibility in SNAP.

- The proposed law requires that SNAP retailers must undergo an on site inspection annually if they accept SNAP EBT cards from their customers for their food purchases.
- Applying additional rules on SNAP retailers and grocers will cause less retailers to participate, meaning that clients/neighbors will have less places to purchase food with their SNAP EBT cards and creates more of a food desert for food insecure households in Louisiana.

**For more information  
on State Policy Priorities**

VISIT:  
[www.feedinglouisiana.org/policy-priorities](http://www.feedinglouisiana.org/policy-priorities)

