

Cuts kill AZ Health Zone program



Meredith Glaubach, community outreach member and coordinator of the Garden Kitchen's PLAZA Mobile Market, shows her fig harvest. PROVIDED BY JENN PARLIN/UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Trump budget eliminates the funding for SNAP-Ed

Clara Migoya
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

SOUTH TUCSON – At the corner of East 32nd Street and South Fourth Avenue, fruit trees reach into the sidewalk, and garden beds grow lush. Neighbors changed the fate of that property when, 14 years ago, they got together to prevent a motorcycle gang club from purchasing the land and asked the city to invest in healthy living programs instead.

The county bought the property and leased it to the Garden Kitchen, a community health program run by the University of Arizona, which has since offered a variety of free programs aimed at promoting overall health through cooking and physical activities classes, gar-

dening days and nutrition training for kids, early childhood teachers, and parents.

That work is now at a crossroads after the federal grant that funded the Garden Kitchen and its staff was terminated by President Donald Trump in his budget reconciliation act.

The Garden Kitchen staff is funded by SNAP-Ed dollars, just like some 170 public health educators, nutrition specialists and community workers across Arizona's 15 counties. Those working under the federally funded program promote healthy lifestyles, help families learn how to eat better on a tight budget, and partner with institutions to make changes that can make healthy choices easier.

For every dollar invested in SNAP-Ed, \$7 to \$10 is saved on health care costs, studies show. Critics say the decision to eliminate it is counterintuitive to the administration's so-called "Make America

Healthy Again" campaign.

SNAP, previously known as the "food stamps program," was hit with budget cuts, but under the Trump bill, SNAP-Ed — short for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education — will end on Sept. 30. In Arizona, the 33-year-old program was branded under the name AZ Health Zone and received \$15 million each year.

"It's not about a garden. It's about these people who make a difference in the community," said Jenn Parlin, director of the Garden Kitchen, about the pain of losing a cornerstone program for community health.

Staffers help sustain school gardens, provide cooking demonstrations to parents and teach nutrition principles. But they have also worked to create new bike paths, reopen forgotten city parks, change school menus and increase

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At least 10 unaccompanied minors disembark from an ICE-chartered deportation flight on Aug. 31 after a judge ruled they be removed. The flight was set to deport the children to Guatemala. JEFF ABBOTT/EL PASO TIMES

Deportation policy sees three big legal setbacks

Final decision on cases likely lies with Supreme Court

Lauren Villagran
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump recently has suffered three major legal setbacks that experts say could put his plans for mass deportation at risk — at least until a higher court steps in.

Federal judges in separate cases have ruled against the president's immigration enforcement tactics and sided with immigrant advocates who have challenged their legality.

Judges blocked the deportation of

some migrant children who crossed the border alone, forbade the rapid removal of immigrants who have been in the country for more than two years, and stopped the administration's use of an arcane law to deport people accused of being gang members without due process.

Trump administration officials and supporters have slammed the decisions of so-called "activist judges" who they say are overstepping their authority to prevent the president's enforcement of the nation's immigration laws.

The combination of three judicial punches could put at risk the president's plans to deport as many as 1 million people per year.

The final decision in each of the cases likely lies with the Supreme Court, though, and "the Trump administration has tended to fare much better at the Supreme Court than in the lower courts," said Michael Kagan, director of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Immigration Clinic.

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A divided high court backs Trump in 2 cases

Weighs in on FTC firing and immigration stops

Maureen Groppe
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — In a pair of decisions on Sept. 8, the Supreme Court sided with President Donald Trump, allowing his administration to temporarily resume broad immigration-related stops in Los Angeles that had drawn accusations of racial profiling, and permitting him to remove a Biden-appointed member of the Federal Trade Commission.

A divided Court said the Trump administration can resume for now the indiscriminate immigration-related stops in Los Angeles that sparked protests and charges of racial profiling.

Over objections of the three liberal justices, the court blocked a judge's ruling that federal agents need a reasonable suspicion that the person they're questioning is in the country illegally.

U.S. District Judge Maame Frimpong of the Central District of California said the government can't rely solely on the person's ethnicity, what language they speak, whether they're at a particular location, such as a pick-up site for day laborers, or what type of work they do.

Frimpong issued that temporary order in July in response to a class action lawsuit filed by a group of Latinos, including U.S. citizens, caught up in the 2025 ICE raids in Southern California.

The administration questioned the legal right of the challengers to sue, and said the judge improperly elevated the Fourth Amendment's "low bar" for reasonable suspicion for searches and seizures. That means the government isn't doing anything wrong, the Justice Department said.

In a region where a significant share of residents may be undocumented, the Justice Department told the Supreme Court, "reasonable suspicion to stop suspected illegal aliens will necessarily encompass a reasonable broad profile." The government estimated that 10% of the population in parts of Southern and Central California is undocumented, which is why the Los Angeles area is a top enforcement priority.

The Trump administration ramped up immigration raids across California starting in June, widening its focus

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CHEAPEST FLIGHTS THINGS TO DO, 1C



Flying from Phoenix is about to get less expensive as summer ends. MICHAEL CHOW/THE REPUBLIC

PNC to acquire FirstBank

Purchase will significantly expand Pittsburgh-based bank's presence in Arizona, where there are 95 FirstBank branches. The \$4.1 billion acquisition is expected to close in early 2026. 11A

Dillingham's gamble a bust

With 41 seconds left, he thought the play call would cement 12th-ranked Arizona State football's lead over Mississippi State on Sept. 6 in Starkville, Mississippi. It didn't. 1B

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