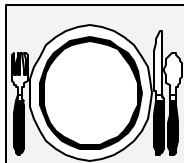


Highlights in this issue:	
Food Stamp Guidelines	p 1
RAP	p 1
HUSKY A/Medicaid Prescriptions	p 2
TANF Update	p 3
State Budget	p 3

CABHN FEVER



Food Stamps, School Breakfast/ Lunch Programs Guidelines: You May be Eligible

If your gross monthly income fits into the chart below, you are eligible to apply for the federal Food Stamp Program.

Families with children can make life more affordable by using the meal programs available in public schools. These meals are free or reduced for many children. Check your school district to find out if your child's school includes breakfast as well as lunch. Below are the guidelines for eligibility.

Please share this information with anyone you know who may qualify for these programs. Another important change is an increase in the asset limit for disabled households. The asset limit has been raised from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

If you have questions or difficulty applying for the Food Stamp Program, or for more information about the school breakfast program in Connecticut, please contact Sally Mancini at End Hunger CT! at (860) 296-1127 ext. 17 ♦

Eligibility guidelines for Food Stamp and free school breakfast and lunch programs:

Family Size	Gross Annual Income*	Gross Monthly Income*
1	\$11,518	\$960
2	\$15,522	\$1,294
3	\$19,526	\$1,628
4	\$23,530	\$1,961
5	\$27,540	\$2,295
6	\$31,548	\$2,629
Each add'l		+\$334

Eligibility guidelines for reduced price meals:

Family Size	Gross Annual Income*	Gross Monthly Income*
1	\$16,391	\$1,366
2	\$22,089	\$1,841
3	\$27,787	\$2,316
4	\$33,485	\$2,791

*amounts rounded to nearest dollar

Did you know...

...that the wealthy used to pay up to 7% on their capital gains and up to 14% on their dividends and interest income? Now it is taxed at a 4.5% rate as regular income. Did you know that corporate taxes have been cut from 13.5% to 7.5%? Since 1991, corporations have received tax reductions of \$1.2 billion. ♦

RAP Recipients: Are You Paying More Than Your Fair Share Of Rent?

Before 1995, the state's Rental Assistance Program (RAP) was a 30% program. Tenants paid 30% of their income toward the rent and the RAP program covered the balance. In 1995, that percentage, as part of a reduction in the RAP budget, was increased to 40% for families. The 30% standard remained, however, for persons age 62 or older and for persons with disabilities.

There have been some cases indicating that RAP certificate holders eligible for the 30% standard are, in fact, paying 40% of their income toward rent. This can happen if a tenant who already has a RAP certificate becomes eligible for the reduction by turning 62 or by becoming eligible for SSI or Social Security disability benefits.

Any RAP tenant who is disabled or over age 62, and is overpaying his or her tenant share, should immediately contact the housing authority administering the program to request an adjustment. The adjustment should apply to future months' rent and should also result in a tenant refund of past overpayments. ♦

Help Starts Here: Dial 2-1-1



Whether you want to give or get help, Infoline at 2-1-1 is the confidential, free, number to call. An Infoline caseworker can help you find information, learn about your options, or deal with a crisis. As we get ready for winter, Infoline can help by telling you about:

- ✓ Over 200 places that offer Thanksgiving Baskets
- ✓ Over 150 places that offer children's toys & holiday baskets in December.
- ✓ Where you can get winter coats or energy assistance. ♦

**November 21, 2002
Dialogue on Election
Day Voter Registration**

The Connecticut Coalition for Effective Democracy and Demos are sponsoring a discussion on Election Day Voter registration. Election Day Registration will allow citizens to both register and vote on Election Day. Allowing voters to register and vote on Election Day is a reform measure that has been found to increase voter participation by 8 to 15 percent in 6 other states. Come join the discussion and hear the issues around implementing EDR in Connecticut.

Speakers include election officials from states that have already implemented Election Day Registration and many others. Registrars of Voters, State Legislators, Advocates and those interested in the issue are invited to attend. The event will be held Thursday November 21, 2002, from 1-4PM, State Capitol room 310. For more information or to confirm attendance please call Emily Bailey or Minaren Bozeman at 860-727-1157.♦

**STATE ASSET
REPORT CARD**

The Corporation for Enterprise Development in Washington DC has released a first-ever report card on family assets, the 2002 State Asset Development Report Card: Benchmarking Asset Development in Fighting Poverty.

