



SUBMISSION TIPS

What should you include in your story submission?

Note: please keep your story to 300 words or less.

- Who you are—i.e. mother/father, student, business owner, service provider, job seeker, community or faith leader, etc.
- Where you're from (city, county)
- The program you value—i.e. SNAP, CTC/EITC, LIHEAP, etc.
- Specific examples of how a cut to the program could impact you, your client, your community, your business, etc.
- Specific examples of how the program has helped, such as:
 - In my county/state, the TANF Emergency Fund created 26,000 jobs. Because of the program, I was able to hire...
 - After receiving the earned income tax credit, I was able to...
 - If it were not for the child care assistance I received, I would not have been able to keep my job...

Here are some sample questions for **service providers** that can help you identify how the program has made a difference. These can be modified for other types of storytellers:

- After enrolling in the PROGRAM, clients are able to...
- If it were not for PROGRAM, clients would not be able to...
- If PROGRAM funding is cut, what will be the impact on your ability to meet need? On the clients you serve?
- What is the benefit of PROGRAM to nutrition? Education? Local economies?

Tips for submitting video stories

- **Keep it short.** Please submit a video that is less than two minutes long.
- **Clear sound is crucial.** Speak as clearly as possible and keep your eyes on the camera.
- **Avoid references** to anything that may date the video or cause unnecessary editing.
- **Protect privacy.** If you are a service provider, do not share the real names of clients or any identifying details.
- **Be specific.** Try to be as specific as possible with your examples and avoid generalities.
- **Respect copyrights.** Logos, trademarks, music, artwork, and recognizable buildings may not be used without license from the owner. Cover up logos on clothing, coffee mugs, etc. Do not refer to products by brand name (refer to a can of soup, not a can of Campbell's soup) or name businesses (refer to the grocery store instead of Kroger's).

For a sampling of stories collected, click on the following issue areas:

[Children](#), [Food & Housing Assistance](#), [Older Adults](#), [Medicaid & Health](#), [People with Disabilities](#), [Workforce Supports & Employment](#), [Mental Health & Addiction Services](#)