

Hernandez, Elaine

From: Elaine Hernandez <ehernandez2125@...>
Sent: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 7:42 PM
To: Hernandez, Elaine
Subject: Fwd: USDA Announces Plan to Protect



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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "USDA Office of Communications" <usda@public.govdelivery.com>
Date: January 8, 2019 at 5:49:27 PM CST
To: ehernandez2125@gmail.com
Subject: USDA Announces Plan to Protect SNAP Participants' Access to SNAP in February
Reply-To: usda@public.govdelivery.com

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Press Release

(Washington, D.C., January 8, 2019) – At the direction of President Donald J. Trump, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced a plan to ensure that low-income Americans have access to the nutrition they need, despite the inability of Congress to pass an appropriations bill that safely secures our borders. The plan provides full benefits for participants in USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for the month of February.

When USDA's funding expired on December 21, 2018, SNAP benefits for January were fully funded. States have already received that money and have been distributing it to participants. Since the lapse in appropriations, USDA has been reviewing options available to the department for funding February benefits without an additional appropriation from Congress.

"At President Trump's direction, we have been working with the Administration on this solution. It works and is legally sound. And we want to assure states, and SNAP recipients, that the benefits for February will be provided," Perdue said. "Our motto here at USDA has been to 'Do Right and Feed Everyone.' With this solution, we've got the 'Feed Everyone' part handled. And I believe that the plan we've constructed takes care of the 'Do Right' part as well."

To protect SNAP participants' access for February, USDA is working with states to issue February benefits earlier than usual. USDA will rely on a provision of the just-expired Continuing Resolution (CR), which provides an appropriation for programs like SNAP and child Nutrition to incur obligations for program operations within 30 days of the CR's

expiration. USDA will be reaching out to states to instruct them to request early issuance of SNAP benefits for February. States will have until January 20th to request and implement the early issuance. Once the early issuances are made, the February benefits will be made available to SNAP participants at that time.

USDA has also ensured the other major nutrition assistance programs have sufficient funding to continue operations into February. The child nutrition programs, including school meals and after-school programs have funding available to continue operations through March. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) has prior year funding which USDA will begin to provide states this week to facilitate February benefits. Other FNS programs, which provide critical assistance to our nation's food banks, the elderly, and Tribal nations, may continue to utilize grant funding provided prior to the lapse in appropriations. Commodity deliveries to those programs will continue.

Nutrition Assistance Programs under a Lapse in Appropriations

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- **USDA will use the authority under the last Continuing Resolution to issue February benefits.** The Continuing Resolution that expired December 21, 2018 provided an appropriation for programs like SNAP and Child Nutrition to incur obligations for program operations during the 30 day-period following the expiration of the Act.
- **States will need to take action to issue February benefits on or before January 20, 2019.** We will be reaching out to States to instruct them to request early issuance of SNAP benefits for February. States will have until January 20 to implement this early issuance.
- **Once these early issuances are made, the February benefits will be made available to SNAP participants at that time.** SNAP monthly issuance for February is estimated to be approximately \$4.8 billion and State administrative expense (SAE) is estimated at about \$350 million for a total need of approximately \$5.1 billion.
- **This approach requires careful coordination.** FNS has noticed States to hold their issuance files. States would, instead, implement an early issuance strategy, providing February benefits to SNAP participants on or before January 20, 2019. We will be working with States individually on how this approach is executed, in order to issue benefits to eligible households in the most efficient and equitable manner possible.

Child Nutrition Programs

- For these programs, including school meals and the Child and Adult Care Food Program, States already have funding to cover CN program operations for the month of January (approximately \$2.1 billion) on the basis of the last continuing resolution.
- This week, we will provide an additional two months' worth of funding, consistent with the standard practice of funding these programs on a quarterly basis.

Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs

- For **WIC**, FNS has identified resources to cover projected State expenditures for February. The agency will allocate at least \$248 million to State agencies this week, and we have identified an additional \$350 million in unspent prior year funds to allocate at a later date. A total of approximately \$600 million in funding will be provided to WIC State agencies. We will continue to work with States to make resources available to the extent possible.
- For the **WIC Farmers' Market (FMNP) and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs (SFMNP)**, FNS does not anticipate significant operational impacts as they are seasonal benefit programs with annual grant funds.
- For the **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)**, food deliveries planned for February will continue. Due to the lapse, States have not received their 2019 caseload assignments, so CSFP-participating

States must operate at 2018's caseload levels. Similarly, states have received no additional administrative funds since the lapse, and none can be made available until the lapse ends.

