

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget and Appropriations Priorities for Food and Nutrition Programs

The federal nutrition programs are a critical support for tens of millions of households — including individuals of all ages — by helping them put food on the table during times of need. Investing in hunger prevention and relief makes good fiscal sense. Hunger increases health care costs, lowers worker productivity, harms children’s development, and diminishes students’ educational attainment. These negative impacts can be minimized with robust funding and support for the federal nutrition programs.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP is the nation’s first line of defense against hunger. It responds quickly and efficiently to changes in need, whether due to local or national economic downturns or natural disasters. Unfortunately, SNAP benefit amounts are inadequate to help people maintain a healthy diet throughout the month. SNAP food benefits average about \$6.20 a person a day. Research has linked diminished food budgets later in the month with a drop-off in caloric intake, lower school performance, and an increase in hospitalizations due to low blood sugar.

Congress should strengthen and protect SNAP through fiscal year 2025 appropriations and the 2024 Farm Bill: See Farm Bill Priorities at frac.org/farmbill.

Child Nutrition Programs

Child nutrition programs provide quality nutrition, and support child care, and education and enrichment activities, for children across the country, especially children from families with low incomes. These programs help improve children’s overall health, development, and school achievement.

Congress should take the following actions to keep the child nutrition programs strong:

- **School meals: Fully fund school meals programs** in fiscal year 2025. Congress should provide **\$10 million** for school meals direct certification grants to reduce paperwork for schools and **\$35 million** in school equipment grants to help school districts build their capacity to prepare healthier and more cost-efficient meals on-site.
- **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP):** Expand CEP so that more schools are able to offer school meals to all of their students at no charge by **increasing the multiplier that determines federal funding from 1.6 to 2.5**, and creating a statewide option.

- Oppose any efforts to block **stronger school meals nutrition standards**.
- **Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT):** Provide **\$126 million** to waive the administrative match requirements and **\$50 million** for technology and implementation grants to support states, territories, and Indian Tribal Organizations.
- **Child care meals:** Continue to provide **\$10 million** for the Child and Adult Care Food Program’s nutrition and wellness education and program efforts. These funds are crucial for providing materials, training, and support to state agencies and program operators to bolster nutrition knowledge among child care providers.
- **Team Nutrition:** Provide **\$25 million** in funding for Team Nutrition, the primary resource for promoting healthy eating and nutrition education in child nutrition programs. These funds assist schools, child care centers and homes, and community-based sponsoring organizations, to successfully implement healthier meal patterns.
- **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):** Fund WIC at **\$7.75 billion** to serve anticipated caseloads while accounting for the rising costs of delivering high-quality nutrition services and sustaining the successful enhanced fruit and vegetable vouchers. Included in the WIC appropriation should be the proposed WIC Emergency Contingency Fund and set-asides for WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling (**\$90 million**), infrastructure and technical assistance (**\$16 million**), and management information systems (**\$50 million**). Oppose any efforts that would interfere with implementation or weaken the nutrition standards of the updated WIC food package.
- **WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP):** Support FMNP at **\$30 million**. FMNP provides fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables to WIC participants.
- **Farm to School and Early Care and Education:** Provide **\$14 million** to support farm-to-school efforts and to continue expanding Farm to Early Care and Education settings.
- **21st Century Community Learning Centers:** Provide **\$2.09 billion** for the program, which is the largest source of funding for afterschool and summer programs.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

- **TEFAP Commodities:** Congress should provide **\$472.3 million** for TEFAP food purchases as authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill to provide emergency food assistance to people in need. Nutritious TEFAP foods are an essential resource for food banks and other local emergency food providers. Food banks combine government commodities with privately donated foods to maximize TEFAP benefits far beyond the budgeted amount for the program.
- **TEFAP Storage and Distribution and Infrastructure Funds:** Congress should support America's emergency and charitable food system by providing full funding for TEFAP storage and distribution (**\$100 million**) and TEFAP Infrastructure Grants Program (**\$15 million**), and funding for food bank capacity and equipment needs through member-directed spending projects.

Older Adults Nutrition Programs

- **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP):** Congress should maintain the current **\$425 million** for CSFP funding. The funding is needed to provide the necessary flexibility to maintain caseloads and facilitate responsible expansion of the program to serve more older adults who are experiencing food insecurity.
- **Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP):** Congress should support SFMNP at **\$21 million**. SFMNP provides seniors with low incomes coupons for eligible foods at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs.
- **Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs for Older Adults and Native American Communities:** The home-delivered meals and congregate nutrition programs are vital sources of nutrition for older adults in communities around the country. Congress must increase funding for these programs to keep up with the escalating demand for services.

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

FDPIR provides U.S. Department of Agriculture foods to household members with low incomes, including older adults who are living on Native American lands, and Native American families residing in nearby designated areas.

- Congress should provide:
 - **\$242 million** for administrative costs and food purchases, consistent with prior fiscal years;
 - **\$5 million** (the fully authorized amount) for demonstration projects for Tribal organizations to enter into self-determination contracts to procure foods for FDPIR packages;
 - **\$5 million** for FDPIR traditional foods market development; and
 - authorization and funding to allow participants to receive both FDPIR and SNAP benefits at the same time.

Congressional Hunger Center

- **Emerson/Leland Hunger Fellowship Program:** Congress should fund this fellowship program at its authorized level of **\$2 million**. Since 1994, congressionally funded research, analysis, and policy work conducted by fellows have enhanced the impact of local, state, and national anti-hunger efforts as well as the work of nonprofits, government agencies, and faith-based organizations.

Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)

- Congress should provide authorization and funding for Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to transition from NAP to full participation in SNAP. The choice of and path toward transition should be approved by the territories' leadership.