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## Food Justice Fellow Board Report

### **Coalitioning/Networking**

The InsureKY Coalition is going through an evolution and is rebranding. The new emphasis will be on building a public benefits-focused coalition, broadening the mission to include more than just health care and health insurance. A subgroup of this coalition will be focusing specifically on administrative improvements to SNAP and WIC. Waiting to see who the Cabinet Secretary is but plan on meeting soon to draft strategy plans for each administrative goal.

We are making good progress in the convening of a food & hunger network. We had an initial meeting in October with KVH, KEJC, CFA, FeedingKY, and KCEP. We agreed to share policy priorities, will coordinate around upcoming lobby days, and begin working on shared messaging, focusing on a race/class narrative.

I am doing a lot of outreach to allies and community leaders, including farmers, legal aid staff, food bank staff, educators, agency staff, as well as national and regional allies. In particular, I am trying to figure out how many SNAP cases legal aid programs are taking and how much SNAP outreach pantries are doing - and any ways to help support this work.

We have plans to launch a SNAP & WIC Technical Assistance Group which will organize/communicate through a monthly or bi-monthly video call and a listserv with a monthly or bi-monthly newsletter. The goal is to create a space for technical assistance to case workers as well as provide trainings and issue resolution through mutual aid and expert presentations.

### **Policy Advocacy**

#### **General Assembly**

- Fully repeal the SNAP drug-felon ban
- Ensure that there is not a resurrection of any of the pieces of House Bill 3 - stop them if they appear
- Advocate for comprehensive tax reform to raise the revenue needed for public investments

#### **Administrative**

- Reverse the privatization of the SNAP interview process (using Conduent as the contractor)
- Restore ABAWD time-limit waivers for counties that have high unemployment and few job opportunities
- End the ban on SNAP benefits for parents behind on child support
- Extend SNAP benefits to more higher-education students by getting as many community college and university degree programs as possible by designating these programs as work study
- Take up the state option to raise the income test threshold under broad-based categorical eligibility (BBCE)
- Extend the certification period in WIC for children 1-5 years old to 12 months (currently at 6 months) to align with the certification periods for infants and mothers (currently at 12 months)

- Explore the creation of a temporary/provisional application process for emergency WIC benefits

**Other**

- Ensure more public schools are able to participate in and benefit from Community Eligibility
- Help ensure the approval of DCBS-contracted SNAP Outreach positions with allied organizations

**Consumer Assistance**

Working on my with my first consumer assistance case. It's an interstate overpayment case with a mixed status family. I am working with the family, their social worker, and legal aid in Florida to address the issue and attempt to get relief for the client.