

We, the undersigned 344 national, state, and local organizations, write to urge Congress to extend the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer program permanently for all children eligible for free and reduced-price school meals in either Child Nutrition Reauthorization or the forthcoming economic recovery legislation.

During the summer months far too many children experience increased food insecurity, compromising their health and ability to thrive during summer break and beyond. The limited reach of the Summer Nutrition Programs creates the need for Summer EBT, a complementary program that has been proven to effectively combat summer hunger by providing additional resources to purchase food during the summer months. This approach has been piloted by USDA since 2011 and supported through annual appropriations funding and proposed legislation.

An [evaluation from 2016](#) which looked at the impact of \$30 or \$60 monthly benefit amounts (the American Families Plan proposes \$75 to adjust the \$60 benefit level for inflation and other approaches would provide the daily value of the free reimbursement for school meals) and distribution model (SNAP and WIC) found that participation in Summer EBT led to several positive results including:

- **Reduced food insecurity.** By providing low-income households with a \$30 or \$60 per month per child benefit, the most severe type of food insecurity (very low food security) was reduced by one-third, and food insecurity was reduced by one-fifth.
- **Improved nutrition.** Both the \$30 and \$60 monthly benefit levels led to an improvement in children's summertime nutritional intake, but children in households that received the \$60 benefit ate slightly more nutritious foods (fruits, vegetables, and whole grains) than those in the \$30 group.
- **High rates of participation.** More than 75 percent of households in the program redeemed some or all of their benefits. While both were efficient at reaching families, those who participated in the project modeled after SNAP redeemed benefits at higher rates than those who were in the project that was based on the WIC model (95 percent versus 83 percent). This is likely due to the more [limited availability](#) of WIC retailers and the simplicity of redeeming the benefit through SNAP. The approach of the American Families Plan builds upon the SNAP model, which will support greater redemption of benefits and simplify food purchases for participants and retailers.

Despite these benefits, Summer EBT has been critically underfunded since it was piloted: only 11 states and three Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) have been able to participate through the funds annually appropriated since 2011. Expanding Summer EBT nationwide and making it available every summer will ensure that children and their families have additional critical resources to support a healthy diet at home when they lose access to the free and reduced-price meals at school. It also would allow states to maintain and build on the success of Pandemic-EBT, particularly as all states have now developed the capacity and infrastructure to implement a similar program during the summer months.

Thank you for your leadership and we look forward to working with you to ensure that every child in this country receives the healthy food they need to learn and grow during the summer months.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
African American Health Alliance
Alliance for Excellent Education
Alliance to End Hunger
American Academy of Pediatrics
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Chiefs for Change
Coalition on Human Needs
Common Threads
Congressional Hunger Center
The Education Trust
Fair Food Network
Feeding America
First Focus Campaign for Children
Food Research & Action Center
FoodCorps
Friends of the Earth
Girls Inc.
National Afterschool Association
National Association of School Nurses
National Education Association
National PTA
National Recreation and Parks Association
National Urban League
National Women's Law Center
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
RESULTS
Save the Children
Save the Children Action Network (SCAN)
School Board Partners
Share Our Strength
Stand for Children
UnidosUS
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Concerned Scientists

US Conference of Mayors

Alabama

Alabama Food Bank Association

Alaska

Food Bank of Alaska

Arizona

Arizona Center for Economic Progress

Arizona Food Bank Network

GARDEN, Inc..

Pivot Produce

Torah Day School of Phoenix

Arkansas

AR Hunger Relief Alliance

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

California

Abrazar Inc

Alameda County Community Food Bank

ATCAA Food Bank – Tuolumne County

Alum Rock Union Elementary School District

California Association of Food Banks

Californians for Disability Rights Inc.

