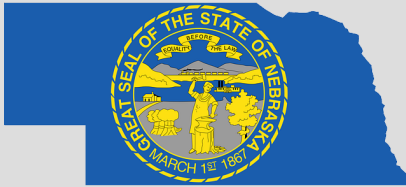




ADVANCING ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Joining with Low-Income People to Fight for Fairness

Nebraska District Court Approves Settlement to Restore Food Stamps to Tens of Thousands



In a victory for low-income Nebraska families, the District Court of Nebraska approved NCLEJ's class action

settlement in a Nebraska food stamp application delay case, *Leiting-Hall v. Phillips*, on April 1. The case challenged a system-wide failure by the Nebraska state agency to process food stamp applications and renewals. NCLEJ joined Nebraska Appleseed, a non-profit Nebraska advocacy and policy program, to help the tens of thousands of families who could no longer afford to buy food as a result of the delays.

Under the settlement, the Nebraska agency must process applications and renewals for food stamps within the time required by law, provide monthly reports to Nebraska Appleseed and NCLEJ to document compliance, establish an informal review process so that Nebraska Appleseed and NCLEJ can address any issues raised by individual food stamps applicants, and improve its timeliness until it achieves 96% on-time processing of food stamp applications. These measures will ensure that far fewer Nebraskans will have to choose between buying food and buying other necessities, such as medicine or diapers. [Read more](#)

Dodyk Fellow Leah Lotto Attends Albany SWEAT Coalition Meeting to Fight Wage Theft

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NCLEJ Dodyk Fellow Leah Lotto headed to Albany, New York, on April 4 with workers who support passage of the SWEAT (Securing Wages Earned Against Theft) bill. NCLEJ is a proud member of the SWEAT Coalition, a group of grassroots organizations, workers centers, legal service providers, and advocates who are fighting against wage theft in New York. The coalition is working to pass the SWEAT bill, which would make it easier for employees to retrieve unpaid wages from employers. The bill establishes a wage lien which would allow workers to put a hold on employers' property until they receive the wages they are owed.

Louisiana Governor Recognizes Role of Lawsuit Brought by NCLEJ and the New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice in Restoring Food Stamps in His State

Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards has acknowledged the role of NCLEJ's litigation in creating policy changes that restored food stamps to tens of thousands of low-income people. The New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice and NCLEJ filed a lawsuit against the State of Louisiana in December when then-Governor Bobby Jindal announced he would not reapply for a waiver of federal work requirements for food stamps, threatening to terminate food stamp benefits for approximately 31,000 people.

Governor Edwards sought the waiver upon taking office in January. According to *The New Orleans Advocate*, Governor Edwards' legal counsel Matthew Block "testified that Edwards sought the federal SNAP waiver to end a lawsuit that had been filed to stop the new work requirements from taking effect last fall and provide more time to identify services that could help people meet the new conditions." [Read the article](#)

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