FOOD INSECURITY: IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY & PRACTICES AT THE NATIONAL, STATE, & LOCAL LEVEL

Faye Conte
Advocacy & Education Director
Fconte@hungerfreevt.org
DISCLOSURES

• I have no relevant financial relationships to disclose or conflicts of interest to resolve
• I will discuss no unapproved or off-label pharmaceuticals
Alleviate food insecurity and malnutrition by providing benefits to help Vermonters purchase food wherever they shop and meals for children where they learn and play.
3SquaresVT / SNAP
Helping Vermonters purchase food wherever they shop

• Our nation's largest nutrition program
• Entitlement Program
• Flexible, responds to need
• Private & dignified source of support
Works like a vaccine for children's health

Lifts thousands of families out of poverty each year

Very low rate of fraud

3SquaresVT / SNAP

It's effective!

- Works like a vaccine for children's health
- Lifts thousands of families out of poverty each year
- Very low rate of fraud

Note: Figures show the number of people lifted above the poverty line using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) with corrections for underreporting.

SNAP LEGISLATION & FUNDING

• Farm Bill

But also....
• Budget & appropriations
• Omnibus bills
• Sequestration
• Tax Reform
Our Goal: Protect program integrity, funding, and access

What to watch out for:

• Flexibility
• Block grants
• Shifting costs to states
• Work requirements
• Combating "rampant" fraud
• "Deserving" poor
FARM BILL
Get involved!

VERMONT FARM BILL
NUTRITION COALITION
2017
WIC, SCHOOL MEALS, & MORE

Other federal nutrition programs are also under threat

• Child Nutrition Reauthorization / Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act 2010

But also....
• Budget & appropriations
• Omnibus bills
• Sequestration
• Tax Reform
Our Goal: No CNR / No major changes

What to watch out for:

• Increased eligibility threshold for Community Eligibility Provision
• Major changes to nutrition requirements
• Cuts to complimentary programs (i.e. 21st Century Programs)
FEDERAL PROGRAMS AT THE STATE & LOCAL LEVEL

Communities can support a culture of food access & good nutrition

State:
• Maintain access & state’s financial support for programs
• Retain staffing levels

Local
• School budgets: “investment” vs. “debt”
SUPPORT PATIENTS’ FOOD ACCESS

• Advocate for nutrition programs
• Use the Hunger Vital Sign and talk with *all* of your patients and their families about food access
• Refer them to resources & share what you know - even if it’s not a lot
• Check back in!
THANK YOU!

Faye Conte
fconte@hungerfreevt.org
802-231-1071
www.hungerfreevt.org