CAP OC/Orange County Food Bank

Central California Food Bank

Ceres Community Project

City of San Jose

Community Action Agency of Butte County – North State Food Bank

Community Action of Napa Valley Food Bank

Community Action Partnership of Kern

Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County

Community Food Bank of San Benito County

County of Santa Clara Social Services

CRLA Foundation

Dignity Health Connected Living

Emergency Food Bank

Feeding America Riverside San Bernardino Counties

Feeding San Diego

FIND - Food In Need of Distribution

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County

Food Bank of El Dorado County
Food Bank for Monterey County
FOOD Share of Ventura County
FoodLink for Tulare County
Food for People
Foodbank of Santa Barbara
GLIDE
Healthier kids Foundation
Hunger Advocacy Network
Imperial Valley Food Bank
Interfaith Council of Amador
The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Kings Community Action Organization
Larkin Street Youth Services
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
Mendocino Food & Nutrition Program
Merced County Food Bank
Morgan Hill Unified School District
Nourish California
Orange County Food Bank
Placer Food Bank
Redwood Empire Food Bank
Resource Connection Food Bank
Roots of Change
Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services
San Diego Food Bank
San Diego Hunger Coalition
San Francisco-Marin Food Bank
Santa Clara County, Social Services Agency -DEBS
Second Harvest of the Greater Valley
Second Harvest Food Bank Orange County
Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley
Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits
Slow Food California
Stanford University
The Gubbio Project
The Women's Building
unBox
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Westside Food Bank

Yolo Food Bank
Yuba-Sutter Food Bank

Colorado

Feeding Colorado
Hunger Free Colorado

Connecticut

Connecticut Food Bank/Foodshare
End Hunger Connecticut!

Delaware

Food Bank of Delaware
District of Columbia
Capital Area Food Bank
D.C. Hunger Solutions
SchoolHouse Connection

Florida

Feeding Tampa Bay
Florida Impact to End Hunger
Florida Policy Institute
Second Harvest Food Bank Of Central Florida
South Florida Hunger Coalition

Georgia

Atlanta Community Food Bank
Georgia Food Bank Association

Hawaii

DOE Hawaii Child Nutrition Programs
Hawaii Appleseed
Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!

Idaho

Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force

Illinois

Arab American Family Services
Community Food Basket of Ottawa
FISH of Galesburg
Healthy Schools Campaign
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Illinois Hunger Coalition

ILLINOIS VALLEY FOOD PANTRY
Indo American Center
Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry
Northern Illinois Food Bank
Respond Now
The Greater Chicago Food Depository
United African Organization

Indiana

AAUW Indianapolis
Boys & Girls Clubs in Indiana, Inc.
Citizens Action Coalition of IN
Community Harvest Food Bank of NE IN, Inc.
Covering Kids & Families of Indiana
Exodus Refugee Immigration, Inc.
Feeding Indiana's Hungry
Food Bank of Northern Indiana
Food Finders Food Bank
Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank
Indiana Afterschool Network
Indiana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
Indiana Catholic Conference
Indiana Community Action Association, Inc.
Indiana Institute for Working Families
Indiana Public Health Association
Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council (INSILC)
Indy Hunger Network
Marion County WIC
MCCOY (Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc.)
Meals on Wheels of Central Indiana
Open Doors of Washington Twp.
Saint Vincent de Paul - Indianapolis Council
Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana
The Arc of Indiana
Tri-State Food Bank
United Northeast Community Development Corporation
Washington Township Parent Council Network

Iowa

Mount Pleasant Home
River Bend Food Bank

Kansas

Harvesters--The Community Food Network

Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice

Kentucky

Advocacy Action Network
Feeding Kentucky
Kentucky Center for Economic Policy
Kentucky Equal Justice Center
Kentucky Voices for Health
Kentucky Youth Advocates

Louisiana

Education Trust Louisiana
Feeding Louisiana
Greater Mount Carmel Baptist Church of Scotlandville
Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans
Louisiana Budget Project
New Schools for New Orleans
South Louisiana Coalition for Education
Urban League of Louisiana

Maine

Cumberland County Food Security Council
Falmouth Public Schools Food Service
FoodCorps - Maine
Full Plates Full Potential
Good Shepherd Food Bank
Healthy Communities of the Capital Area
Maine Farm to Institution
Maine Farm to School Network
Maine Principals' Association
Preble Street Maine Hunger Initiative
RSU 2