- For **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)**, food deliveries planned for February (including entitlement, bonus and trade mitigation) will continue. States have received no additional administrative funds since the lapse, and none can be made available until the lapse ends.
- For the **Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)**, food deliveries planned for February will continue. FDPIR programs have administrative funding through January 31 and are expected to operate the program.

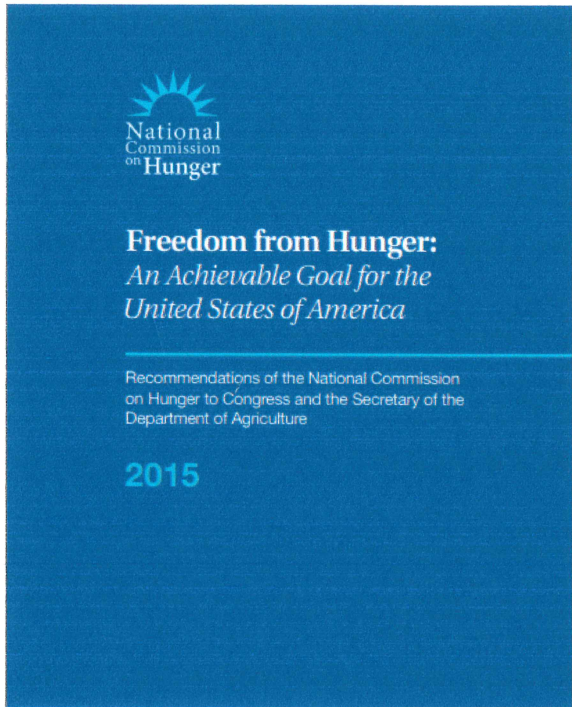
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The National Commission on Hunger advised that “hunger cannot be solved by food alone, nor by government efforts alone. The solutions to hunger require a stronger economy, robust community engagement, corporate partnerships, and greater personal responsibility, as well as strong government programs.”¹

The Commission’s report also described the root causes of food insecurity. “Focusing only on household income or the availability of government assistance misses major contributing factors such as low or underemployment, unstable families, insufficient education, exposure to violence, a history

of racial or ethnic discrimination, personal choices, or a combination of these. These factors can play a large role in hunger and cannot be addressed solely through public nutrition assistance programs or charitable giving.”²

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/> (Accessed December 21, 2018.)

	Population	Food Insecure Rate 2016	Estimated number food insecure individuals	Child Food Insecure Rate 2016	Estimated number of food insecure children
Hidalgo County	828,334	10.10%	83,760	28.60%	79,810

¹ National Commission on Hunger (2015). Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America, p. iii.

https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc799756/m2/1/high_res_d/Hunger_Commission_Final_Report.pdf

² National Commission on Hunger (2015). Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America, p. 5.

https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc799756/m2/1/high_res_d/Hunger_Commission_Final_Report.pdf (Accessed December 21, 2018.)

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7889-child-food-insecurity> (Accessed December 22, 2018.)

Percentage of Child Food Insecurity - Kids Count Databook							
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Texas	25.6%	27.6%	27.4%	27.4%	25.6%	23.8%	23.0%
Hidalgo County	39.5%	39.4%	37.0%	33.9%	30.0%	28.7%	28.6%

Definition of Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is defined by USDA as “reduced food intake or disrupted eating patterns in a household due to lack of money or other resources.”³ “USDA’s food and nutrition assistance programs increase food security by providing low-income households access to food for a healthful diet and nutrition education.”⁴

The mission of the United State Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS) is to “increase food security and reduce hunger by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthful diet and nutrition education”⁵ by “ensuring access to healthy and safe food for those participating in our programs including expecting mothers; infants and children in child care and school; low-income families going to food banks; local farmers markets; and local supermarkets.”⁶

Food security definitions

Food Security: Access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.

Food Insecurity: Unable, at some time during the year, to provide adequate food for one or more household members due to a lack of resources.

