



House Agriculture Appropriations Funding Levels and Provisions for FY 2021

On July 24, on a vote of [224 to 189](#), the House passed its fiscal year (FY) 2021 appropriations “minibus” ([H.R. 7608](#)) that includes the Agriculture-FDA, State-Foreign Operations, Interior-Environment, and Military Construction-Veterans Affairs spending bills. A comparison of the House agriculture appropriations bill with enacted FY 2020 levels is outlined in the table below. The agriculture appropriations bill is one of 12 appropriations (spending) bills that Congress must pass by September 30 of each fiscal year to keep government programs funded.

Note that the bill was written with consideration of the COVID-19 relief bills that Congress has enacted to provide additional funding for programs, including the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) signed into law on March 18 and the [CARES Act](#) signed into law on March 27. Throughout the appropriations process, FRAC will continue to monitor funding levels and participation to ensure sufficient funding for programs.

Program(s)/Topics	House FY 2021 Agriculture Appropriations Bill	Comparison to Enacted FY 2010 Appropriations
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	<p>\$68.3 billion in mandatory spending, including \$3 billion in reserve to cover any unexpected costs.</p> <p><i>Note: The CARES Act included \$15.5 billion in additional funding for SNAP, to remain available until September 30, 2021, to cover the projected increase in applications as a result of COVID-19 and the costs of provisions authorized in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.</i></p> <p>The bill includes language to block the administration’s proposed Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) and Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) rules.</p> <p>Bill language also states that none of the funds made available by this act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the “variety” requirements of the “Enhancing Retailer Standards in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)” final rule published by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on December 15, 2016, until USDA amends the definition of the term “variety.”</p> <p>Committee Provisions: In addition to bill language to block the ABAWD and SUA rules, the Committee strongly encourages USDA to withdraw its proposed Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) rule.</p>	<p>\$67.9 billion was provided in FY 2020, including \$3 billion in a contingency reserve.</p>

	<p>Continues to direct USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to make information available on its website regarding college student SNAP eligibility requirements easier to understand and more accessible. Also further directs USDA FNS regional offices to collect and review information about existing SNAP flexibilities and examples of approaches state SNAP agencies are taking to assist eligible college students in accessing SNAP benefits and share such information with state SNAP agencies; and directs USDA to work with the Department of Education to share these best practices with higher education institutions. Finally, directs USDA to develop and submit to the Committee a funding proposal to address college hunger, especially at the community college level.</p> <p>Directs USDA to research and report on the ways that states, especially those that have lifted or modified the SNAP drug felony ban, can best serve people transitioning out of incarceration (e.g., pre-release applications for SNAP, and employment and training programs for this population) and to make findings available online.</p> <p>Directs USDA to continue reviewing and evaluating the verification process of earned income at certification and recertification of applicant households for SNAP by using electronic data matching, as per the \$2 million provided in the FY 2020 bill for this purpose.</p>	
<p>Child Nutrition Programs</p>	<p>\$25.1 billion for child nutrition programs, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mandatory funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$13.5 billion for National School Lunch Program ○ \$5 billion for School Breakfast Program ○ \$4 billion for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) ○ \$551.9 million for Summer Food Service Program ● Discretionary funding*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$50 million for the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) for Children Demonstration ○ \$35 million for school meals equipment grants ○ \$15 million for school breakfast expansion grants, of which \$2 million is dedicated to U.S. territories <p><i>Note: The CARES Act provided \$8.8 billion for Child Nutrition Programs, to remain available until September 30, 2021, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.</i></p>	<p>\$23.6 billion was provided in FY 2020, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$12.5 billion for National School Lunch Program; ● \$4.8 billion for School Breakfast Program; ● \$3.8 billion for CACFP; ● \$526.4 million for Summer Food Service Program; ● \$35 million for Summer EBT; and ● \$30 million for school meals equipment grants.

Committee Provisions:

Directs USDA FNS to take steps to better disseminate existing information to help state and local entities involved in providing CACFP meals meet the varying nutritional needs of older adult participants, as well as to continue to identify additional promising practices or other information on meal accommodations to share with CACFP entities. Directs USDA FNS to report on its progress to Congress.

Directs USDA to expand the Summer EBT program into new areas while also continuing to serve areas that have received funding in prior years. Also urges USDA to prioritize Summer EBT projects through the SNAP model because this model has been shown to have higher levels of participation and benefit redemption.

