



## Legislative Review, Issue #4 – for the Week Ending June 13, 2025

***Time-Sensitive Opportunity:*** On Friday, June 13, 2025, Hunger Free New Jersey and New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Division of Food and Nutrition held an informational session about the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) - **just in time for interested school districts to meet the June 30, 2025 due date for opting into CEP.**

For those unable to attend the information session, the recording can be accessed [here](#).



### About CEP

CEP allows schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to **all enrolled** students. Schools that adopt CEP are reimbursed using a formula based on the percentage of students categorically eligible for free meals based on their participation in other specific means-tested programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). [Learn more on the USDA website](#). CEP can be a solution for public or charter school communities thinking about ways to reduce school meal debt and eliminate the stigmatizing experience of "alternate meals" in the classroom or cafeteria while still nourishing students' minds and bodies. According to Hunger Free NJ, 357 NJ districts are CEP eligible for the 2025-2026 school year and if those eligible districts enrolled in CEP, more than 600,000 students could benefit, with their families saving money on breakfast and lunch along the way.

If your district or school is eligible and has questions, contact the OFSA team and we can provide resources, connect you with our partners at the Division of Food and Nutrition Services, or schedule a meeting with Hunger Free NJ.

## ***Federal***

Due to ongoing budget negotiations at the Federal level, this is a delayed update so we could include the most up-to-date information. The NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate (OFSA) strives to bring you the latest information in a timely manner. Thank you for your patience. Share your feedback about these updates with any member of the team directly, or at [OFSA@ag.nj.gov](mailto:OFSA@ag.nj.gov).

## **Budget News**

The NJ Department of Human Services, along with the Department of Children and Families have released resources to help keep NJ communities and leaders up to date on proposed changes to SNAP and Medicaid.

- For the most up to date information from NJ DHS related to proposed changes to Medicaid, click on this [link](#).
- For the most up to date information from NJ DHS related to proposed changes to SNAP, click on this [link](#).
- For the most up to date information on both programs from DCF, click on this [link](#).

**Additional Budget Resource:** The Center on Poverty and Inequality at Georgetown Law has produced a [fact sheet and accompanying workbook](#) examining the trade-offs made in the House-passed reconciliation bill, showing potential impacts across every state.

(Politico, June 2, [Thune stares down ‘Medicaid moderates’ - POLITICO](#))

After passing the House version of the budget reconciliation bill, talks continue as Republicans push to have an approved bill by July 4.

- The full budget bill cleared the House budget committee on May 18.
- The bill passed the full House on May 22 (Post Newsweek, May 23, [Donald Trump's "big, beautiful bill" passes House: What happens next](#)). The more than 1,000-page bill passed 215-214 following days of negotiations.

**Agriculture News** (Politico, May 12, [SNAP fight comes to a head - POLITICO](#))

- Response to the House Ag Committee’s advanced budget markup was swift. As per Brownfield Ag News ([Ag Committee advances portion of reconciliation bill - Brownfield Ag News](#)), National Farmers Union President Rob Larew says, “We appreciate that the House Agriculture Committee recognizes the financial pressures facing family farmers and ranchers. Our members know that the process matters. Pitting farm and nutrition priorities against one another creates unnecessary division and weakens the broader effort. A strong farm bill—however it comes together—must reflect the full scope of challenges facing agriculture and rural communities, and it must work for everyone it touches: farmers, ranchers, and families across the country.”

### **Resources from OFSA and Our Agency Colleagues**



#### **Featured Resource:**

The **NJ Department of Health's [Hunger, Food Security, and Maternal Health Interactive Report](#)** lets users zoom into any location in New Jersey and, leveraging publicly available data, highlight specific the most

severe food desert communities as designated by the NJ Economic Development Authority to illustrate the connections between food insecurity and maternal and infant health

challenges in addition to other community conditions that may affect related health outcomes. OFSA excitedly supports the *Hunger, Food Security, and Maternal Health Interactive Report*, and we deeply appreciate our NJDOH colleagues embracing the holistic definition of food security and the six dimensions of food security this office adopted for our state while developing this data resource. Learn more about the tool [here](#).

On the OFSA website, you will find both a **public data catalog** of information specific to food security, public health, chronic disease, and demographic and statistical data. It can be a resource for grant writing or research. Also, our **data chart book** organizes relevant New Jersey-focused data in a colorful and visual collection that is understandable without a background in research or statistics. Find both resources [here](#).

**Bonus Resource:** The [NJ.gov Summer Packet](#) is a compilation of resources accessible to students and their families during the summer months when school is not in session. The packet includes flyers and one-pagers regarding youth mental health, Summer EBT nutritional benefits, summer meals, water safety, and much more. Take a look and share it with your community.

## ***About the New Jersey Office of Food Security Advocate***

*The NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate (OFSA) is providing this content as an informational resource for those who are following proposed changes and other actions with the potential to impact food and nutrition programs and policies directly, or to indirectly impact everyday food security for individuals and families.*

*OFSA serves all New Jerseyans. OFSA will not recommend or endorse any advocacy actions, nor will OFSA support or oppose any legislation. Similarly, OFSA does not comment on legislation. It is up to each organization, coalition, neighborhood, community and industry/sector and their partners to determine what, if any, actions or positions to take.*

*The sources presented are not an exhaustive list or a full representation of perspectives on the topic. It is vital to consider this compilation not in a vacuum, but together with your existing practices and preferences for following news and legislative updates. To view previous issues on the OFSA website, [click here](#). Please allow a few days' time for the OFSA website to be updated with a copy of this issue.*