Very Low Food Security: Normal eating patterns of some household members were disrupted at times during the year and their food intake reduced below levels they considered appropriate

USDA Economic Research Service
www.ers.usda.gov

Household Food Security in the United States in 2017

How is food security measured?

Food secure

Worry, stretch, juggle

Reduce quality and variety of diet

Reduce food intake (adults)

Reduce food intake of children

Food insecure

Low food security

Very low food security

USDA Economic Research Service
www.ers.usda.gov

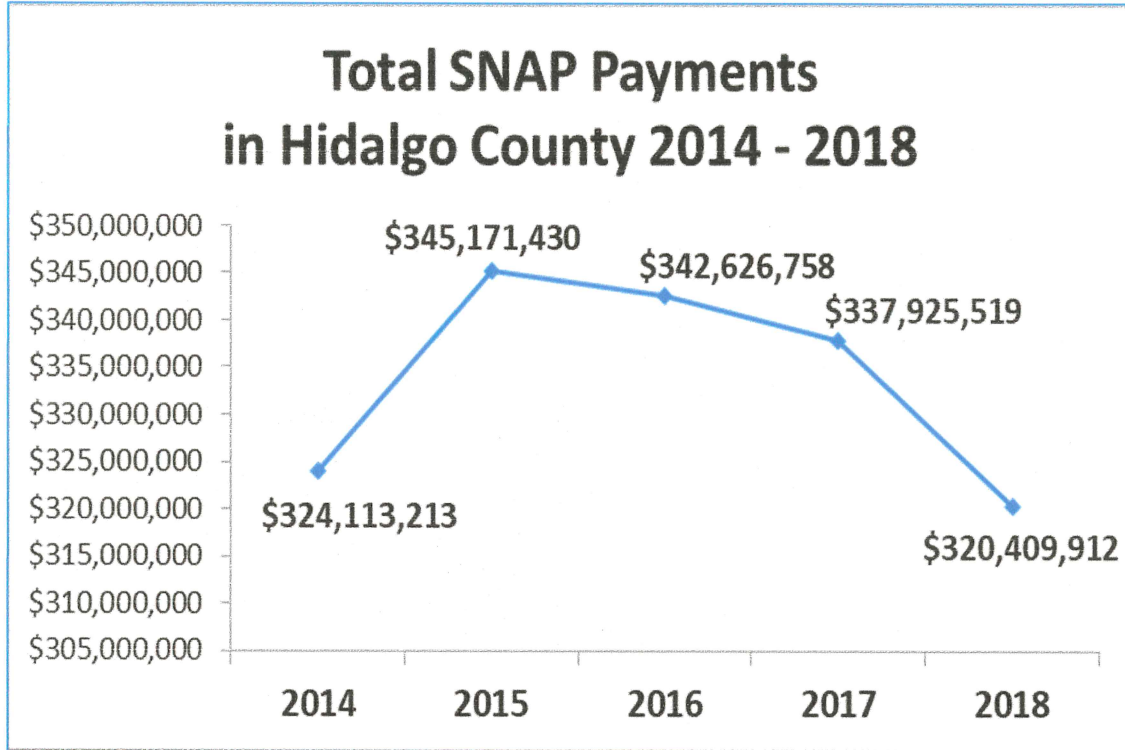
Household Food Security in the United States in 2017

³ <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/Measuring2013Sum.pdf> (Accessed December 12, 2018.)

⁴ https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/90023/err_summary.pdf?v=0 (Accessed December 12, 2018.)

⁵ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/about-fns> (Accessed December 12, 2018.)

⁶ *ibid*



Hidalgo County	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total SNAP Payments	\$324,113,213	\$345,171,430	\$342,626,758	\$337,925,519	\$320,409,912

