



Take Action: Congress Must Support Critical Child Nutrition Bills

As millions of children and families recover from the health, educational, and economic impacts of the pandemic, there has never been a more important time to make significant investments in the child nutrition programs. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of the federal child nutrition programs, and a number of policy improvements that were made during COVID-19 could be implemented permanently by Congress.

We urge Members of Congress — in the upcoming Child Nutrition Reauthorization process and economic recovery legislation — to cosponsor and continue to lift up the following bills to strengthen and expand programs.

Early Childhood

S. 1270 — Access to Healthy Foods for Young Children Act of 2021, introduced by Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA). Check out FRAC's [factsheet](#) and the Senate [cosponsors](#). The bill would strengthen and expand the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) by

- allowing another meal or snack for children in a full day of care;
- creating consistency across programs by allowing annual eligibility for proprietary child care centers;
- increasing reimbursement rates for providers and sponsors;
- improving area eligibility; and
- eliminating overly burdensome and outdated paperwork.

S. 853 / H.R. 2011 — Wise Investment in Children Act (WIC Act), introduced by Sens. Bob Casey (D-PA) and Susan Collins (R-ME) and Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Linda T. Sánchez (D-CA), Jenniffer González-Cólon (R-PR), Kim Schrier, M.D. (D-WA), and Don Young (R-AK). Check out cosponsors in the [Senate](#) and [House](#). The bill would:

- extend the WIC certification period to two years;
- extend program eligibility for children from 5 years old until their sixth birthday; and
- extend postpartum eligibility to two years for all mothers.

School-Based

S. 1530 / H.R. 3115 — Universal School Meals Program Act of 2021, introduced by Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Reps. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) and Gwen Moore (D-WI). Check out FRAC's [factsheet](#) and cosponsors in the [Senate](#) and [House](#). The bill would

- provide school breakfast and lunch to all children at no charge;
- increase school breakfast and school lunch reimbursements rates to match the recommended rates of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study (April 2019);
- provide free afterschool and summer meals and snacks to all children;
- expand Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) to all low-income children;
- provide up to three meals a day and a snack at no charge to children in child care; and
- provide a \$0.30 reimbursement for schools that procure local foods.

S. 1590 / H.R. 3997 — CARE for Kids Act of 2021, introduced by Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) and Reps. Jahana Hayes (D-CT) and Don Bacon (R-NE). Check out FRAC's [factsheet](#) and cosponsors in the [Senate](#) and [House](#). The bill would allow automatic eligibility for free school meals for the following groups of children:

- children being raised by a relative who receives adoption or guardianship assistance;
- children being raised by grandparents or other relatives due to placement by a state or tribal child welfare agency;
- children living in “grandfamily” housing or receiving housing assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996; and
- children who are automatically eligible for Medicaid, such as children formerly in foster care or children with a disability.

Additionally, the bill extends children’s eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals into the school year immediately following placement with a grandparent or other relative.

Out-of-School Time

S. 1831 / H.R. 3519 — The Stop Child Hunger Act of 2021, introduced by Reps. Mike Levin (D-CA) and Jahana Hayes (D-CT) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA). Check out FRAC's [factsheet](#) and cosponsors in the [Senate](#) and [House](#). The bill would

- provide low-income families with children an EBT card to purchase food when schools close for five days or more, during the summer, school breaks, and unanticipated school closures (such as in response to a pandemic or a natural disaster).

S. 1170 / H.R. 783 — Summer Meals Act of 2021, introduced by Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Reps. Don Young (R-AK) and Rick Larsen (D-WA). Check out FRAC's [factsheet](#) and cosponsors in the [Senate](#) and [House](#). The bill would

- improve the area eligibility test by lowering it from 50 percent to 40 percent to allow more low-income communities to provide summer meals;
- allow nonprofit and local government agencies to provide meals year-round seamlessly through the Summer Food Service Program;
- allow all sites to serve three meals; and
- provide grant funding to support efforts to reach underserved areas.

Find more information about the bills at frac.org/action/bills-we-are-supporting and about Child Nutrition Reauthorization and FRAC’s priorities at frac.org/action/child-nutrition-reauthorization-cnr.