ADVOCACY WORKSHOP
March 30, 2017 | Tucson, AZ

Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona & Association of Arizona Food Banks
Welcome
How Congress Works and Why Our Voice Matters

Adapted from the Congressional Management Foundation
“We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”

- Thomas Jefferson
“You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else.”

- Albert Einstein
Perception vs Reality
How is a Congressional Office Structured?
## Congressional Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chamber</th>
<th>D.C.</th>
<th>District/State</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>35</td>
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</tbody>
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**FOOD BANK ADVOCACY WORKSHOP**
Congressional Staff

- Chief of Staff
- District/State Director
- Legislative Director
- Legislative Assistant
- Caseworker
- Press Secretary
- Scheduler
- Staff Assistant
- Legislative Correspondent
Congressional Staff

MEMBER

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

OFFICE MANAGER

SCHEDULER

CHIEF OF STAFF

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

DISTRICT/STATE DIRECTOR

LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANTS

CASEWORKERS

FOOD BANK ADVOCACY WORKSHOP
Congressional Staff

Legislative Assistants

FOOD BANK ADVOCACY WORKSHOP
What does a Representative/Senator do all day?

Average Hours Per Week Worked by Members

- 70 in DC
- 59 in District
What does a Representative/Senator do all day?

Average Number of Daily Meetings

13
What does a Representative/Senator do all day?

Sample House Member Schedule—March 6, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM–9:30 AM</td>
<td>National Women, Infants, and Children’s Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 AM–12:00 PM</td>
<td>Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Hearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM–12:00 PM</td>
<td>Bipartisan Classified National Security Briefing</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 PM–1:00 PM</td>
<td>Caucus/Conference Meeting with Democratic/Republican Colleagues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45 PM–1:15 PM</td>
<td>Edie Smith, Local County WIC (Women, Infant, Children) Program Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15 PM–1:45 PM</td>
<td>Representatives from The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM–2:00 PM</td>
<td>Kevin Jones, Local County Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM–2:30 PM</td>
<td>Bob Ellis, Solutions for Progress Nonprofit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 PM–3:00 PM</td>
<td>U.S. Army/Local Officials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM–4:00 PM</td>
<td>Fundraising Call Time—Party HQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM–3:30 PM</td>
<td>FYI: Army Corps of Engineers, Regional District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 PM–4:00 PM</td>
<td>Organic Farming Research Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM–5:00 PM</td>
<td>Vanessa Garcia, Local Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 PM–6:00 PM</td>
<td>Local County Representatives/Supervisors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM–9:30 PM</td>
<td>FYI: American Council for Capital Formation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions?
Q+A with Julie Katsel

Southern Arizona Director
US Senator Jeff Flake
Break
What’s going on in Washington?
Federal Hunger Policy Overview
What will we cover?

What the Congress looks like
Major issues coming up
Why we care about the budget
Why block granting SNAP is bad for Arizona
Immigration
How you can advocate
Washington Overview

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
435 total members
218 votes needed to pass a bill
Rs can’t lose more than 19 votes

193 Democrats
237 Republicans
5 vacant
Washington Overview

SENATE
100 total members
60 votes to pass most bills (filibuster)
50 votes to pass some bills (VP Pence will break a tie)

48 Democrats
52 Republicans
Washington Overview

SENATE LEADERSHIP

FOOD BANK ADVOCACY WORKSHOP
Major Issues

Health Care
Supreme Court
Infrastructure
Budget
Immigration
Why We Care About the Budget

Nutrition Programs

• **Discretionary:** Meals on Wheels, TEFAP, WIC, food safety, international food aid
• **Mandatory:** SNAP, school meal programs (breakfast and lunch) and summer feeding
Budget Process

A SNAP block grant would likely be in a “Budget Reconciliation”

- Expedited consideration for tax, spending and debt legislation
- Used infrequently
- Only for mandatory spending
- 50 votes required (plus Pence)
What are block grants?
Why are block grants bad for Arizona?

1. **NO AUTOMATIC RESPONSE**

2. **BLOCK GRANTS = CUTS**

3. **“INCREASED FLEXIBILITY” AND LACK OF MINIMUM STANDARDS**
No automatic response

When need rises, funding stays flat.
Block grants = cuts

Block grants are always accompanied by cuts.

