

NATION

Food stamps ‘loophole’ aiding millions may close

By David A. Lieb
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Residents signing up for food stamps in Minnesota are provided a brochure about domestic violence, but it doesn't matter if they even read the pamphlet. The mere fact it was made available could allow them to qualify for government food aid if their earnings or savings exceed federal limits.

As odd as that might sound, it's not unusual.

Thirty-eight other states also have gotten around federal income or asset limits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by using federal welfare grants to produce materials informing food stamp applicants about other available social services. Illinois, for example, produced a flyer briefly listing 21 services, a website, and an email address and a phone number for more information.

The tactic was encouraged by former President Barack Obama's administration as a way for states to route federal food aid to households that might not otherwise qualify under a strict enforcement of federal guidelines. Now President Donald Trump's administration is proposing to end the practice, potentially eliminating food stamps for more than 3 million of the nation's 36 million recipients.

The proposed rule change, outlined this past week by the Agriculture Department, has highlighted the ideological clash between Trump's attempts to tighten government entitlement programs and efforts in some states to widen the social safety net.

It's also stirred outrage and uncertainty among some who stand to be affected.

"I think it's pretty rotten," said Lisa Vega, a single



Associated Press file photo

Federal guidelines bar people who make more than 130 percent of the poverty level from getting food stamps, but many states see this as too restrictive.

mother of two teenage boys in suburban Chicago who applied for food stamps last month after losing her job. Because she receives regular support payments from her ex-husband, Vega said, her eligibility for food stamps likely hinges on the income eligibility exceptions that Trump's administration is trying to end.

"A lot of these politicians don't realize that us Americans out here are living paycheck to paycheck, one crisis away from being homeless," Vega said. "You're just going to take this kind of stuff away from us when we need it the most?"

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said the proposed rule change is intended to close a "loophole" that states have misused to "effectively bypass important eligibility guidelines."

Current federal guidelines forbid people who make more than 130 percent of the poverty level from getting food stamps. But many states believe that the cap is too restrictive, especially in cities with a high cost of living, prompting them to bypass the limits.

At issue is a federal policy that allows people who receive benefits through other government programs, such as Temporary Assistance for

Needy Families, to automatically qualify for SNAP. The practice, called categorical eligibility, is intended partly to reduce duplicative paperwork. It has also allowed states to grant food stamps to more people.

Under the Trump administration's proposed rule change, residents in all states would need to be authorized to receive at least \$50 a month in TANF benefits for a minimum of six months in order to automatically qualify for food stamps. Subsidies for child care, employment and work-related transportation would still count. But the proposal would stop states from linking eligibility to the receipt of an informational brochure.

Advocates for the poor say states' exceptions to federal guidelines have helped people gradually transition off food stamps when they get modest raises at work and have enabled seniors and the disabled to save money without going hungry. Advocates also say the eligibility exceptions have helped people such as Vega, whose income may be slightly above the federal threshold yet have little money left over after paying high housing and utility bills.

HOW TEXAS VOTED

WASHINGTON – How the Texas congressional delegation voted on major issues last week:

Senate

1. 9/11 victims' compensation: Voted, 97-2, to approve a bill (HR 1327) that would reauthorize the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund through fiscal 2090. A yes vote was to send the bill to President Donald Trump.

2. Budget cuts to finance 9/11 compensation: Failed, 22-77, to reach 60 votes needed to advance a measure that sought to cut mandatory spending (except for Medicare, Social Security and veterans) by less than 1 percent over 10 years to help pay the cost of HR 1327 (above). A yes vote was to adopt the amendment.

3. Confirming Mark Esper as defense secretary: Confirmed, 90-8, Mark Esper as the 27th defense secretary since the office was established in 1947. A yes vote was to confirm the nominee.

4. Confirming Gen. Mark Milley as Joint Chiefs chairman: Confirmed, 89-4, Army Gen. Mark Milley to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in September. A yes vote was to confirm the nominee.