		County Name	Number of Cases	Number of Recipients	Recipients: Ages < 5	Recipients: Ages 5 - 17	Recipients: Ages 18 - 59	Recipients: Ages 60 - 64	Recipients: Ages 65 +	Total SNAP Payments	Avg Payment / Case
2018	Dec	Hidalgo	89,258	226,219	37,142	95,915	65,714	49,777	22,471	\$26,129,869	\$293
	Nov	Hidalgo	90,682	229,866	37,848	97,384	67,025	5,054	22,555	\$26,523,592	\$292
	Oct	Hidalgo	91,537	232,051	38,316	98,153	67,936	5,084	22,562	\$26,792,452	\$293
	Sept	Hidalgo	91,820	232,940	38,351	98,497	68,395	5,105	22,592	\$26,557,067	\$289
	Aug	Hidalgo	91,949	233,606	38,707	98,562	68,661	5,113	22,563	\$26,610,373	\$289
	July	Hidalgo	91,843	233,598	38,847	98,625	68,562	5,123	22,441	\$26,602,002	\$290
	June	Hidalgo	91,691	233,704	39,117	98,648	68,473	5,083	22,383	\$26,536,076	\$289
	May	Hidalgo	91,780	234,129	39,337	98,834	68,474	5,145	22,339	\$26,600,591	\$290
	Apr	Hidalgo	92,364	235,848	39,693	99,551	69,084	5,176	22,344	\$26,784,007	\$290
	Mar	Hidalgo	92,974	237,539	40,057	100,207	69,693	5,242	22,340	\$26,910,701	\$289
	Feb	Hidalgo	93,486	239,016	40,333	100,816	70,318	5,300	22,249	\$27,192,374	\$291
	Jan	Hidalgo	93,945	240,376	40,498	101,456	70,818	5,326	22,278	\$27,170,808	\$289
	Total									\$320,409,912	

Hidalgo County SNAP Payments
2014 - 2018

<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/records>

		County Name	Number of Cases	Number of Recipients	Recipients: Ages < 5	Recipients: Ages 5 - 17	Recipients: Ages 18 - 59	Recipients: Ages 60 - 64	Recipients: Ages 65 +	Total SNAP Payments	Avg Payment / Case
2017	Dec	Hidalgo	94,482	241,703	40,761	101,958	71,234	5,370	22,380	\$27,651,812	\$293
	Nov	Hidalgo	95,534	244,854	41,428	103,126	72,511	5,388	22,401	\$28,047,558	\$294
	Oct	Hidalgo	95,745	245,818	41,701	103,391	72,954	5,394	22,378	\$28,161,031	\$294
	Sept	Hidalgo	96,033	246,543	41,961	103,496	73,321	5,400	22,365	\$28,591,895	\$298
	Aug	Hidalgo	95,480	245,252	41,885	102,855	72,755	5,409	22,348	\$28,364,536	\$297
	July	Hidalgo	95,042	244,126	41,809	102,353	72,337	5,362	22,265	\$28,275,446	\$298
	June	Hidalgo	94,927	243,967	41,982	102,203	72,169	5,388	22,225	\$28,106,803	\$296
	May	Hidalgo	94,475	242,782	41,812	101,795	71,614	5,386	22,175	\$27,988,205	\$296
	Apr	Hidalgo	94,335	242,651	41,816	101,814	71,468	5,405	22,148	\$27,920,156	\$296
	Mar	Hidalgo	94,959	244,217	42,058	102,423	72,074	5,465	22,197	\$28,066,395	\$296
	Feb	Hidalgo	95,280	245,304	42,240	102,839	72,691	5,447	22,087	\$28,307,868	\$297
	Jan	Hidalgo	96,162	247,544	42,594	103,774	73,526	5,488	22,162	\$28,443,814	\$296
Total										\$337,925,519	