Encourages USDA to provide technical assistance to states to pursue “efficient, flexible, innovative, and data-informed” delivery models within the Summer Food Service Program. Also encourages USDA to provide technical assistance to schools in preparing fresh fruits and vegetables.

Encourages USDA to work with the Department of Education to help develop materials encouraging adequate school meal times.

Directs USDA to publish online the compliance of school food authorities with respect to nutrition standards, including the total number of school food authorities in each state, the number of school food authorities in compliance with the requirements, and the percentage of school food authorities in compliance with the requirements by state.

Requests a report to be publicly posted on the use of the funds to provide schools with technical assistance, training resources, and mentoring to meet the sodium-reduction targets. Also requests information on USDA’s plans to update the sodium-reduction targets consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommendations on sodium. Strongly encourages USDA to work with industry and other stakeholders to ensure there is a wide variety of lower-sodium options for schools to procure.

Requests a publicly available report on the amount of added sugars in school meals, based on the most recent existing data, specifically on the proportion of meals and competitive foods that would meet an added sugar standard consistent with the 2015–2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

	<p>that no more than 10 percent of calories from the meal or competitive food item come from added sugars.</p> <p>Directs USDA to submit a report on the Team Nutrition program’s impact on physical wellness, environmental awareness, and nutrition.</p> <p>Directs USDA FNS to include all territories, including those that receive block grants, in any studies it does on the Child Nutrition Programs. The Committee is interested in understanding the cost of school meals in Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.</p> <p>Directs USDA to update its 1979 calculation of the national average payment adjustments in Alaska and Hawaii to reflect the 2021 cost of producing a school lunch and a school breakfast.</p> <p>Encourages USDA to improve access to nutritional resources in communities facing lead contamination in their water.</p> <p>Encourages efforts to increase local food purchases for the National School Lunch Program, sourced from in-state or geographically local growers and producers.</p> <p>Urges that for any in-person trainings for school food service personnel, all efforts should be made to ensure those trainings are held during normal working hours and that if a training is scheduled outside working hours, all efforts should be made to inform food service personnel of the necessity of the training.</p> <p>Encourages USDA FNS to build greater awareness in the number and variety of pulse crop products and pulse ingredients available and served to children in school.</p> <p>Encourages USDA to continue evaluating how strained, high protein yogurt is credited based on the best available science and provide an update to the Committee.</p>	
<p>Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)</p>	<p>\$5.75 billion in discretionary funding, including \$90 million for breastfeeding peer counselors and \$14 million for infrastructure. The bill also rescinds \$1 billion of unobligated WIC funding. The House appropriators think this funding level will be adequate to cover current participation levels. However, this will need to be monitored.</p>	<p>\$6 billion was provided in FY 2020, including \$90 million for breastfeeding peer counselors and \$14 million for infrastructure. The bill also</p>

	<p><i>Note: The Families First Coronavirus Response Act included \$500 million for WIC, to remain available until September 30, 2021.</i></p> <p><u>Committee Provisions:</u> Directs USDA FNS to review the work of state agencies who received bonus awards for successful efforts in promoting and supporting breastfeeding among WIC participants to look for commonalities and trends.</p> <p>Encourages USDA to share through WIC education and outreach materials to provide guidance to pregnant women on the effects and management of COVID-19.</p> <p>Directs USDA to conduct a review of existing evidence and develop a plan to build evidence on the impact of WIC on reducing maternal mortality among specific populations of mothers with the highest maternal mortality rates in the U.S., which includes African American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and Indigenous (American Indian and Alaskan Native) mothers, and with an emphasis on the “needs of disadvantaged communities of color.” Directs USDA to submit a report with the timeline and process for reviewing existing evidence, building new evidence, and analyzing data, disaggregated by race and ethnicity, for all the main categories of indicators tracked, and for publishing an annual, publicly available report describing the methodology and the results of the analysis as well as a summary of the data.</p> <p>Encourages the Secretary to propose updates not less than 18 months following the scientific review of the WIC food package options in order to ensure up-to-date food packages, comprised of a diversity of foods and reflective of community preferences.</p> <p>Directs USDA FNS to publish state level estimates of the percentage of pregnant women, infants, and children under 5 years old who are participating in SNAP, but not WIC, and the percentage of pregnant women, infants, and children up to age 5 years old who have an income below 185 percent FPL and participate in Medicaid but not WIC.</p> <p>Directs USDA FNS to continue making all policy documents related to WIC publicly available online within one week of their release to WIC state administrators.</p>	<p>included a \$1 billion rescission.</p>
<p>Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)</p>	<p>\$290 million in discretionary funding</p>	<p>\$245 million was provided for CSFP in FY 2020.</p>

