



Retiree Robert D.'s food stamp benefits dropped by almost half this month.

Gearing Up to Help as SNAP Benefit Ends

Putting enough food on the table is a struggle for many Houston families—inflation's higher food prices hit them hard and now they are taking another hit.

As of March 1, individuals and families receiving food stamps through the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) saw their benefits go down an average of \$90 per month, bigger families saw a drop of up to \$250 per month. The reduction in benefits is due to the cessation of a pandemic expansion of the SNAP program.

Without that pandemic boost, the average food stamp benefit will drop from about \$9 per person, per day to about \$6, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. For 70-year-old Robert D., who visited CCSC's food pantry on March 15, that drop in benefits means he went from \$9.83 in food stamps per day to \$5.33.

"You have to make do with what you've got and it's hard," said Robert, a retired concrete worker. "Rent, electricity, gas, food, it's all gone up. And prices aren't coming down that I can see.

"I've cut out a whole lot of my food and try to make what I have last all month," Robert added. "CCSC is a lifesaver. It fills in the gaps."

More individuals like Robert and more families will be turning to CCSC to make up this SNAP difference. CCSC is gearing up, with your help, to meet those needs.

You can help today by donating funds or food to CCSC. To donate funds, visit our secure website [HERE](#). To organize a food drive, get the word out to your friends and family, your church group, your book club or your co-workers that you are collecting nonperishable food for CCSC. Deliver their generous donations to CCSC's warehouse on the Marquart Street side of our building at 3434 Branard St. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or Saturdays, 9-

11:30 a.m. A list of our most needed food items can be found [HERE](#).

The SNAP cutbacks come at a particularly difficult time as spring and summer months are historically the lowest in food donations at CCSC. Organizing a food drive now, or in the coming months, will make a huge difference in helping to stock our shelves and feed visitors to our two food pantries. We thank you on behalf of those we serve.

Celebrate Earth Day at CCSC's Garden

Have you ever wondered what it takes to keep a garden thriving? Want to learn tips that you can take away for your own gardening activities? The CCSC Garden is starting to bloom, and we would love to show it to you at our upcoming Earth Day Open House.



CCSC Garden volunteers serve year-round to prepare, tend and harvest amazing herbs, vegetables and fruits for families served by both CCSC food pantries. Garden produce reduces hunger, increases nutrition and is highly valued by our clients. In 2022, 5,603 pounds of produce were provided to our clients.

CCSC Garden Open House

Saturday, April 22

9:00-11:00 a.m. (this is a come-and-go event)

Gethsemane Campus of St. Luke's United Methodist Church

6856 Bellaire Blvd.

Houston, 77074

The CCSC Garden is located on the west side of the church campus, accessed from Bintliff St. (across from the fire station). Parking is available in the nearby lot.

No RSVP is required—simply show up! Rain or shine! For additional information contact Program Manager Pat Weatherspoon-Hall at emergency_sw@ccschouston.org.

Bring Your Family Together in Service

What's better than volunteering for CCSC?
Volunteering for CCSC with your kids or grandkids!

Our upcoming Family Service Saturday on April 15 is a direct response to requests for opportunities for families to serve together. This opportunity includes a brief talk about poverty in Houston and a tour of our Food Pantry, Clothing Pantry and Warehouse.



Give your child or teen the chance to experience how good it feels to help others, sign up today for a one-hour shift at our Family Service Saturday on April 15

www.ccschouston.org/familyserviceday.

ExxonMobil Foundation, CCSC Offer Summer Internship

The ExxonMobil Foundation Community Summer Jobs Program and CCSC are teaming up to provide a paid eight-week summer internship designed to provide nonprofit experience in the areas of client services, project management and nonprofit collaboration.

With a focus on our Emergency Services program that helps local community members improve their quality of life, the intern will work with our team to directly assist clients. The intern will also oversee projects that build on program offerings and work at our 3434 Branard St. location.

Applicants must be enrolled full-time in an accredited college as an undergraduate with the intent to return to school as a full-time sophomore, junior or senior in the fall of 2023. Bilingual fluency in English and Spanish is optimal but not required. Applicants cannot be family of CCSC board members, CCSC staff or ExxonMobil employees/retirees. For more information on the internship visit [Job Opportunities | Christian Community Service Center \(ccschouston.org\)](#) To apply, send your resume and cover letter via email to Lydia Bias at emergency_1@ccschouston.org by April 7, 2023 (early applications are encouraged).



For more information about CCSC employment opportunities visit [Job Opportunities | Christian Community Service Center \(ccschouston.org\)](#)

Our mission is to serve the poor, hungry, disabled, and otherwise needy while respecting their religious, ethnic or cultural differences.



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