

A SECOND CHANCE FOR FOOD SECURITY

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING GUIDE

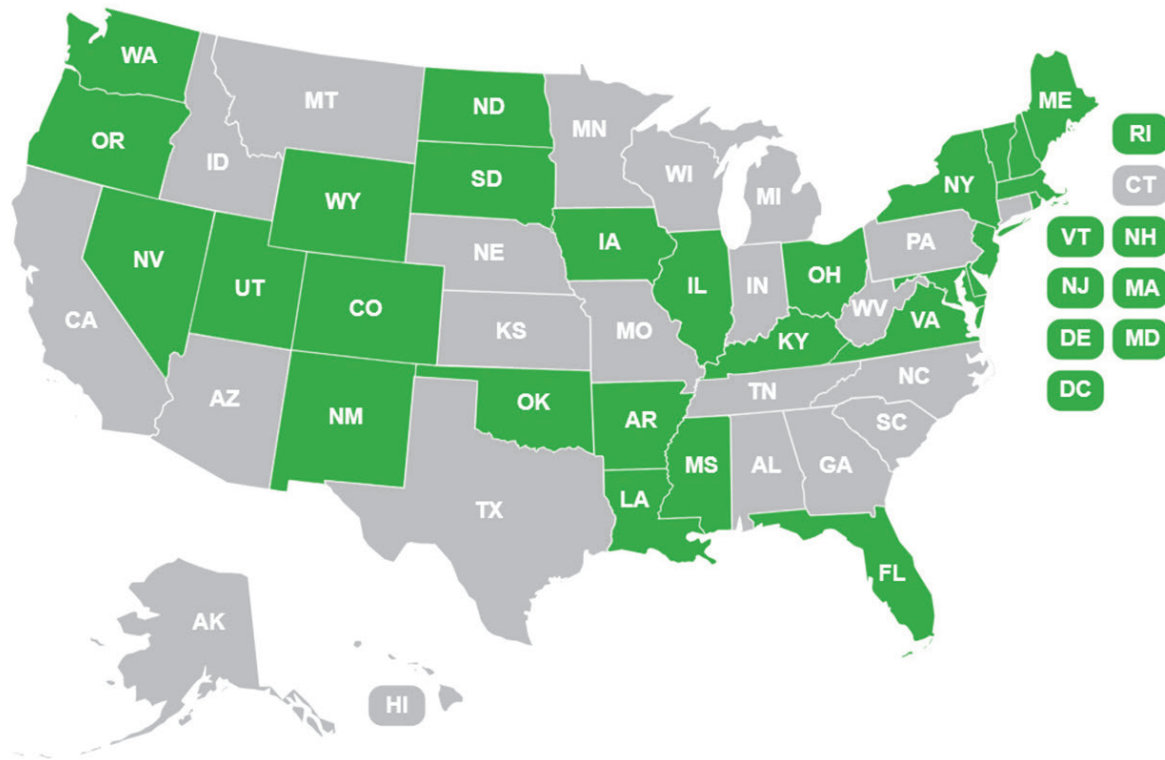


This DOCUMENTARY SCREENING GUIDE provides ideas and discussion questions you can use to help plan your own screening event.

The SNAP Ban Video Project uncovers the harsh realities of the SNAP Felony ban. The short video centers and amplifies the experiences of six individuals who have a lifetime ban on food stamps because of their felony drug conviction.

Screening the documentary in your community will help increase awareness about the felony drug SNAP ban and the need to end it is NC.

ABOUT THE FELONY DRUG SNAP BAN



THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (also known as SNAP or food stamps) was designed to address food insecurity and poor nutrition for families living in poverty. The program provides a stipend for recipients to purchase grocery items, including fresh produce and seeds, at certain retailers. As of 2024, more than 41 million people across the US have benefitted from the Federal SNAP program.

In North Carolina, where 1 in 3 households are considered low income, SNAP lifted 238,000 people above the poverty line, including an average of 101,000 children, per year between 2015 and 2019.

In 1996, fueled by the war on drugs and criminalization of communities that are majority black, indigenous,

and people of color; the federal government passed a law to ban people with a felony drug conviction from receiving food stamps. The federal law enables states to opt out of the ban, which many states have.

North Carolina is one of a minority of states that deny access to food stamps because of a felony drug conviction. North Carolina partially opted out of the federal ban in 1997. The 1997 NC law change allowed people with a Class H or Class I felony drug conviction to be eligible for food stamps six months after they are convicted or released from prison. To regain eligibility, they must comply with certain requirements, including drug treatment. People with class a A-G felony drug conviction from NC or felony drug convictions from another state face a lifetime ban to SNAP benefits.

Time has shown that the felony drug SNAP ban hurts individuals, families and the economy. It also increased the risk of recidivism for individuals with prior convictions. For example, as a result of the 1996 law and other harmful policies, people returning home from incarceration are twice as likely to face food insecurity than the general public.