		County Name	Number of Cases	Number of Recipients	Recipients : Ages < 5	Recipients : Ages 5 - 17	Recipients : Ages 18 - 59	Recipients : Ages 60 - 64	Recipients : Ages 65 +	Total SNAP Payments	Avg Payment / Case
2016	Dec	Hidalgo	96,385	248,145	42,695	104,262	73,573	5,467	22,148	\$28,684,187	\$298
	Nov	Hidalgo	97,321	250,706	43,203	105,306	74,527	5,467	22,203	\$29,056,640	\$299
	Oct	Hidalgo	97,605	251,554	43,364	105,590	74,913	5,465	22,222	\$29,104,136	\$298
	Sept	Hidalgo	97,395	251,302	43,472	105,596	74,733	5,401	22,100	\$29,010,529	\$298
	Aug	Hidalgo	96,609	249,797	43,439	104,999	74,047	5,379	21,933	\$28,814,857	\$298
	July	Hidalgo	95,513	247,153	43,128	104,006	72,841	5,352	21,826	\$28,429,160	\$298
	June	Hidalgo	94,900	245,924	43,092	103,613	72,211	5,281	21,727	\$28,269,767	\$298
	May	Hidalgo	94,583	245,215	43,187	103,321	71,789	5,274	21,644	\$28,217,182	\$298
	Apr	Hidalgo	94,242	244,041	43,018	102,793	71,305	5,334	21,591	\$28,053,382	\$298
	Mar	Hidalgo	94,795	245,772	43,241	103,641	71,910	5,360	21,620	\$28,257,159	\$298
	Feb	Hidalgo	95,020	246,429	43,400	103,851	72,278	5,338	21,562	\$28,460,046	\$300
	Jan	Hidalgo	94,614	245,069	43,230	103,393	71,653	5,348	21,445	\$28,269,713	\$299
Total										\$342,626,758	

Hidalgo County SNAP Payments
2014 - 2018

<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/records>

		County Name	Number of Cases	Number of Recipients	Recipients : Ages < 5	Recipients : Ages 5 - 17	Recipients : Ages 18 - 59	Recipients : Ages 60 - 64	Recipients : Ages 65 +	Total SNAP Payments	Avg Payment / Case
2015	Dec	Hidalgo	95,320	246,434	43,409	103,966	72,210	5,393	21,456	\$28,453,254	\$299
	Nov	Hidalgo	95,770	247,801	43,777	104,422	72,726	5,421	21,455	\$28,757,573	\$300
	Oct	Hidalgo	95,973	248,112	43,866	104,470	72,913	5,423	21,440	\$28,747,196	\$300
	Sept	Hidalgo	95,901	248,406	44,099	104,342	73,122	5,391	21,452	\$28,800,055	\$300
	Aug	Hidalgo	95,952	248,856	44,274	104,229	73,499	5,425	21,429	\$28,879,707	\$301
	July	Hidalgo	95,885	248,939	44,374	104,166	73,605	5,389	21,405	\$28,777,371	\$300
	June	Hidalgo	95,590	247,916	44,383	103,515	73,285	5,385	21,348	\$28,599,050	\$299
	May	Hidalgo	95,011	246,770	44,220	103,059	72,781	5,383	21,327	\$28,423,683	\$299
	Apr	Hidalgo	95,515	247,994	44,300	103,535	73,515	5,374	21,270	\$28,592,449	\$299
	Mar	Hidalgo	96,049	249,299	44,493	104,095	73,990	5,438	21,283	\$28,832,669	\$300
	Feb	Hidalgo	96,451	250,551	44,660	104,740	74,520	5,429	21,202	\$29,163,528	\$302
	Jan	Hidalgo	96,949	251,443	44,808	105,169	74,834	5,402	21,230	\$29,144,895	\$301
Total										\$345,171,430	

