



Seeking Co-Counsel for Class Action Challenging TN's Management of SNAP

Available

Project Title

Seeking Co-Counsel for Class Action Challenging TN's Management of SNAP

Scope of Work

The Tennessee Justice Center, a public interest law firm with extensive experience involving means-tested public benefits programs, seeks co-counsel for a class action challenging Tennessee's management of SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps.

Timing

The target filing date for the complaint is on or before September 2, 2024.

Jurisdiction

TN, Federal

Contact Information

Please contact Guerby Noel (guerby@lawfirmantiracismalliance.org) if you are interested in taking on this matter.

Description

The Tennessee Justice Center, a public interest law firm with extensive experience involving means-tested public benefits programs, seeks co-counsel for a class action challenging Tennessee's management of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps). A defective automated eligibility determination system, combined with gross staffing deficiencies and a hostile agency culture, deny or delay access to critical nutrition assistance for hundreds of

thousands of food-insecure Tennessee children and adults. Because of economic inequities, the harmful effects fall disproportionately on people of color: Black Tennesseans comprise only 16.3% of the state's population but 24% of SNAP participants; Latinx Tennesseans comprise 6.4% of the state population but 14% of SNAP participants. Additionally, the complaint will include claims under the Americans with Disabilities Act due to the program's tendency to screen out individuals with disabilities.

TJN is currently vetting plaintiffs and drafting a complaint to file in May. The complaint will be similar to a pending SNAP suit in Alaska that is attached for review.

Target filing date is on or before September 2, 2024.

Subtasks (0)