Corryn(R)San Antonio
Cruz(R)Houston

House

1. Boycotts, Divestiture, Sanctions against Israel: Voted, 398-17, to condemn the anti-Israel "BDS" movement, which is a global campaign that encourages businesses, governments and other entities to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel

and companies owned by Israelis.

A yes vote was to adopt the resolution.

2. Shoring up multi-employer pensions: Passed, 264-169, a bill (HR 397) that would set up a new lending unit in the Treasury Department to aid up to 160 financially troubled multi-employer pension plans covering 1 million-plus union workers. The new Pension Rehabilitation Administration would make 30-year loans at low interest rates to help those plans keep their promises to retirees.

A yes vote was to send the bill to the Senate.

3. Second vote on 'BDS' movement: Defeated, 200-232, a motion by Republicans stating that no pension plans receiving loans under HR 397 (above) could participate in the so-called BDS movement against Israel (above).

A yes vote was to adopt the amendment.

4. Requiring humane treatment of migrants: Passed, 233-195, a bill (HR 3239) setting minimal standards for the government's treatment of migrants in its custody. The bill would require Customs and Border Protection to conduct medical screenings of migrants within 12 hours of their detention, or three hours for children, the disabled and pregnant women, and provide health care as warranted. In addition, CBP would have to provide appropriate hygienic care including access to toilets, regular showers and drinking water and adequate clothing, bedding and incarceration space.

A yes vote was to send the bill to the Senate.

5. Approving temporary legal status for

Venezuelan migrants: Passed, 272-158, a bill (HR 549) conferring temporary protected status on as many as 200,000 Venezuelan citizens who have taken refuge in the United States from domestic turmoil in their country.

A yes vote was to send the bill to the Senate.

6. Approving two-year budget deal: Approved, 284-149, a two-year budget deal (HR 3877) that would raise the national debt ceiling to accommodate additional deficit spending through July 31, 2021. The bill would allow military spending to increase by \$46.5 billion and discretionary nonmilitary spending by \$56.5 billion over fiscal 2019 levels.

A yes vote was to send the bill to the Senate.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Gohmert(R)Tyler	A	N	Y	N	N	N
Crenshaw(R)Spring	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
Taylor(R)Plano	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Ratcliffe(R)Heath	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Gooden(R)Terrell	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Wright(R)Arlington	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Fletcher(D)Houston	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Brady(R)The Woodlands	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Al Green(D)Houston	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
McCaull(R)Austin	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Conaway(R)Midland	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Granger(R)Fort Worth	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Thornberry(R)Clarendon	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Weber(R)Alvin	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Gonzalez(D)McAllen	A	N	A	Y	Y	Y
Escobar(D)El Paso	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Flores(R)Bryan	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Jackson Lee(D)Houston	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Arrington(R)Lubbock	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Castro(D)San Antonio	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Roy(R)Austin	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Olson(R)Sugar Land	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Hurd(R)San Antonio	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Marchant(R)Coppell	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Williams(R)Austin	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Burgess(R)Flower Mound	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Cloud(R)Corpus Christi	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Cuellar(D)Laredo	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Garcia(D)Houston	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Johnson(D)Dallas	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Carter(R)Round Rock	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Allred(D)Dallas	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Veasey(D)Fort Worth	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Vela Jr.(D)Brownsville	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Doggett(D)Austin	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Babin(R)Woodville	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y

Y = Yes, N = Nay, A = Not voting,
P = Answered "Present"

Thomas Voting Reports Inc.



Legal Notices

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or call 713.224.6868.

BIDS & PROPOSALS

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED BY PROCUREMENT SERVICES, PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ATTN: BUDGET RECEIPT DEPARTMENT, 111 EAST LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029 UNTIL 11:00 A.M., ON AUGUST 21, 2019. FOR THE FOLLOWING:

INSTALLATION OF A SECURITY SYSTEM AT 138KV SUBSTATION AT BAYPORT CONTAINER TERMINAL (CSP).

