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Disability and Nutrition: Policy Solutions

National Disability Forum: “Food for Thought: How Nutrition and Fitness Impact Disability Across the Lifespan”

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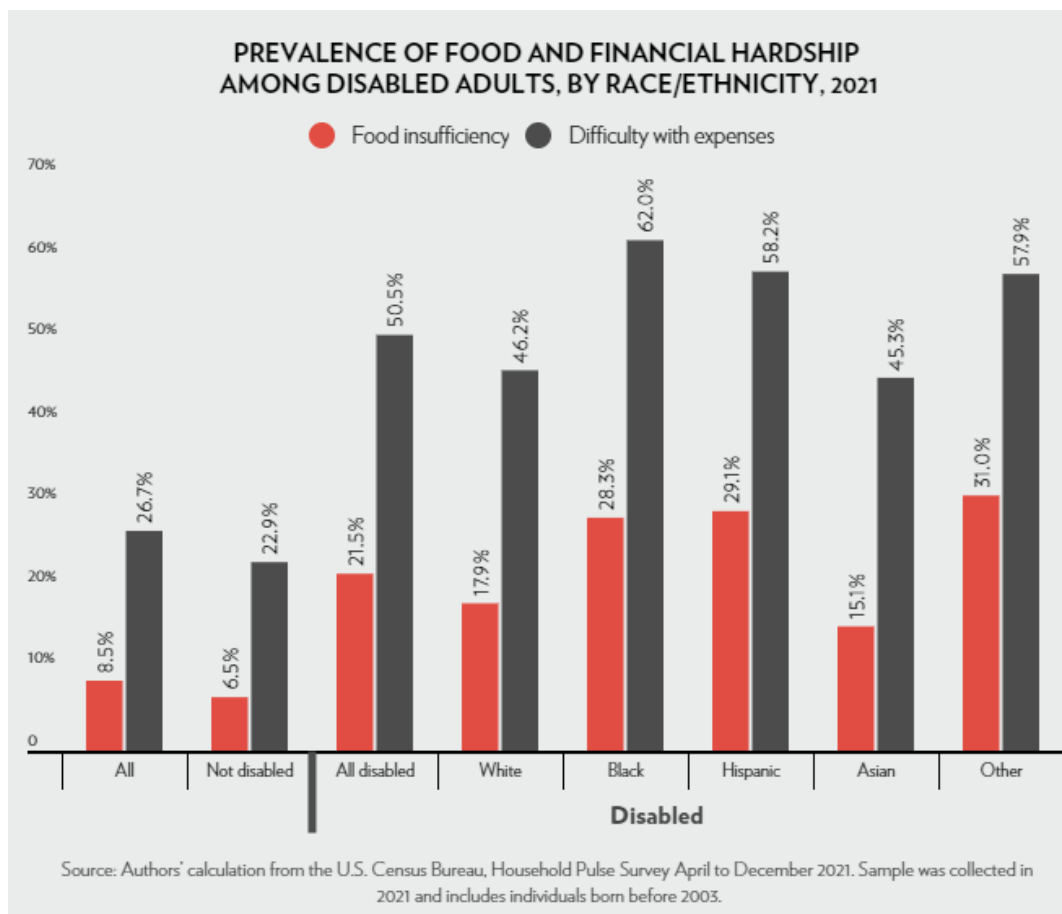
CLASP: Who We Are

- The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advancing policy solutions for people with low incomes.
- CLASP understands that poverty in America is inextricably tied to systemic racism. Therefore, we will explicitly and with intention, focus our policy and advocacy efforts for economic and racial justice on systemic racism as the primary cause of poverty in communities of color in the United States.



Hunger is a Disability Justice Issue

- Disabled people are 3x as likely as people without disabilities to face food insecurity.





Food Deserts are Part of the Problem, but the Solution is Complex.

- Just building a grocery store in a neighborhood will not solve food insecurity.
- Other Factors to Consider:
 - Can residents afford to shop at the grocery store?
 - Do residents have a living wage and stable jobs to help them reliably purchase food? Do they have access to SNAP benefits?
 - Is the grocery store accessible via public transit? Is there a safe and comfortable place to wait for transit?
 - Does the grocery store carry culturally reflective food? Food that accommodates needs of allergies?

Disability Determination in SNAP is One Challenge

- The SNAP program uses a narrow definition of disability that excludes many people who have disabilities.
- This narrow definition results in inequitable access to food assistance.



Policy Solutions to Addressing Hunger in the Disability Community – SNAP

- Increasing SNAP monthly benefits and removing asset limits.
- Improving the Thrifty Food Plan.
- Expanding online purchasing pilots.
- Removing the SNAP hot meal ban.
- Increasing the number of states that operate the SNAP Restaurant Meal Program.
- Streamlining enrollment between SNAP and SSI.



Policy Solutions: Making SNAP more Equitable



- Eliminate ABAWD time limit in SNAP
- Make SNAP available to residents in Puerto Rico.
- Eliminate SNAP college student restrictions.
- Eliminate restriction on using SNAP and FDPIR in the same month.
- Remove the 5-year bar on SNAP for qualified immigrants.

Thank You

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