

## Legislative Review – Week Ending August 29, 2025

### ***Time-Sensitive Invitation***

The New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate (OFSA) is inviting community feedback on the draft NJ Food Security Strategic Plan Overview. Add your perspective today to ensure the plan reflects the needs and goals of communities statewide. Preview the Plan Overview and share your feedback via a short survey; both can be found on the OFSA website [here](#).



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### ***Federal Congress Returns***

The House and Senate are back in session after their summer recess, and with only 13 legislative days in September and 39 before year's end, there is much to accomplish. Here are the issues impacting the New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate's (OFSA) work and that of our state agency colleagues.

- **Government Funding:**
  - Federal funding runs out on September 30, meaning Congress needs to either pass a continuing resolution or a full-year appropriations bill. Without either in place, the government could effectively shut down, leading to staff furloughs and pauses in programs that support NJ families. For those unfamiliar with the term, as per the Government Accountability Office ([What is a Continuing Resolution and How Does It Impact Government Operations? | U.S. GAO](#)), a continuing resolution (CR) is a "temporary spending bill that allows federal government operations to continue when final appropriations have not been approved by Congress and the President. It allocates money to specific federal departments and agencies, ensuring that government functions can proceed without interruption during budget negotiations.
- **Farm Bill**
  - While some components of the traditional Farm Bill were included in the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (P.L. 119-21), including changes to SNAP and the elimination of SNAP-Ed, House Agriculture Chair G.T Thompson has designs on passing a "skinny"

version of the Farm Bill that would include standard priorities like conservation and energy measures.

- The focus of the “Skinny” Farm bill as per Morning Ag Clips (Aug, 2025 [Lawmakers in 'Very Early Stage' of Skinny Farm Bill Discussions - Morning Ag Clips](#)) is “reauthorization of the Conservation Reserve Program; limits for USDA direct and guaranteed loans; rural broadband assistance; and a provision to trigger permanent price-support laws if existing commodity programs are allowed to lapse after 2031.”

## Changes to PRWORA’s Interpretation of Federal Public Benefit

PRWORA is the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, and its interpretation of *federal public benefit* is specific to the provision of such benefits to documented and undocumented immigrants. Under the current administration, both the USDA and Health and Human Services have revised their interpretations of this act. New notices have been issued and are currently subject to legal challenge. For more information:

- [Federal Register: Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 \(PRWORA\); Interpretation of “Federal Public Benefit”](#)
- [Attorney General Platkin Files Lawsuit to Block Federal Restrictions on Crucial Health, Education, and Workers’ Programs | New Jersey Office of Attorney General](#)
- [This news release on HHS.gov](#)

OFSA will keep our partners abreast of any changes. Prior to this revised interpretation of PRWORA, New Jersey has followed all guidance regarding the provision of benefits programs specifically to documented and undocumented residents of the state. In some instances, such as with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), this interpretation is merely a reinforcement of existing regulations.

## Upcoming Events

- *Friday, September 5, Together We Thrive – Trenton Resource and Job Opportunities Fair, hosted by the Office of Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, The Fatherhood Center, Trenton*
- *Friday, September 5, 2nd Annual Passaic County Department of Human Services Food Security Summit, Passaic County Public Safety Academy, Wayne*
- *Wednesday, September 17, “How do we Measure Hunger: the Role of Data in Food and Nutrition Security,” hosted by the Connecticut Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, the Connecticut State House, Hartford. [Details](#)*
- *Monday, September 29, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Garden State Conference on Food Security: Setting a Table for All, for Always, presented by OFSA, Mount Laurel and via livestream. [Details and RSVP Options](#)*
- *Saturday, November 8, the Food Pantry Peer Learning and Capacity Building panel, part of the 2025 Food Justice Conference hosted by Food as Medicine Global. Online, with a cost to register. [Details](#)*

## **About the New Jersey 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.*