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MJFC 460-01

22 January 2024

Topic: SNAP BENEFITS

Title: SNAP BENEFITS ACCESSIBILITY IN 2024

Background Info:

Four major changes to SNAP benefits are coming in 2024 for all Americans. The maximum benefit threshold is increasing, eligibility and age requirements are expanding, exemptions are being implemented for work requirements, and the income eligibility thresholds are rising. Several non-profits groups are protesting the USDA's interview requirements, to make it more accessible for college students to be eligible for snap. DC Mayor Muriel has recently agreed to increase the funding for SNAP in 2024 despite initially being hesitant and amidst legal pressures to do so, for a temporary period of 9 months. DC Residents are supposed to receive the increased funds starting on February 23.

Why is this story relevant:

This story is relevant because more than 42 million Americans receive SNAP Benefits. Also, about people in the District use SNAP Benefits, or food stamps. ___ College students are on food stamps or in need of them.

Potential Interviews:

1-2 Howard Students enrolled in SNAP benefits, 1-2 DC Citizens enrolled in SNAP, a DC Councilmember, an expert from DC Hunger Solutions, Legal Aid DC, The Center for Law and Social Policy, The National Student Legal Defense Network, Higher Learning Advocates, or any other nonprofits based in DC dedicated to fighting food insecurity.

Supporting Elements:

- Statistical graphics of Americans enrolled in SNAP benefits, college students experiencing food insecurity.
- B-Roll of DC Department of Human Services, students using Howard University food pantry, patrons shopping in grocery store, and "Snap Benefits Accepted Here" sticker on grocery store door

Research Sources:

1. [Food Stamps: 4 Major Changes to SNAP Coming in 2024 \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/food-stamps/4-major-changes-to-snap-coming-in-2024)

2. [Cost of Living Adjustment \(COLA\) Information | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
3. [Advocacy groups are petitioning for the end of SNAP interview requirements | AP News](#)

Topic: DC Women's Healthcare Accessibility

Title: DC Bridging the Health Inequity Gap OR New DC Law Improves Women's Access to Preventative Healthcare

Background Info:

Abortion accessibility and legality is the center of an ongoing debate nationwide. While abortion is legally protected in DC, DC women receiving medicaid cannot receive medicaid-covered abortions due to a ban. However, a newly-passed law in DC is making it easier for women to obtain hormonal birth control prescriptions without needing to receive a doctor's approval. Pharmacists who are properly licensed may now prescribe and offer hormonal birth control to women seeking it.

Why is this story relevant: Close to what would've been the 51st anniversary of the now-overturned Roe v. Wade verdict, this new law increases preventative healthcare accessibility for women, specifically low-income and disabled DC citizens. Many college students are a part of low-income homes and

- D.C.'s women population on [Medicaid](#) who are still unable to receive coverage for medical abortion services (DC Medicaid Abortion Ban)

Potential Interviews:

Expert from National Partnership for Women & Families (Address: 1725 I St NW Suite 950, Washington, DC 20006 Phone: (202) 986-2600),

An expert on health policy in DC

DC Women on Medicaid impacted by the law.

Expert on female reproductive medicine

Female student(s) on birth control

Supporting Elements:

- Statistical graphics of women on medicaid in DC or number of College students in DC who are eligible for medicaid
- B-roll of planned parenthood center, Pharmacy counter operations, Plan B in stores

Research Sources:

1. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/01/22/fact-sheet-white-house-task-force-on-reproductive-healthcare-access-announces-new-actions-and-marks-the-51st-anniversary-of-roe-v-wade/>
2. <https://wtop.com/dc/2024/01/new-dc-law-allows-women-to-bypass-doctors-approval-for-birth-control-prescription/>

https://powertodecide.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/Pharmacist%20Prescribing_5-03-23_0.pdf

Topic: HU Students reaction to rise in Media Employment Layoffs Nationwide

Title: Howard Students React to Unemployment Rate Rises, Layoffs

Background Info:

In the past year, employees at Sports Illustrated, Popsugar, The Washington Post, Bustle, Vox, The LA times, Pitchfork, Vice and Bloomberg, Wired, Yahoo and the Messenger have occurred. Job growth is expected to slow in 2024 according to Labor of Bureau statistics.

Why is this story relevant:

This story is relevant, because the unemployment rate in the United States remains at 3.7 percent of the American population, more than 6.3 million people. It is relevant because students are entering the workforce in the year of 2024, and many Howard University MJFC students have expressed concern in the lack of job availability they may face post-graduation.

Potential Interviews:

Economist or unemployment expert
Howard graduating Seniors in MJFC
Howard Student Advisors

Supporting Elements:

Statistical graphics of number of unemployed americans
B-roll of Howard Students in advising office, DC office of unemployment, LinkedIn scrolling

Research Sources:

<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>