<p>The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)</p>	<p>\$322.5 million in mandatory funding for TEFAP commodities, plus \$79.6 million in discretionary funding for administrative funding (storage and transportation)</p> <p>Bill also permits states to use up to 20 percent of the funds provided for purchasing TEFAP commodities to help with the costs of storing, transporting, and distributing commodities.</p> <p>Committee provision encourages USDA FNS to make TEFAP state agencies aware of ways in which TEFAP can be leveraged to support food recovery efforts, including the use of TEFAP administrative funds for costs related to picking up and delivering privately donated foods.</p> <p><i>Note: TEFAP received \$400 million in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and \$450 million in the CARES Act to remain available until September 30, 2021, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.</i></p>	<p>\$322.3 million in mandatory funding for commodities and \$79.6 million in discretionary funding for administration were provided in FY 2020.</p>
<p>Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)</p>	<p>\$134 million (included in the total funding level for SNAP)</p> <p>The bill also provides \$3 million for the 638 Tribal Self Governance Demonstration Program for Tribal Organizations as authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill. The Committee encourages USDA FNS, in collaboration with Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), to provide information to the FDPIR community on how tribal vendors can sell foods to USDA for use in food distribution programs. It also directs USDA to notify the Committee of the Department's efforts to engage tribes in the demonstration program and of tribal participation in FY 2020.</p> <p><i>Note: The CARES Act provided FDPIR with \$100 million to remain available until September 30, 2021, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.</i></p>	<p>\$160.2 million was provided in FY 2020.</p>
<p>WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)</p>	<p>\$20 million in discretionary funding</p> <p>Committee provision directs USDA to research and report to Congress on the backlog of states requesting FMNP funding.</p>	<p>\$18.5 million was provided in FY 2020.</p>
<p>Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)</p>	<p>\$20.6 million in mandatory funding</p> <p>Committee provision directs USDA to research and report to Congress on the backlog of states requesting SFMNP funding.</p>	<p>\$20.6 million was provided in FY 2020.</p>
<p>Puerto Rico's Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)**</p>	<p>\$1.97 billion (included in the total funding level for SNAP)</p>	<p>\$1.97 billion was provided in FY 2020.</p>

	Continues to direct USDA to publish information regarding monthly enrollment, issuance data, and the Commonwealth's State Plan of Operations for NAP on USDA's website for transparency. <i>Note: The Families First Coronavirus Response Act included \$100 million and the CARES Act included \$200 million for nutrition assistance grants to Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to remain available until September 30, 2021.</i>	
Congressional Hunger Center Fellows Program	\$2 million	\$2 million was provided in FY 2020.
Farm to School Project Grants	\$12 million	\$14 million was provided in FY 2020.
Dietary Guidelines for Americans	Reminds USDA and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services of the importance of a transparent process and the use of strong evidence-based science when formulating the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.	
Local Food	Encourages all nutrition programs, to the extent possible, to engage local agriculture producers to enhance small farmers and regional producers.	
"Food for Peace," P.L. 83-480 grants (international)	\$1.775 billion	\$1.725 billion was provided in FY 2020.
McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (international)	\$235 million	\$220 million was provided in FY 2020.
Funding for USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS)	Provides \$86.7 million for ERS and rejects the administration's request to significantly reduce ERS's research activities.	\$84.8 million was provided in FY 2020.

* Discretionary funding is subject to annual appropriations

** NAP is Puerto Rico's block granted version of SNAP

Resources:

- House FY 2021 Agriculture Appropriations:
 - [Full Committee Draft Bill](#)
 - [Committee Report](#)
 - [Committee Bill Summary](#)
- Enacted FY 2020 Appropriations Levels:
 - [H. Comm. Prt. 38-679](#) – Committee Print of the Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives on H.R. 1865 / Public Law 116–94.

Stay up-to-date on the FY 2021 Appropriations process on [FRAC's Budget/Appropriations page](#) and the Congressional Research Service's [Appropriations Status Table](#).