Available at www.cfed.org, the report card ranks states on 68 quantitative and qualitative measures to assess how well the states help families accumulate and protect assets, such as equity in a home and business, savings, and higher education. CFED gives CT "honorable mention" for getting a "B" on both the Asset Outcome index (#20 in the nation) and the Asset Policy index (#12 in the nation). A state-specific report written by CT Voices for Children (available at www.ctkidslink.org) highlights some of the key findings of the report for Connecticut, and the areas of greatest challenge for families in Connecticut.♦



If you are on HUSKY A or Medicaid and are having trouble getting your prescriptions filled or refilled, contact the Legal Services attorneys listed below!

Health Net, Anthem Blue Care and Community Health Network are Medicaid HMOs and each have a list of drugs their members can get without much trouble, sometimes called a "formulary" or "preferred drug list." Every 3 months or so, this list is changed.

When you go to the drugstore to get your medicine, the pharmacist may tell you that your medicine is NOT COVERED. This means that your HMO will not approve it or pay for it, and you will be without your medicine.

If this happens, you may think you MUST change to a medicine on the HMO list.

This is NOT true.

You can keep getting your old medicine if your doctor gets special permission from the HMO or if you request and win an appeal.



If you are on HUSKY A/Medicaid, can't get needed medicine because of your HMO and want to do something about this CALL:

Sheldon Toubman
New Haven Legal Assistance Assoc.
1-203-946-4811
stoubman@nhlegal.org

Randi Faith Mezzy
CT Legal Services
1-800-413-7797

Families Reaching Time Limits Without Jobs



In the 2001 legislative session the state adopted strict new limits on cash assistance in the Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) program. As of October 1, 2001, families receiving cash assistance who are not exempt from the state's work requirements* are limited to 3 six-month extensions of cash benefits and virtually all families subject to the work requirements are limited to 60 months of cash benefits.

* More than half the caseload is now exempt from work requirements, most often because only the children in the family are receiving assistance through TFA.♦

Families losing cash assistance /60 month limit	Children losing cash assistance /60 month limit	Family member employed at 60 month limit
517	1,392	232 (44.8%)
Families losing cash assistance /3-ext. limit (11/01-6/02)	Children losing cash assistance /3-ext. limit (3/02-6/02)	Family member employed at 3-ext limit (3/02-6/02)
1,027	Information not available from DSS as of this printing	



Legislative News

TANF Update

Shortly before September 30, both the House and Senate adopted a three-month reauthorization of the federal welfare programs, TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). Without this action, the program, which provides funding to the states for family welfare programs, would have expired. Terms of a five-year reauthorization of the federal welfare program have been debated for the past year.

Early on, the House passed a reauthorization bill that incorporated most of what President Bush had proposed. Over the summer, the Senate Finance Committee passed a significantly different bill. Last week, the Senate went home for the elections without a vote in the full Senate on TANF reauthorization. Sen. Baucus and Sen. Grassley, the lead Democrat and the lead Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, and a representative of the White House had been trying to negotiate a compromise bill to present to the Senate.

What's next? It is unclear but the main options seem to be that Congress, in a lame duck session in November, passes either:

- A "clean" one-year extension of the existing program with no changes, or
- A three-year extension with some changes to the existing program. In this case, Republicans would most likely be pushing for some increase in the work requirements and some support for marriage promotion. Democrats would emphasize increases in child care funding and perhaps funding for transitional jobs and improvements in the child support pass-through mechanisms.

If there was only a one-year extension, reauthorization would be an issue again in the 2003 Congress. ♦

State Budget Issues

Although the budget that the legislature adopted and the Governor signed in July was supposed to be balanced for the current budget year, the Comptroller and the Governor are now predicting that the budget will have a deficit of about \$350 million if no action is taken.

When a deficit is projected, the Governor is ordinarily authorized to make 5% cuts in any line item in the budget without obtaining legislative approval. This year, the legislature authorized the Governor to make an additional \$35 million in cuts beyond the normal 5%.

