



## **H.R. 6201 – Families First Coronavirus Response Act Top-Line Summary of Nutrition Provisions**

On March 18, [H.R. 6201 – Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#), became Public Law Number 116-127. The bill contains important provisions to give families and children some critically important resources to help put food on the table and stay safe during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) emergency. The bill also provides paid leave to many workers, boosts unemployment insurance, and establishes free testing for COVID-19, among other provisions. This is a promising first step toward ensuring that low-income and vulnerable people are not disproportionately impacted by this public health and economic crisis.

Below is a summary of the nutrition provisions of the bill.

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

- Allows states to **request waivers** from USDA to provide temporary, emergency SNAP benefits to SNAP households up to the maximum monthly benefit amount
- **Suspends time limits on SNAP eligibility** for unemployed and underemployed individuals
- Gives USDA authority to **adjust SNAP issuance methods and application and reporting requirements**
- Requires USDA to make publicly available online any state requests for waivers, the USDA's approval or denial of the requests, and any USDA guidance on state flexibilities

### **School Meals and Out-of-School Time Programs**

- Gives USDA authority to approve state plans to provide an **electronic benefits transfer (EBT) card** to purchase food to households with children receiving **free or reduced-price school meals** in the event of **school closures**
- Gives USDA authority to issue **nationwide child nutrition waivers** to ensure access to meals through the child nutrition programs as communities respond to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Gives USDA authority to issue **waivers for state plans that increase costs** to the federal government
- Gives USDA authority to **waive school meal pattern requirements** for the child nutrition programs in response to a disruption to the food supply as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

### **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**

- Gives USDA authority to issue **nationwide child nutrition CACFP waivers** in order to eliminate paperwork for states and help child care, afterschool programs, and community organizations quickly adopt and implement flexibilities during this crisis
- Gives USDA authority to grant waivers to **allow CACFP to operate as non-congregate sites** by: offering meals off-site, via "grab and go," and delivered
- Gives USDA authority to provide waivers to **adapt meal pattern requirements** in response to a disruption to the food supply as a result of COVID-19

## **The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC)**

- **Increases WIC funding by \$500 million** to provide access to nutritious foods to low-income pregnant women or mothers with young children
- Allows waivers for WIC to **certify participants without being physically present** at the WIC clinic
- Expands USDA's authority to **waive administrative requirements that are barriers** to serving WIC participants during the coronavirus outbreak, including relaxing stocking requirements

## **Older Adult Nutrition Programs**

- Provides **\$250 million for increases in meals** provided by certain senior nutrition programs administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living (ACL), with the following breakdown: \$160 million for Home-Delivered Nutrition Services, \$80 million for Congregate Nutrition Services, and \$10 million for Nutrition Services for Native Americans

## **Commodities and Emergency Food**

- Provides an **additional \$400 million for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)** to help food banks meet the increased demand for food during the emergency. Of the \$400 million, \$300 million is for the purchase of foods and \$100 million is to support the storage and distribution of the foods

## **Nutrition Assistance for U.S. Territories**

- Provides **\$100 million** for USDA to provide nutrition assistance grants to **Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency

Check out FRAC's [COVID 19 Updates](#) page for up-to-date information on legislation, bill summaries, policies, and other important news. FRAC will continue to work with Congress, USDA, advocates, and stakeholders across the country to mitigate the effects of this crisis and ensure the health, well-being, and food security of all households.

## **Resources**

- FRAC Resources on Waiver Authority Granted in H.R. 6201
  - [Nationwide Child Nutrition Waivers](#)
  - [CACFP Update: Families First Act](#)
  - [COVID-19: WIC Flexibilities](#)
- FRAC Statements on Bill Passage:
  - [House](#)
  - [Senate](#)
- House Committee on Appropriations: [H.R. 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act Title-By-Title Summary](#)
- Congress.gov: [H.R. 6201 - Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#)
  - [Bill text](#)