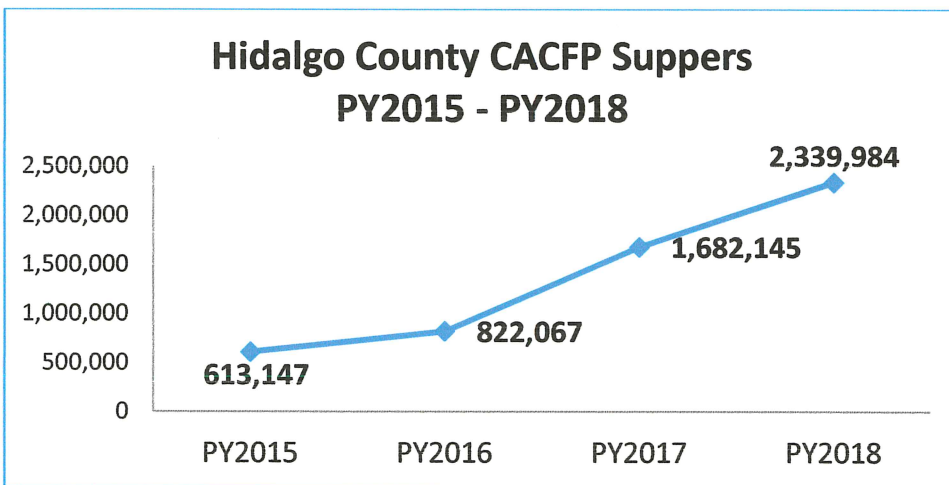
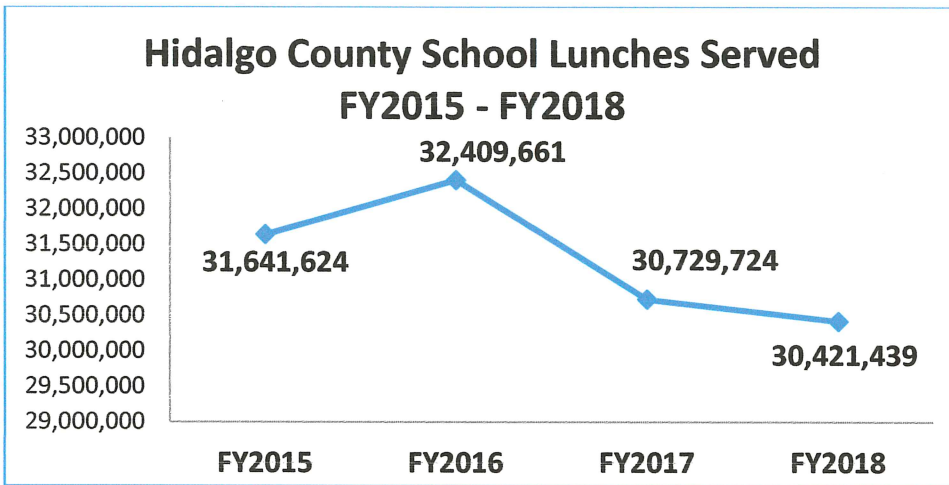
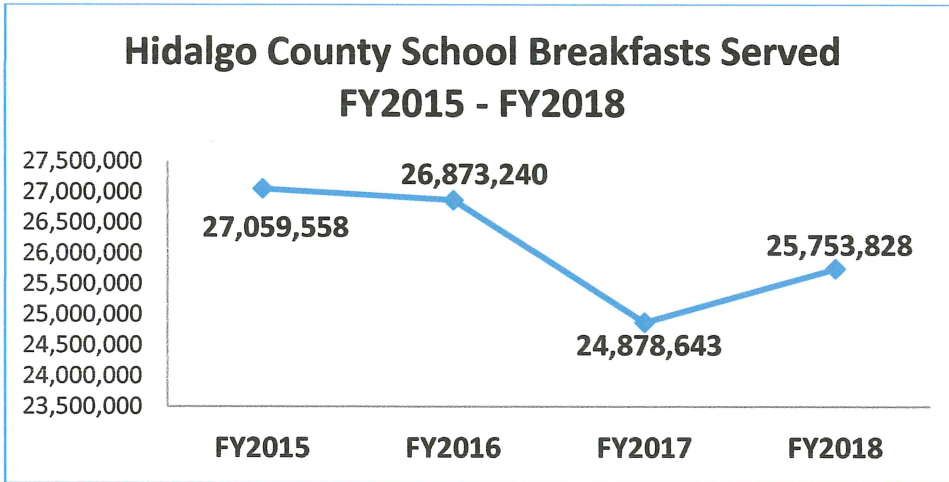
		County Name	Number of Cases	Number of Recipients	Recipients : Ages < 5	Recipients : Ages 5 - 17	Recipients : Ages 18 - 59	Recipients : Ages 60 - 64	Recipients : Ages 65 +	Total SNAP Payments	Avg Payment / Case
2014	Dec	Hidalgo	97,875	253,866	45,241	106,063	75,909	5,448	21,205	\$29,775,362	\$304
	Nov	Hidalgo	98,520	255,624	45,667	106,575	76,669	5,511	21,202	\$30,113,055	\$306
	Oct	Hidalgo	99,028	256,880	45,926	107,026	77,203	5,529	21,196	\$30,204,688	\$305
	Sept	Hidalgo	99,034	257,028	46,794	106,586	77,002	5,552	21,094	\$29,088,497	\$294
	Aug	Hidalgo	88,060	228,153	40,819	93,396	68,503	5,126	20,309	\$25,516,839	\$290
	July	Hidalgo	89,571	233,263	42,012	95,755	69,959	5,169	20,368	\$26,025,154	\$291
	June	Hidalgo	89,115	231,792	41,988	94,803	69,635	5,189	20,177	\$25,847,165	\$290
	May	Hidalgo	88,268	229,563	41,315	94,020	68,943	5,201	20,084	\$25,584,412	\$290
	Apr	Hidalgo	89,841	234,303	42,282	96,052	70,516	5,256	20,197	\$26,106,086	\$291
	Mar	Hidalgo	87,300	227,020	40,906	92,873	68,253	5,132	19,856	\$25,277,682	\$290
	Feb	Hidalgo	86,974	226,130	40,832	92,473	67,892	5,123	19,810	\$25,142,141	\$289
	Jan	Hidalgo	87,990	228,560	41,363	93,562	68,481	5,193	19,961	\$25,432,132	\$289
Total										\$324,113,213	