But even those cuts will probably not be enough to balance this year's budget. The legislature is expected to convene in a special session in November to discuss how to address the expected deficit. Once again, the legislature and the Governor will have to decide whether to raise revenues (most likely by raising taxes) or make further damaging cuts to services. One Connecticut, a broad coalition of organizations concerned about the quality of life for all residents of the state, is urging legislators to look at raising revenues through: (1) a surcharge on the incomes of residents with incomes over a million dollars, (2) cutting back on tax breaks given to the largest corporations in the state, and (3) instituting appropriate state inheritance and estate taxes, before cutting services.

Balancing the budget in the upcoming two years (2003-2005) will be even more difficult. The governor and legislators elected on November 5 will address this issue in the legislative session beginning in January. This year, the budget relied on one-time revenues which will not be available in the future. As we approach these difficult years, CT Voices for

Children is recommending that the governor and legislators close the budget gap by:

1) re-examining tax breaks given to large corporations. In 1999, two-thirds of the corporations in the state paid only the minimum state corporate tax of \$250, and 40 of the state's largest corporations paid no corporate tax at all.

2) examining ways to make the income tax more progressive and raise additional revenues by adjusting tax rates on higher-income households. People with higher incomes got a tax break when the income tax was adopted in 1991.

3) moving away from expensive, crisis-based programs and services to front-end investments that will bring long term benefits (education, early care and learning, health care and supports for lower-income families, working families and our most vulnerable residents). ♦



TAKE YOUR MONEY, HARTFORD!

"Take Your Money, Hartford" is a community-based partnership aimed at increasing the claim rate for tax credits, like the Earned Income Credit and Child Tax Credit. In 1999 in Hartford, over 70% of taxpayers were eligible to receive the Earned Income Credit but only 43% claimed it. The group's activities are focused on community education and outreach, increasing the number of free tax return preparation sites, and enhancing asset-building resources.

To find out more about TYM Hartford please contact Randa at 860-570-5165. To find out about volunteer opportunities through TYM Hartford visit the United Way of the Capital Area at www.volunteersolutions.org ♦

Minimum Wage Goes Up in January

CT minimum wage will increase from \$6.70 to \$6.90 an hour on January 1, 2003. Hotel and restaurant employees will increase to \$4.88, and bartenders will earn \$6.33 per hour in 2003. ♦



November 13-14 CT Coalition to End Homelessness Annual Conference and Training Institute Holiday Inn North Haven,
Registration is at 8:30 am Conference goes from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
For more info call (860) 721-7876



**Mark Your
Calendars!
Thursday**

**November 21, 2002
5:00 –8:30 pm**

“The Connecticut Housing Crisis: Discerning the Church’s Call as Leader and Partner in the Resolution,” sponsored by the Christian Conference of Connecticut, St. Thomas Seminary, 467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT
For more information call (860) 236-4281

**Tuesday
November 19, 2002**

Mental Healthcare 2002: Children in Crisis, a forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford and New Britain Area League of Women

Voters. 7 p.m. West Hartford Town Hall. For more information, contact —

mcknight_susan@snet.net (Susan McKnight)

**Legal Assistance Resource Center of CT and
CABHN (Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs)**
80 Jefferson Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Button Up Connecticut

Is your organization looking for a community service project to warm someone's heart? Or, would you like to find out where to drop off your gently used winter coats? For more information on both, please call the Button Up Connecticut Hotline at (860) 493-6899 or visit www.uwcact.org



**Welcome
Christopher
Paul!**

Congratulations go out to Lynn Bailey MacDonald (editor of CABHN Fever) and her husband Scott on the recent adoption of their beautiful one-year old son, Christopher Paul. Best wishes from all your fans! ♦

**Please note: Location of
next CABHN meeting has
changed!**

**CABHN Meetings
held 2nd Friday of the month**

10 - Noon

Friday November 8th

**Access Agency
1315 Main Street
Willimantic, CT 06226**

Topics:
Election Results/Legislative Update
TANF Reauthorization
& More

Friday December 13th

**Community Renewal Team
555 Windsor St., Hartford**

The Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs (CABHN) is a statewide network of individuals, community groups and organizations which supports and promotes advocacy on low-income issues. For more information, please call (860) 278-5688.

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