

Joint Statement by National Organizations and Farm Bill Stakeholder Groups in Support of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), our nation's most significant anti-hunger program, promotes economic security, health, and well-being. As you develop the 2023 Farm Bill, we stand ready to work with you to pass a farm bill that protects and strengthens SNAP.

SNAP responds effectively and efficiently to changes in need, whether due to economic downturns, natural disasters, or other disruptions. More recently, it has proven to be a crucial tool for mitigating food hardship and supporting local economies during the pandemic.

Indeed, research has found that the combination of the 2021 Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) update and the provision of temporary SNAP Emergency Allotments (EAs) reduced poverty in the last quarter of 2021 by 14.1 percent and child poverty by 21.8 percent in states that had EAs at the time.ⁱ

SNAP serves people of all ages and all types of communities—rural, urban, and suburban. Four in five SNAP households (81%) have a child, a person aged 60 or older or a person with disabilities.ⁱⁱ SNAP also has positive economic impacts. Each \$1 in SNAP during a downturn generates between \$1.50 and \$1.80 in economic activity that is felt throughout the food chain—from farmers and ranchers, food manufacturers and truckers, to grocers and store employees.ⁱⁱⁱ In addition, SNAP is an important support for workers who are paid low wages and for those looking for work. Most SNAP participants who can work do so.

SNAP has a critical role in improving the health of people across the nation, especially among the most vulnerable Americans. SNAP makes a positive difference over the life course of individuals, decreasing negative health outcomes in children and increasing economic self-sufficiency in women.^{iv}

Despite progress, however, hunger continues to affect too many people in the U.S. In 2021, more than 33.8 million Americans lived in households that struggled against food insecurity^v and more than one in six Americans turned to the charitable food sector for help.^{vi} In early February 2023, the U.S. Census Bureau PULSE survey found that 11.4% of respondent households reported they “sometimes” or “often” do not have enough to eat.^{vii}

With an end to SNAP Emergency Allotments, SNAP food benefits have decreased to an average of only about \$6 a person a day. Moreover, SNAP benefits are not available to all people with low-incomes who need them. Going forward it is vital to protect and further strengthen SNAP benefit adequacy and equitable access.

Our nation must do more to address hunger and SNAP has a key part to play. The 2023 Farm Bill presents opportunities to make further progress. We ask you to work to strengthen SNAP and protect the program from cuts or other harmful changes.

March 15, 2023

National Organizations

4P Foods
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
ADAP Advocacy Association
ADvancing States
AFL-CIO
African American Health Alliance
Alabama State Association of Cooperatives
Alamako Foundation
Alley/Jones Hospitality
Alliance to End Hunger
Ameinu
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Service Coordinators
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers
American Friends Service Committee
American Heart Association
American Humanist Association
American School Health Association
American Society on Aging
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Be Bonnie F&B
Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc.
Blue Star Families
Border Grill Restaurant Group
Bread for the World
Burke Hospitality Group
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLA Foundation)
Center for American Progress
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Chickweed, Inc.
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Defense Fund-Southern Regional Office
Children's HealthWatch
Church World Service
Citygate Network
Coalition on Human Needs
Coastal Roots Farm
Common Sense Media
Community Change Action
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces

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Congressional Hunger Center
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Covenant House International
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)
Economic Policy Institute
Educare Learning Network
Education Leaders of Color (EdLoC)
Environmental Working Group (EWG)
Equality California
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Every Mother is a Working Mother Network
Exceptional Families of the Military
Fair Food Network
Families USA
Farm to Table – New Mexico
Feeding America
First Focus
First Focus Campaign for Children
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
FoodCorps
FoodFinder
Friends Committee on National Legislation
From Now On Fund
Galit
Generations United
Girls Inc.
Global Urban Cultural Community
Global Women's Strike – US
Global Women's Strike Women of Colour
Goodwill Industries International
Grubhub
Healthy Teen Network
Hickory Farms, LLC
Hunger Free America
Hunger to Health Collaboratory
ICNA Council for Social Justice
IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)
Independent Restaurant Coalition
Instacart
International Fresh Produce Association
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement
Workers of America (UAW)
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
Islamic Relief USA
James Beard Foundation
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Sacramento Region
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Labor Committee