Allowing people with felony drug convictions to qualify for SNAP is a commonsense policy change. It has little or no cost to the state and substantial benefits including reduced recidivism, better economy, more people working, improved family and children investments, lower poverty and food insecurity rates, and reduced overdose rates.

PRIOR TO HOSTING THE SCREENING

1

SET GOALS FOR THE EVENT

Based on available resources and network, what goals feel appropriate for target audience, number of attendees and overall budget? What is your ideal outcome for the event? How can you plan so that outcome is possible? Are other people in your network available to support you in planning and hosting the event? Are there people with lived experience and other experts available and interested in planning the event with you? If possible, include the filmmaker and local advocates in your planning and event. Overall, what would a successful event look like for you and your planning team?

2

DECIDE ON TIME AND LOCATION

Think about the audience that you would like to invite and spaces that will be welcoming and accessible for them. Do you want the screening to be private, such as with a group of friends or specific organization? Or are you interested in having the event be public and available to all interested community members? Consider scheduling the event for a date that does not have other community conflicts. Make sure you confirm space availability prior to finalizing details for the event.

3

PROMOTE YOUR EVENT

Invite audience members using a mode of communication that is most likely to reach them. If it includes a small number of people with whom you have close, personal relationships, a call, email or text invitation may be effective. For a larger group of people, a flyer or more formal invitation or registration process may be helpful. You may also want to provide a press release to local media for a public event.

4

FINALIZE EVENT DETAILS

Return to your event goals, what do you need to make everything happen? What do you need to consider for space logistics and run of show for the day of the event. Will you have an MC? Do you want to have a panel or community discussion afterwards? Will you be providing food? Any other considerations based on your intended audience needs, such as childcare or accessibility? Are there any other important details for you to go over before the day of the event? Identify point people who can help carry out tasks for each part of the event.



**SCAN THE QR CODE IF YOU PLAN TO HOST A SCREENING
EVENT AND TO FIND OTHER WAYS TO TAKE ACTION**

FAIRCHANCEPROJECT@NCJUSTICE.ORG

ON THE DAY OF THE SCREENING



ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT, MAKE SURE TO ARRIVE EARLY AND HAVE EVERYTHING SET UP AS YOU HAVE PLANNED.



REVIEW YOUR RUN OF SHOW AND MAKE ANY LAST-MINUTE ADJUSTMENTS, IF NEEDED.



IF YOU PERSONALLY ARE NOT AN EXPERT, DO NOT PRETEND TO BE. TRUST THE EXPERTISE IN THE ROOM OR MAKE A PLAN TO GET MORE INFORMATION.



MAKE SURE TO MAKE SPACE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION, SO NO ONE PERSON DOMINATES THE CONVERSATION.



BE SURE TO SHARE ANY ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WITH YOUR AUDIENCE, PARTICULARLY ANY INFORMATION ON LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THESE EFFORTS OR STATE OR LOCAL ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON HOSTING YOUR DOCUMENTARY
SCREENING EVENT!**



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

WHAT STOOD OUT TO YOU THE MOST ABOUT THIS DOCUMENTARY? WHAT DID YOU SEE IN THE DOCUMENTARY THAT YOU WOULD WANT OTHER PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT?

2

AFTER WATCHING THE DOCUMENTARY, WHAT DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE FELONY DRUG SNAP BAN TO BE? HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE IT TO A FRIEND OR COMMUNITY MEMBER? WHY SHOULD THEY CARE ABOUT THIS ISSUE?

3

WHY DO YOU THINK THE FELONY DRUG SNAP BAN WAS MADE FEDERAL LAW IN THE 1990S? DO YOU THINK IT IS FAIR FOR THE FELONY DRUG SNAP BAN TO STILL BE IN PLACE TODAY? WHY OR WHY NOT?

4

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE BIGGEST BARRIERS PEOPLE HAVE TO FOOD ACCESS TODAY? HOW IS THE SNAP FELONY BAN A BARRIER FOR PEOPLE?

5

HOW DO YOU THINK FOOD INSECURITY IMPACTS A PERSON'S DAY-TO-DAY LIFE INCLUDING WORK, HOUSING, DRUG USE AND RECOVERY? HOW DOES THIS IMPACT OVERALL COMMUNITY SAFETY?

6

WHAT ARE YOU OR PEOPLE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY DOING TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD? WHAT ELSE IS NEEDED TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE, INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH DRUG FELONY CONVICTIONS, HAVE ACCESS TO FOOD?

7

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU OR OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS DO TO SPREAD AWARENESS ABOUT THE FELONY DRUG SNAP BAN? WHAT CAN YOU OR PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY DO TO FURTHER ADVOCATE FOR NC TO END THE FELONY DRUG SNAP BAN FOR PEOPLE WITH FELONY DRUG CONVICTIONS?