

Please show your support by reading the profiles of some actual local CSFP clients. Then contact Senators Bond & McCaskill at the information below and encourage them to reinstate CSFP.

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THE PRESIDENT'S proposed budget for federal fiscal year 2008 calls for a nationwide elimination of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) - a program that helps sustain nearly 500,000 low-income seniors with a much-needed monthly food box. In St. Louis, more than 4,000 seniors - six of whom are pictured below - will be impacted if the program is indeed cut. Scroll down to read their stories.



CSFP CLIENT PROFILE > Betty S.



Betty S., age 75 was married for 31 years before her husband passed at age 51. Betty went on to raise their 13-year-old daughter alone. Moving several times in search of a better job - which proved difficult due to the fact that Betty had only an eighth grade education - not to mention planning for retirement. Social Security is now the only income Betty has coming in and it's barely enough to cover living expenses and medical bills.

Now 75 years old, Betty has a difficult time making it month to month. She receives routine calls from collectors seeking payment for medical bills. Often times, her daughter helps when she can by purchasing food.

 Betty's Financial Snapshot	\$
Monthly Income:	1,068.00
→ Rent	(364.00)
→ Utilities	(113.00)
→ Telephone	(30.00)
→ Medicine	(20.00)
→ Credit cards	(260.00)
→ Hospital/Ambulance bills	(75.00)
→ Total Expenses	(862.00)
Remaining income for food and all other:	\$206.00

CSFP CLIENT PROFILE > William F.



William F., age 84, served as a minister for 67 years after earning his Bachelor of Theology. In addition to his full-time job as Church Pastor, he also worked a maintenance job to supplement his income. William continued working as a Pastor and held his maintenance job until the age of 80 years.

At 84, he can no longer supplement his income with additional work and his only source of income after expenses is the \$140 per month his social security check provides. It's not much, he says he's able to manage because of the supplemental CSFP food package he receives from the St. Louis Area Foodbank every month. A program that President Bush has proposed to eliminate in his 2007 budget.

William's Financial Snapshot

	\$
Monthly Income:	722.00
→ Rent	(174.00)
→ Utilities	(120.00)
→ Telephone	(70.00)
→ Insurance	(162.00)
→ Gas and car maintenance	(60.00)
→ Total Expenses	(586.00)
Remaining income for food and all other:	\$136.00

CSFP CLIENT PROFILE > Mae P.



Mae P., age 64, has always appreciated and understood the meaning of sacrifice and hard work. At the age of 15, Mae chose to leave school in the 9th grade to work any job she could find (laundry cleaning, grocery stores, and restaurants) in order to help her mother raise her 10 brothers and sisters. As an adult, Mae worked in a hospital payroll department but was forced to quit working after suffering an brain aneurysm. The surgery left her without use of her right arm. Eighteen months ago, Mae was diagnosed with breast cancer and the treatment to beat the cancer proved very costly -- eliminating her savings and putting her in severe credit card debt.

Mae is now 64 years old and is living on less than \$20 a month for food -- forcing her to continue using credit cards in order to eat. When asked how she would be able to get by without CSFP, she says "I don't think that I could."

Mae's Financial Snapshot

	\$
Monthly Income:	1004.00
→ Rent	(253.00)
→ Utilities	(70.00)
→ Telephone	(60.00)
→ Credit cards	(575.00)
→ Insurance	(30.00)
→ Total Expenses	(988.00)
Remaining income for food and all other:	\$16.00

CSFP CLIENT PROFILE > Josephine C.



Josephine C., age 77, and her husband lived a simple life in St. Louis after their marriage. Mr. C. worked maintenance while Josephine was employed by several flower shops before moving on to work in a cafeteria. Their low incomes did not allow for much savings and what little they did have was depleted when Mr. C. was diagnosed with cancer at 62.

Josephine is now 77 and faces constant medical issues -- some of which include special dietary requirements. CSFP helps ensure that she doesn't go without.

Josephine's Financial Snapshot

	\$
Monthly Income:	650.00
→ Rent	(89.00)
→ Utilities	(45.00)
→ Telephone	(12.00)
→ Credit cards	(70.00)
→ Total Expenses	(216.00)
Remaining income for food, medical and all other:	\$434.00

CSFP CLIENT PROFILE > Jack



Jack, age 64, has had to face numerous challenges in his life. Born with polio - which resulted in paralysis of his legs and arms - Jack was able to overcome his disability and go on work as a piano restoration specialist. However, the ongoing effects of being diagnosed with and eventually beating colon cancer have left Jack unable to continue working. He now relies on social security and disability checks.

Currently, Jack suffers from post-polio syndrome, which is the after effect of having polio as a child. Because of this, his lungs only function at 20% and he must be hooked to an oxygen machine most of the day.

Jack believes one of the reasons he's able to make it month to month is the supplemental food package he receives from CSFP. Without it, Jack doesn't know how he'd get by.

Jack's Financial Snapshot

	\$
Monthly Income:	625.00
→ Rent	(117.00)
→ Utilities and laundry	(120.00)
→ Telephone	(30.00)
→ Doctor visits and medicine	(70.00)
→ Automobile (Gas, Insurance, Maintenance)	(150.00)
→ Total Expenses	(216.00)
Remaining income for food, medical and all other:	\$138.00

CSFP CLIENT PROFILE > Gladys B.



Gladys B., age 76, had lived her entire life with her family in New Orleans. When her husband passed, she moved into a senior living home - where she lived until August 2005 when Hurricane Katrina devastated her apartment and all of her belongings. Gladys was evacuated via helicopter and was moved to a shelter where she was found by her nephew who made the journey to get her after reading her name on an Internet evacuee listing.

After all the devastation, Gladys still maintains a wonderful attitude and considers herself lucky to be alive.

Gladys is now 76 years old. On the meager monthly income she has, she still feels fortunate and is grateful to have a place to live and food to eat.

Gladys's Financial Snapshot

	\$
Monthly Income:	523.00
→ Rent	(90.00)
→ Utilities	(80.00)
→ Telephone	(12.00)
→ Insurance	(65.00)
→ Total Expenses	(247.00)
Remaining income for food, medical and all other:	\$276.00