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE BAYPORT CONTAINER TERMINAL ADM. BLDG., 12619 PORT ROAD, SEABROOK, TEXAS 77586 (WHEELHOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM), ON AUGUST 1, 2019, 2:00 PM SO THAT THE PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS MAY ASK QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROJECT.

NOTE: VENDORS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN A NONDISCLOSURE FORM AND PROVIDE VALID IDENTIFICATION PRIOR TO ATTENDING THE MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE MEETING. THE COMPLETE CSP SOLICITATION PACKAGE WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE MEETING.

SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM PORT HOUSTON'S ePROCUREMENT WEBSITE: <https://busyspeed.poha.com/bsn>

PROPOSALS WILL BE OPENED AT 11:30 A.M. OF THE DAY DUE IN THE PROCUREMENT SERVICES OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, 111 EAST LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS. THE PORT AUTHORITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS OR RESPONSES.

LEGAL NOTICE

By and through its Broker of Record, Customized Real Estate Services (CRES), BakerRipley, a non-profit human services organization, announces a Request for Proposal (RFP) #19-16 in search of a long-term lease for its Workforce Solutions Financial Aid & Payment Office / Trackers in the near Southwest Houston market of Harris County, Texas.

Specific Market Location: Adjacent to or South of the Westpark Tollway/ Interstate 69 South Freeway, East of Beltway 8 and North of Alternate Highway 90.

Basic requirements include a Lease Effective Date of December 1, 2019, approximately 10,000-14,000 sq. ft. and a Lease Term of Five (5) years. Brokerage commissions to be included on all transactions will be paid by the selected Landlord upon lease execution.

The RFP will be posted on the BakerRipley website at <https://www.bakerripley.org/about/vendors> on **July 30, 2019**.

Interested parties can submit a proposal to jgee@cresrealestate.com. The initial deadline for submitting a proposal is **August 30, 2019**.

BAKERIPLEY ENCOURAGES SMALL AND HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES TO APPLY.

Request for Qualifications Statements - Office of the County Engineer

Harris County is accepting Qualifications Statements from interested firms licensed in the State of Texas to provide Engineering Services in support of the development of an Inter-agency Infrastructure Coordination and Assessment Tool (ICAT). The tool will assist in the coordination and assessment of partnership opportunities and projects occurring in Harris County. A **mandatory** pre-submittal conference will be held on **August 5, 2019, 2:00 PM** at the Office of the County Engineer, 1001 Preston St, Suite 500, Houston TX 77002. Interested parties should submit one (1) original package and five (5) copies entitled "Sealed Request for Qualifications for Engineering Firm(s) to develop an Inter-agency Infrastructure Coordination and Assessment Tool (ICAT)." no later than **August 23, 2019, 4:00 PM** to the Office of the County Engineer. Attention: Angela Murry, Administrative Officer, 1001 Preston, Suite 500, Houston, TX 77002. Please visit <https://www.civicasusa.com/> to obtain additional information. Registration is free of charge and the documents can be retrieved by clicking on "Browse Bids" and searching "Qualification".

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.

IFB No. 4019000134: METRO Rapid (BRT) Bus Wraps. Solicitation will be available on or about 07/29/2019.

Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO's website at <https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/>. If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

Proposal Notice

2019 HOPPER, KAHLA, SALLYARDS & SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATIONS
CFISD Project No. 19-02-5434R-RFP

CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals from qualified contractors until 2:00 PM on Thursday **August 22, 2019** for Base Proposals, and 3:00 P.M. for Alternates Proposals at the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Facilities, Planning & Construction, 11430-B Perry Road, Room 129C, Houston, Texas 77064 for 2019 Hopper, Kahla, Sallyards & Smith Middle School Renovations. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held Wednesday, **August 07, 2019** at 10:00 A.M. at the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Facilities, Planning & Construction, 11430-B Perry Road, Room 129C, Houston, Texas 77064. Proposal Evaluation Criteria are published in the "Instructions to Proposers" section of the proposal documents.