Maryland

BALTIMORE HUNGER PROJECT
Maryland Hunger Solutions
Maryland Out of School Time Network
Montgomery County Maryland Community Action Board
Prince George's County Food Equity Council
Public Justice Center
Qiydaar Academy, Inc.
Student Support Network
Suitland Elementary

Massachusetts

AIDS Project Worcester
DOVE (DOMestic Violence Ended), Inc.
Groundwork Lawrence
JF&CS Greater Boston
Mass Law Reform Institute
Project Bread-The Walk for Hunger
Quinsigamond Village Community Center
Somerville Food Security Coalition
The Open Door
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
The Greater Boston Food Bank
Veterans Legal Services
Woburn Public Schools
Worcester County Food Bank, Inc.
Yes We Care, Inc.

Michigan

Center for Civil Justice
Food Gatherers
Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities
United Way for Southeastern Michigan

Minnesota

Hunger Solutions Minnesota
Second Harvest Heartland
West Central Initiative

Missouri

Harvesters--The Community Food Network (MO)
Jewish Family Services of Greater Kansas City
Marillac Indigent Care Fund
Operation Food Search
Ozarks Food Harvest
St. Louis Area Foodbank

Montana

Montana Food Bank Network

Nebraska

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest
No More Empty Pots

Nevada

Food Bank of Northern Nevada

New Hampshire

NH Hunger Solutions

New Jersey

Abundant Life Community Develop Corp

Hunger Free New Jersey

New Mexico

New Mexico Appleseed

YouthWorks, Inc of Santa Fe

New York

A Single Bite

Bronx Impact Food Access Collective

Bushwick Food Cooperative

City Harvest

Coalition for Healthy School Food

Cuba Cultural Center, Inc.

Edible Schoolyard NYC

Equity Advocates

Family Enrichment Network

Food Bank of Central New York

Food Bank of the Southern Tier

Hunger Free America

Hunger Solutions New York

Montour Falls Memorial Library

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group

Phipps Neighborhoods

SCAN-Harbor, Inc.

Seeds in the Middle Inc.

United Neighborhood Houses of New York

North Carolina

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association

Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy

MANNA FoodBank

North Carolina Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

North Carolina Alliance for Health

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina

The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina

Ohio

Children's Hunger Alliance
Freestore Foodbank
Local Matters
Ohio Association of Foodbanks
The Center for Community Solutions
YMCA of Central Ohio

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma

Oregon

Oregon Alliance of YMCAs
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Pittsburgh Food Policy Council

South Carolina

Harvest Hope Food Bank
Legacy Early College
SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center

South Dakota

Feeding South Dakota

Tennessee

Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee
Tennessee Justice Center

Texas

El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank
Every Texan
Feeding Texas
Greenwood ISD
Houston Food Bank
Southwest Foodservice Excellence, LLC

Utah

Community Action Partnership of Utah
Community Action Services and Food Bank

Crossroads Urban Center
Family Connection Center dba Open Doors Social Services
Housing Connect
Tri Star Kennel Club
United Way of Salt Lake
Utah Food Bank
Utahns Against Hunger
Voices for Utah Children

Vermont

Hunger Free Vermont

Virginia

Federation of Virginia Food Banks
Virginia Hunger Solutions
Virginia Poverty Law Center

Washington

Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition
Concerned Citizens
Feeding Washington
Food Lifeline
Hunger Intervention Program (HIP)
Northwest Harvest
Sunrise Outreach Center of Yakima
The Council on Aging & Human Services
United Way of King County

West Virginia

American Friends Service Committee-West Virginia
West Virginia University - Food Justice Lab

Wisconsin

Blessings Community Food Pantry
Community Action Partnership
CORE Community Resources
CORE Food Pantry
Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin
Feeding Wisconsin
Hunger Task Force
Lakeland Pantry
Loaves & Fishes of the Fox Valley, Inc.
Menominee Food Distribution Program
Shawano Area Food Pantry and Resource Center

St. Patrick's Pantry
The Good Will Place
The Salvation Army of Manitowoc
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice