

MY

Who faces hunger in Arizona?

STORY

I am so fortunate to have my job as a teacher's aide with the Navajo County Association of Governments (NACOG) Head Start. I've been here for two months. It's stable work at \$10.77/hour, and I'm able to pay a reasonable cost for health insurance.

I was living with family in the Hotevilla Village on the Hopi Reservation, but when I moved to Winslow, for better job opportunities and a place of my own for me and my two kids, I couldn't make ends meet as a housekeeper at a local hotel. I started receiving SNAP in September 2017.

I am 27 years old, and my main expenses are rent and car insurance. My one-year-old has had a lot of health expenses too. I receive \$220 a month in SNAP, but the process to get SNAP can be complicated.

I use SNAP to buy the food my children need. When my youngest was an infant, she was on a special formula. I was enrolled in the WIC Program, but needed a doctor's release for the formula, so I had to use SNAP to pay for the special formula. Now that my baby is one, she can drink whole milk, which really cut costs.

If I didn't have SNAP, I would always be broke, living off ramen noodles and food from the Dollar Store. I'm doing the best I can. I have to stay on top of the SNAP application process because it takes a long time at the DES office here in town. But we need SNAP to stay healthy so I make it work. I have a good job, my three-year-old is able to attend the NACOG Head State Program, and the Hopi Tribe pays for my little one's daycare as long as I am working.

I am going to stay in Winslow, because there's really no place for me to live back home. I'd have to live with my grandma, and her house is already full.



Audrey Yowytewa
Winslow, Arizona