

2023/10/27 HAC Meeting Review

During October's Hunger Advisory Council (HAC) meeting, we discussed a number of updates throughout SNAP, CSFP, and updates from various state agencies. Additionally, we introduced new HAC meeting features we intend to roll out during the next meeting. Below is a light summary of events that aims to complement the recording of the meeting, which serves as the HAC's formal Minutes publication.

- SNAP Update
 - Simplified reporting requirements based on ESAP
 - Expanded access for households with non-mandatory participants
 - Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 Update
 - Access expanded with exceptions for: homelessness, veterans, former foster care youth, and age increases
 - This year's Cost of Living Adjustment affects many policies, increasing disbursement amounts and minimum payments for many programs e.g:
 - 200% of Federal Poverty Line definition
 - AZSNAP
 - CA Needy Family Test
 - CNAIP is undergoing format optimization and modernization for increased accessibility and readability (<https://dbmefaapolicy.azdes.gov/>)
- CSFP Update
 - Case load is increasing to apprx. 34,500 individuals served or 15.5% of eligible citizens
 - Home deliveries are also expanding with help from St. Mary's
- SNAC Update
 - FY 24 through FY 26: increased access, increased utilization, and increased visibility for nutrition programs like WIC, FMNP, DUFB, SNAP, and TEFAP
 - Programs will soon incorporate trauma-informed approaches in communication and policy development
- Updates from State Agencies
 - DES and Dept. of Education are working with the USDA to launch the summer EBT program in 2024
 - \$120 per child
 - No longer a 10-State pilot program
 - The DES has developed resource partner training to help staff match clients with appropriate resources more quickly

- Avra Valley and Picture Rocks mobile food distribution starting Nov 8, Nov 15, respectively
- AZ has begun research into the FRAC equity issue
 - Documenting feedback from both parents and children
 - Grant announcement pending, partnerships expanding
- The DES and partners are preparing future conversations regarding holiday season work volume messaging
 - While end-of-year is busy, hunger is a year-round concern
 - Some groups are left under-represented outside of Fall/Winter
- We are seeing increased demand at food banks
 - Having conversations with USDA about criticality of robust food bank systems
- HAC introduced plans for future notice feedback and form processes
 - We hope to receive feedback from partners regarding language and accessibility in notices sent to the public
- Public Forum
 - Art Hernandez: TEFAP and CSFP order numbers are up
 - Cara Alexander: working on new methods of storage and distribution for the Dept. of Education
 - Laura Walsh: regulatory updates for TEFAP, CSFP, and FDPIR to increase accessibility within policy and guidelines to improve parity with other programs by lowering barriers to entry.