

RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM (RMP)

SB 798



SB 798 will create the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP), which would allow people who are homeless, elderly or disabled to use their SNAP benefits to purchase prepared hot meals from a qualified participating restaurant, deli counter or store.

SB 798 could be life changing for SNAP participants who have difficulty preparing their meals due to:

- Disabilities that make meal preparation challenging
- A lack of access to necessary food storage and preparation equipment
- An inability to use a stove or oven safely due to age or disability

Most states begin an RMP in a few select counties instead of statewide, however, we believe it would have the most impact when implemented statewide, encouraging restaurants and grocery stores with hot food options to apply.

Restaurants who are interested in being part of the RMP must:

- Get approval and sign an agreement with the state
- Apply for authorization from Food and Nutrition Service
- Apply for certification from the USDA
- Offer a low-cost menu for RMP participants

States can also require that restaurants meet certain nutrition standards or include an indoor seating area, providing socialization and clean restrooms to people who might not otherwise have access.

For individuals to access RMP, they would have to:

- Apply to and qualify for SNAP
- Be deemed by DSS to be elderly, disabled or homeless

Accessing RMP does not increase the amount of benefits eligible individuals receive.



Community-based organizations like AARP, The Missouri Area Agencies on Aging, Paraquad and VOYCE can spread the word to restaurants and stores as well as eligible individuals about the availability of this program once the bill passes.