

Anti-Hunger Policy Updates

Claire Lane, Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition

Public Charge Outreach:

USCIS issued [this interagency letter](#) that begins: *“My message to you is simple: The 2019 public charge rule is no longer in effect, and we are seeking your support in communicating this change to the public.”*

USCIS has reverted to 1999 rules: Medicaid (except for long-term care), public housing, or SNAP are NOT considered a public charge – nor is COVID medical treatment or preventive services (including vaccinations).

The letter encourages immigrants to access benefits: *“It is critical that immigrants and their families, many of whom are essential workers, are able to access necessary government services for which they may be eligible to keep their families safe and healthy”.*

Anti-Hunger Policy Updates: Resources & Public Charge Messages for Families

National Immigration Law Center Resources:

- [The ABCs of Public Charge](#)
- [Know Your Rights – Top 5 Facts about Public Charge](#) (translated)
- [What Should I Know When Enrolling My Children in Public Benefits](#) (translated)

TOP LINE MESSAGES: The public charge test only applies to *some* programs and *some* immigrants.

- It never applies to U.S. citizens, including the children of immigrants.
- It doesn't apply to people with a green card either - or asylees, refugees, or special domestic violence survivor visas.
- A family member's use of public programs cannot affect your future immigration applications.
- Testing, treatment, and preventative services for COVID-19 — including vaccines — are not part of public charge.
- Pandemic relief payment (stimulus checks) are also not part of public charge.
- The use of health, nutrition, and housing programs cannot be considered in the public charge test.

Anti-Hunger Policy Updates: WIC

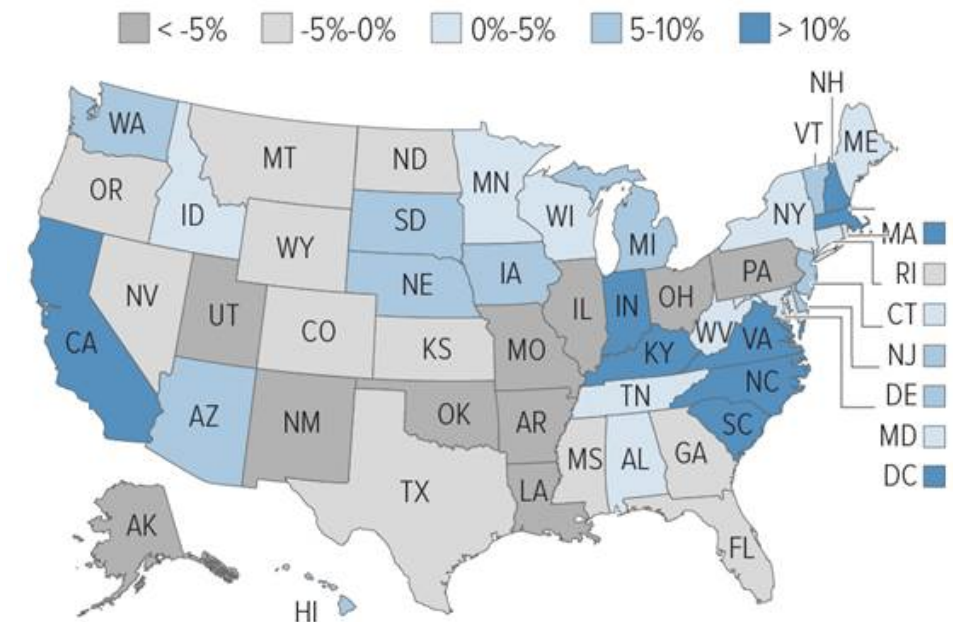
CBPP Report: WIC Participation during the Pandemic (Feb 2020 – Feb 2021)

- Nationwide, total WIC participation increased by 2%. But changes varied widely by state, ranging from a 20% increase to a 21% decrease.
- Similarly, changes in WIC participation among *children* ranged from a 25% gain to a 22% decline. WA was among states with 5-10% increase for kids (**HOORAY!**)
- Faster growth in Medicaid & SNAP show WIC is missing many eligible families!

Interactive graphics for SNAP, Medicaid & WIC participation [here](#).

States Varied in WIC Participation Changes by Children During Pandemic

Change by infants and children under 5, February 2020 to February 2021



Source: CBPP analysis based on U.S. Department of Agriculture administrative data on WIC participation, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program>, accessed July 7, 2021. Reflects WIC participation by infants and children for the 50 states and D.C.

Anti-Hunger Policy Updates: Child Nutrition Bills

Wise Investment in Children (WIC) Act – S. 853/HR 2011*

- Extends WIC certification period to 2 years
- Extends eligibility for children to their 6th birthday
- Extends eligibility to 2 years for all mothers

* [Schrier, Smith](#)

Access to Healthy Foods for Young Children Act – S. 1270*

- Allows another meal or snack for children in a full day of care
- Creates consistency across programs by allowing annual eligibility for proprietary child care centers
- Increases reimbursement rates for providers and sponsors
- Expands area eligibility
- Eliminates overly burdensome and outdated paperwork

* [Murray](#)

Anti-Hunger Policy Updates: Child Nutrition Bills

Universal School Meals Program Act – S. 1530/HR 3115*

- Provides school breakfast and lunch for free to all children
- Increases school breakfast and school lunch reimbursements rates
- Provides free afterschool and summer meals and snacks to all children
- Expands Summer EBT to all low-income children
- Provides up to 3 meals and a snack a day for free to children in child care
- Provides a 30-cent reimbursement for schools that buy local foods

* **Smith, Strickland, Jayapal**

Stop Child Hunger Act – S. 1831/HR 3519*

- Creates EBT benefits for low-income families with children for when schools are closed: summer, school breaks, and unanticipated school closures (e.g. a pandemic or natural disaster).

* **Murray / Strickland, Jayapal**

Anti-Hunger Policy Updates: Child Nutrition Bills

Summer Meals Act – S. 1170/HR 783*

- Expands area eligibility by lowering from 50% to 40%
- Allows nonprofit and local government agencies to provide meals year-round seamlessly through the Summer Food Service Program
- Allows all sites to serve 3 meals
- Provides grants to reach underserved areas

* **Murray / Larsen, DelBene, Kilmer, Schrier, Smith**

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* **Murray / Strickland, Jayapal**