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Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
Justice in Aging
Kalamata's Kitchen
Keshet
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education and Policy
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
LeadingAge
Los Angeles LGBT Center
March of Dimes
Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Meals on Wheels America
MEANS Database
Medicare Rights Center
Metropolitan Hospitality Group
Migrant Legal Action Program
Military Family Advisory Network (MFAN)
MomsRising
Move For Hunger
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA)
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National African American Clergy Network
National Association for Hispanic Elderly
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association
National Community Action Partnership
National Consumer Law Center
National Council of Churches USA
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Aging
National Diaper Bank Network
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Farmers Union
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Immigration Law Center
National Low Income Housing Coalition

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National NeighborWorks Association
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)
National PTA
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National WIC Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU), AFL-CIO
Operation Homefront
Oxfam America
ParentsTogether Action
Payday Men's Network – US
PlusInc
Pour Truck, LLC
Poverty Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
Pride At Work, AFL-CIO
Protect All Children's Environment
PsychArmor Institute
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Public Health Institute
Public Health Institute's Center for Wellness and Nutrition
Rachael Ray's Yum-o! Organization
RASA
Reconstructing Judaism
Reinvestment Fund
RESULTS
Rise Against Hunger
Safer Foundation
Save the Children
Save the Children Action Network (SCAN)
School Nutrition Association
Share Our Strength
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
Society of St. Andrew
Sojourners
Souper Bowl of Caring, Inc.
Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative
SPACeS In Action
Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders (SAFSF)
Sustainable Food Policy Alliance (SFPA)
The AIDS Institute
The Arc of the United States
The Education Trust
The Episcopal Church
The Farmlink Project
The Food Trust
The Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts

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University
The Gerontological Society of America
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The Mom 100LLC
The National Domestic Violence Hotline
The Platform of Hope
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
True Chesapeake Oyster Co
True Colors United
Trust for America's Health
United States Conference of Mayors
U.S. Military Spouse Chamber of Commerce
UnidosUS
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)
United Way for Southeastern Michigan
United Way Worldwide
Universal Income Project
USAgging
Voices for Progress
Wholesome Wave
World Renew
Young Invincibles
Youth Villages
ZERO TO THREE

ⁱ Laura Wheaton and Danielle Kwon, “Effect of the Reevaluated Thrifty Food Plan and Emergency Allotments on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits and Poverty,” Urban Institute, August 2022, https://www.urban.org/research/publication/effect-reevaluated-thrifty-food-plan-and-emergency-allotmentssupplemental?utm_source=urban_newsletters&utm_campaign=UIU

ⁱⁱ See “Characteristics of U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2020,” USDA, November 2022, <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resourcefiles/Characteristics2020-Summary.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ See Patrick Canning and Brian Stacy, “The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Economy: New Estimates of the SNAP Multiplier,” USDA Economic Research Service, July 2019, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/93529/err-265.pdf?v=2789.4> (Relevant research summarized at Table 1, p.7)

^{iv} See Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba et al., “Loss of SNAP Is Associated with Food Insecurity and Poor Health in Working Families with Young Children,” HEALTH AFFAIRS 38, NO. 5 pp.765–773, 2019, <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/epdf/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.05265>

^v Alisha Coleman-Jensen, Matthew P. Rabbitt, Christian A. Gregory, and Anita Singh, USDA Economic Research Service, September 2022, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/104656/err-309.pdf?v=5832.6>

^{vi} Poonam Gupta, Julio Salas, and Elaine Waxman, “Two Years into the Pandemic, Charitable Food Remains a Key Resource for One in Six Adults,” Urban Institute, May 2022, <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/Two%20Years%20into%20the%20Pandemic%2C%20Charitable%20Food%20Remains%20a%20Key%20Resource%20for%20One%20in%20Six%20Adults.pdf>

^{vii} iiSee “Week 54 Household Pulse Survey: February 1 - February 13,” U.S. Census Bureau, February 22, 2023, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2023/demo/hhp/hhp54.html> (Based on data reported at Food Sufficiency and Food Security Table 1)