Residents across 32 states are suffering from a slowdown in government processing of food stamp applications. The massive backlog stems from chronic understaffing, it would appear, as well as states’ sluggishness to speed up the process, according to a new report from National Public Radio.

As millions wait on food stamp approvals, feds tell states to speed it up

In over half of the states and two territories, understaffed agencies are behind on processing residents’ requests for food aid — sometimes, for months at a time. In fact, some states are being forced to add and retain workers, and others are investing in new computer systems to speed up that task, according to Brown reports.

For some residents, the wait has stretched on for months, and some food banks say they’re nearing the breaking point as residents turn to them as a last resort. Some critics argued the proposed review process would have been supported in previews).

**WHAT WE’RE READING**

- **IMMIGRANT WORKERS:** A new wave of workers may gain the chance to become legal residents by working in the construction industry and away from public assistance programs, according to a 2007 law mandated the use of E-Verify across most of the state’s business sectors.

- **DRUG PENALTIES:** Many states have increased penalties for drug dealers tied to overdoses — and, critics said, contribute to the overcrowding that plagues the state’s prisons, according to A bill that would mandate the use of E-Verify across most of the state’s business sectors.

- **PARAMILITARY ACTIVITY:** A proposal that would restrict paramilitary activity and “civil disorder,” which the bill defines as a violent public disturbance by two or more people that causes immediate danger or actual harm, according to reports. A Republican-backed proposal that cleared the House would build on a 2007 law that mandated the use of E-Verify across most of the state’s business sectors.

- **LIBRARY MATERIALS:** A new wave of workers may gain the chance to become legal residents by working in the construction industry and away from public assistance programs, according to a 2007 law mandated the use of E-Verify across most of the state’s business sectors.

- **MORE STATE NEWS**

  - [South Carolina ACLU sues state prison system over media policy](https://www.stateline.org/story/south-carolina- ACLU-sues-state-prison-system-over-media-policy/)
  - [Texas launches new property tax incentive program to lure new businesses](https://www.stateline.org/story/texas-launches-new-property-tax-incentive-program-to-lure-new-businesses/)
  - [Oklahoma Senate approves grocery tax cut; measure heads to governor’s desk](https://www.stateline.org/story/oklahoma-senate-approves-grocery-tax-cut-measure-heads-to-governor’s-desk/)
  - [Oregon ‘stumbling into future’ on wildfire funding, lawmaker says](https://www.stateline.org/story/oregon-stumbling-into-future-on-wildfire-funding-lawmaker-says/)
  - [Wisconsin Assembly approves bills on PFAS, higher education and refugees](https://www.stateline.org/story/wisconsin-assembly-approves-bills-on-PFAS-higher-education-and-refugees/)

**REPORTER’S NOTEBOOK**

**Status Report**

Haley got tickets to a conversation at her former college this evening with Issa Rae, who will be adulting this weekend: Apartment hunting and filing taxes. As millions wait on food stamp approvals, feds tell states to speed it up.

Maddy: I got tickets to a conversation at her former college this evening with Issa Rae, who will be adulting this weekend: Apartment hunting and filing taxes. As millions wait on food stamp approvals, feds tell states to speed it up.

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Thanks so much for reading today’s edition of Stateline Daily. Enjoy your weekend!

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**Stateline Daily**

Friday, Feb. 23, 2024

We’re mid-way through the weekend, readers! (Maddy Fitzgerald) here with Stateline Daily. Keep reading for our Friday lineup.

In our spotlight on food stamp approvals, we’re hearing from a group of states that our government processing of food stamp applications. The massive backlog stems from chronic understaffing, it would appear, as well as states’ sluggishness to speed up the process, according to a new report from National Public Radio.

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