Plans and specifications will be available on/after July 29, 2019 and can be obtained from the following address for a refundable deposit of **\$300.00 per set**. Make checks payable to Texas-IBI Group Inc.

Texas-IBI Group, Inc.
455 E. Medical Center Blvd., Suite 500
Webster, Texas 77598
(281) 286-6605

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all proposals.

LEGAL NOTICES

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Media Notice/Substitute Notification

On June 19, 2019, an associate from Walmart Store #1610, located at 100 Elmridge Center Drive in Greece, New York, was reviewing hard copy records and could not locate a set of prescription records. Walmart immediately searched for the records within the store and off-site server locations. Unfortunately, Walmart was unable to locate the records. Walmart's investigation did not indicate that the situation was the result of theft or other criminal behavior.

The records affected pertain to prescriptions filled between March 2010 and May 2011 from Store #1610. The personal information that may have been contained in the records includes name, address, phone number, name of prescription medication, prescription number, provider name, and dates associated with the prescription such as the fill date. Walmart has no indication that patient information has been misused in any way.

Walmart is continuing to review the facts and circumstances surrounding this matter and is evaluating whether additional safeguards can help prevent this type of incident from occurring in the future.

Although Walmart has no reason to believe that the patient information has been misused, or is likely to be misused, Walmart is sending individual notices to affected patients regarding the incident. Affected patients are encouraged to call 1-866-775-4209 for assistance and advice regarding how this incident may have affected them. In addition, patients should always be vigilant when reviewing explanations of benefits and other information pertaining to health care. Patients should also be cautious about requests to provide any personal or financial information over the phone, by text, or by email and verify the source of any such requests.

Walmart places great value in its customers' trust and takes this matter very seriously. The company is fully committed to protecting the privacy and security of patients' personal information.

Sealed Bid Solicitation # GE02-20

Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program

Auxiliary Power & Backup Generators

Pre-Bid Conference: 08/08/19 @ 9 am
Response Deadline: 10/02/19 @ 1pm
Public Opening: 10/02/19 @ 2pm
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX.
Per ADA, reasonable accommodation provided with 24-hour prior notice.
713-499-6693 or www.hgacbuy.org for info.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

MUNICIPAL SETTING DESIGNATION CITY OF HOUSTON

Date - Time: August 27, 2019 - 6:00 PM
Place: Houston Permitting Center
Address: 1002 Washington Ave
Houston, TX 77002

Applicant: West Alabama Holding, LLC

Site Location: 3609, 3611, 3615, 3617, 3619 W. Alabama, Houston, TX 77027

Legal Description: TR 43B, ABST 61 A C REYNOLDS; TRS 43F & 43J, (1327 SQFT EASEMENT), ABST 61 A C REYNOLDS; TRS 43G & 43K ABST 61 A C REYNOLDS; TRS 43H & 43N, ABST 61 A C REYNOLDS; TRS 44 & 44B, ABST 61 A C REYNOLDS

Contaminants of Concern: Dichloroethene, Trichloroethene, cis-1,2-Dichloroethene, trans-1,2-Dichloroethene, Vinyl Chloride, 1,1-Dichloroethene.

This designates an area in which the use of impaired groundwater is prohibited for use as potable water (i.e. drinking, cooking, bathing etc.). If you have questions or comments, please contact the City of Houston MSD Program at (832) 394-9003 or email at msd@houstontx.gov.



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\$74.00*

Call the Legals Team
713-224-6868
Ext. 6435 or 4204

***\$74.00 includes first 36 lines and 1 Affidavit of Publication**

***\$1.92 per line over 36 lines**

BIDS & PROPOSALS

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Klein ISD will accept HAND DELIVERED Competitive Sealed Proposals from qualified general contractors until 2:00 PM on Thursday, 15 August 2019 for Base Proposals and Alternates, at Klein ISD Central Office, Room 214, 7200 Spring Cypress Rd, Spring, TX 77379, for the **Safety Improvements at 22 Elementary Schools - MOD Security Doors**.

