

MY

Who faces hunger in Arizona?

STORY

I'm 20 years old, and a full-time student at Prescott College, and for the past three years, I've been studying cultural/regional studies and video production. I'm in a dual program, so I'll receive both my bachelor's and master's degree next May.

I'm originally from Michigan. When I was 13, we moved to Akron, Ohio. As a child, living in the suburbs, we were always on SNAP. In my senior year of high school, we moved to Queen Creek, and I graduated from San Tan High School.

I came to Prescott College because my uncle is a professor here. I like the community, the teachers care about all the students. I became a student advocate after I studied Chicano, indigenous, and African studies. I organize social justice events like open mic and events dedicated to black culture in America.

After my first semester, I signed up for SNAP. When it expired I went to renew it and was denied. I was told I needed to work 40 or more hours a week to qualify. I still don't really understand what happened, but I got busy with school, so I didn't look into it any further.

During the school year, I work 20 hours a week under a work study program. I have just enough money to pay the rent, but I make sure I save enough for food. I really need a car but can't buy one because I barely make ends meet as it is.

I thought about reapplying for SNAP, but the process is confusing. Right now, during the summer, I'm working as an intern and I get a stipend, so I don't know how that would work for the application process.

As part of my passion for social justice, I would be happy to advocate for improved SNAP policies to help others get the benefits they deserve. Here in Prescott, there are a lot of homeless people, and I'm concerned about whether they have enough to eat.



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