Texas Department of Agriculture
 Child Nutrition Programs

HIDALGO COUNTY SCHOOL MEALS FY 2018			
DISTRICT	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	REIMBURSEMENT
DONNA ISD	2,070,227	2,114,725	\$11,357,209
EDCOUCH-ELSA ISD	727,077	804,192	\$4,201,193
EDINBURG	3,468,564	4,729,530	\$20,333,753
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY	16,418	333,995	\$129,859
HIDALGO ISD	466,895	486,112	\$2,416,369
IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2,614,083	2,842,316	\$14,162,643
LA JOYA ISD	3,179,526	3,987,548	\$17,893,568
LA VILLA ISD	77,517	86,678	\$448,915
McALLEN ISD	3,247,038	2,999,054	\$14,271,010
MERCEDES ISD	706,361	778,909	\$4,118,108
MISSION ISD	1,651,841	1,957,562	\$9,154,983
MONTE ALTO ISD	143,026	153,849	\$813,097
PHARR-SAN JUAN-ALAMO ISD	3,581,717	4,213,815	\$21,115,353
PROGRESO ISD	229,432	275,716	\$1,392,133
SHARYLAND ISD	445,995	1,069,054	\$3,532,012
SOUTH TEXAS EDUCATIONAL TECH	115,255	172,684	\$732,677
SOUTH TEXAS ISD	133,102	234,694	\$801,126
VALLEYVIEW ISD	685,976	683,960	\$3,300,745
VANGUARD ACADEMY	175,099	428,577	\$1,637,372
WESLACO	2,018,679	2,068,469	\$11,066,037
County TOTAL	25,753,828	30,421,439	\$142,878,162

Texas Department of Agriculture
 Child Nutrition Programs

Hidalgo County Child and Adult Care Food Program PY2018			
CACFP Sponsor	Snacks	Suppers	Total Reimbursement
ALL CHILDREN'S NUTRITION INC	43,125	188,912	\$693,401
SOUTH TEXAS EDUCATIONAL TECH	-	38,368	\$132,849
IDEA ACADEMY	354,825	456,579	\$1,922,852
DONNA ISD	-	16,993	\$60,240
EDINBURG ISD	-	23,282	\$82,535
MCALLEN ISD	-	181,560	\$629,178
PHARR-SAN JUAN-ALAMO ISD	90	397,361	\$1,379,745
SHARYLAND ISD	-	255,119	\$884,393
WESLACO ISD	-	168,469	\$585,429
GEO SON CHILD CARE SERVICES INC	27,443	30,646	\$130,655
HUMMINGBIRD CHILD & ADULT NUTRITION	9,267	11,316	\$47,679
SOL CARE SERVICES, INC	27,190	71,649	\$272,083
Boys and Girls Club of Edinburg Rio Grande Valley, Inc.	18,813	55,417	\$209,223
Boys Club of Pharr Inc.	40,593	78,775	\$309,845
County Total			\$7,340,107



Summer Meals



Hidalgo County Summer Meals				
	2015	2016	2017	2018
# Sponsors	24	25	25	25
# Sites	370	411	438	437
Total # Meals Served	1,460,062	1,326,957	1,516,860	1,345,811