Proposal evaluation criteria are published in the "Instructions to Proposers" section of the proposal documents.

Plans and specifications are available immediately, and can be obtained from the following address with a refundable deposit of \$250.00 per set, made payable to Texas-IBI Group.

Texas-IBI Group
455 E. Medical Center Blvd., Suite 500
Webster, TX 77598
Phone: 281-286-6605

A Pre-Proposal Conference shall be held at 2:00 PM, on Thursday, 8 August 2019, at Klein ISD Central Office, 7200 Spring Cypress Road, Spring, TX 77379.

The Owner reserves the right to waive all informalities and to reject any or all proposals.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.

IFB No. 4019000123: For Emergency Decontamination or Remediation Services. Solicitation will be available on or about 07/22/2019.

IFB No. 4019000141: For Purchase of Low Floor Paratransit Vans. Solicitation will be available on or about 07/22/2019.

IFB No. 4019000142: For Repair and Service of Submersible Lift Pumps. Solicitation will be available on or about 07/23/2019.

IFB No. 4019000143: For Natural Disaster Debris Removal. Solicitation will be available on or about 07/23/2019.

Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO's website at <https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/>. If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

LEGAL NOTICES

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NOTICE Effective August 29, 2019, Kelley Eubank, MD will no longer practice at Medical Center Dermatology, located at 7505 South Main St, Greenpark Two Building, Ste. 300, Houston, TX 77030. Her new office will be located at 5252 Westchester Ave., Ste. 242, Houston, TX 77005. Her new office number is 713-568-0708. We are pleased to introduce the addition of Dr. Sindy Pang, who will be joining Dr. Elizabeth Basler, Dr. Allyson Kopel, and Dr. Annette Harris. To continue being seen in this office, no further action is required on your part. Your medical records are confidential and can be released to you or transferred to another physician of your choice, including Dr. Eubank, upon your request. To obtain your records, please contact our office at 713-799-1129 and request an authorization form. There will be a fee associated with copying and/or transferring your records.

AA - Advertisement for Sealed Proposals

NEW CANEY ISD ADVERTISEMENT FOR SEALED PROPOSALS Project #042-2018

New Middle School located at 21600 Gene Campbell Blvd., New Caney, TX 77357. Proposals are due Tuesday, August 27, 2019, before 2:00pm CST in the Conference Room of the New Caney ISD Facility Planning & Construction Office Bldg. "E" Located at 22784 US Highway 59S, Porter, Texas 77365. Proposals for listed Alternates are due before 3:00pm at the same location at which time and place the Proposals will be opened publicly and read aloud. A Proposal Security in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the proposal amount is required. **Project includes a three story, free-standing 228,250 SQ FT New Middle School including Cafeteria, Admin. Offices, Gyms, complete Athletics Facilities with a free-standing Field House.**

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held at the Facility Planning & Construction Office Bldg. "E" Located at 22784 US Highway 59S, Porter, Texas 77365 on Wednesday, August 14 at 10:00am CST. Proposal Contract Documents will be available on Monday, August 5, 2019 at IBI Architects located at 455 East Medical Center Blvd., Suite 500 Webster, TX 77598, for a **(\$100)** refundable deposit. The Contract may be awarded to a proposer per the following criteria: **1.** The Offeror's submitted base proposal-**50%**; **2.** The Offeror's experience and reputation-**15%**; **3.** The quality of the Offeror's goods or services-**15%**; **4.** The Offeror's safety record- **2%**; **5.** The Offeror's proposed personnel- **5%**; **6.** Whether the Offeror's financial capability is appropriate to the size and scope of the project- **5%**; **7.** Offeror's ability to complete project on time- **5%**; **8.** Offeror's performance in responding to warranty - **3%**. The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, and the right to negotiate with any proposers after submission of proposals. In addition, the District, at its discretion, may waive any formalities or minor irregularities regarding the proposals.

View legal notices at chron.com/legals