Inflation: Funding for TANF has stayed flat since 1996 and due to inflation, its power has declined by 30%.
Increased “flexibility”

Block grants don’t have many strings attached. So they can be used for almost anything. In Arizona, only 8% of TANF goes to the intended purposes of cash assistance, job training, and child care.
What We Can Do

- Ask to meet with your representative while they’re on recess (April 8 to April 23)
- Site visits
- Write/call your representatives
- Write a letter to the editor or op-ed about the importance of SNAP and the harm of block grants
- Highlight the importance of SNAP and the harm of block grants on social media and newsletters
Immigration Questions

• Leaked Executive Order on Public Charge
  • Not law
  • Entrance into the country and changes to status
  • Which benefits?
  • LPRs

• This has lead to FEAR
  • Raids at food banks
  • Immigrants unwilling to apply or rescind applications
  • Demand at food banks?
What you can do

Talking Points

Food is a basic human need, and ensuring access to adequate food is an obligation of any responsible and compassionate society. As we (food bank) work on the frontlines to end hunger, we have a responsibility to help any neighbor in need, regardless of race, religion, citizenship, disability, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other criteria.

Our mission is to help end hunger in our community and that includes providing food to any person facing hunger within our service area.

Point of Contact for Law Enforcement/Media

Response to Clients

• Referrals to lawyers
• Calm, trusted resource
Q+A with Cassandra Becerra

US Representative Raúl Grijalva
Lunch
The Arizona Anti-Hunger Playbook
State Hunger Policy Overview
AFTER THE 2016 ELECTION

1 out of 3 state legislators are new

Senate
17 Republicans
13 Democrats

House
35 Republicans
25 Democrats
NEW

President
Steve Yarbrough

Majority Leader
Kimberly Yee

Majority Whip
Gail Griffin

President Pro Tem
Sylvia Allen
Speaker
JD Mesnard

Majority Leader
John Allen

Majority Whip
Kelly Townsend
AVERAGE SESSION

• ABOUT 100 DAYS; TODAY IS DAY 81

• A LITTLE UNDER 1,000 BILLS INTRODUCED

• ABOUT 300 BILLS WILL BE SIGNED INTO LAW
## BIG ISSUES THIS SESSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Balanced Budget</th>
<th>Panhandling Prohibitions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education Funding</td>
<td>Teenage Alcohol Servers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prop 206 Finance</td>
<td>Ban on Social Justice Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>TANF Restoration</td>
<td>Tax Cuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiative and Referendum Reform</td>
<td>Flag Burning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANTI-HUNGER PLAYBOOK

- The Facts About Hunger
  - Hunger in Arizona
  - How We Address Hunger
  - The Costs of Hunger in Arizona
  - SNAP: By the Numbers
  - SNAP Works for Arizona Families

- Take Action
  - Arizona Finger Imaging Program
  - SNAP Drug Felon Ban
  - Health Food for Families
ARIZONA FINGER IMAGING PROGRAM
HB 2091

- Introduced: 1/12/17
- Passed House Committee: 1/19/17
- Passed Out of the Full House: 2/6/17
- Passed Senate Committee: Health (3/15/17)
  Appropriations (Died)
- Passed Out of the Full Senate
- Signed by Governor
SNAP DRUG FELON BAN
1. Licensure Fee Waivers
2. Eliminates SNAP Drug Felon Ban (Requires Drug Testing & Treatment)
3. TANF Extension to 24 months for those who have never been sanctioned
4. Bans lottery ticket purchases using EBT cards
5. Investigates EBT Card Replacements
6. Investigates Out of State Purchases
7. Changes TANF from “3 strikes” to “2 strikes”
HB 2372

Introduced 1/31/17

Passed House Committee
Health (2/2/17)
Appropriations (2/8/17)

Passed Out of the Full House 2/24/17

Passed Senate Committee
Health (3/8/17)
Appropriations (3/28/17)

Passed Out of the Full Senate

Signed by Governor
STAY INFORMED

TINYURL.COM/AZHUNGERCALL
Break
Engaging Elected Officials at the City and County Level