

## Federal Legislative Agenda

Hunger Task Force supports funding levels for SNAP, CSFP, TEFAP, and other federal nutrition programs at allocations no less than FY 2024 and increasing access to the programs by removing barriers to enrollment and streamlining administrative processes.

### **Hunger Task Force calls for protecting and strengthening SNAP through the following measures:**

- Protecting the Thrifty Food Plan from cuts and rejecting a cost-neutral plan that prevents updates with the exception of inflation
- Restoring eligibility to all legal immigrants and ending the five-year ban for legal immigrants to have access to SNAP benefits
- Eliminating the lifetime ban on benefits for those with a past felony drug conviction
- Excluding military housing allowances from income when determining SNAP eligibility
- Removing work requirements for SNAP eligible college students
- Eliminating the three-month time limit on SNAP participation for able-bodied adults without dependents
- Ending the prohibition on the use of SNAP benefits to purchase hot prepared foods from participating food retailers
- Eliminating the SNAP “benefits cliff” when calculating gross income and total assets
- Supporting efforts to modernize EBT security features and establishing criteria for state agencies to identify SNAP benefits that are stolen through theft/skimming
- Opposing any effort to block grant SNAP
- Expanding GusNIP, which funds innovative projects to incentivize families who receive SNAP benefits to purchase fruit and vegetables

### **Hunger Task Force holds the position that the next appropriations process funds CSFP at a rate of \$325 million annually to guarantee a national caseload allocation of at least 760,000 participants. We also support the following:**

- Reauthorizing CSFP in the Farm Bill and support the establishment of a pilot program to award grants to facilitate home delivery of CSFP
- Exempting Medicare payments from the gross income calculation used to determine CSFP eligibility

### **Hunger Task Force believes we should invest in culturally relevant food and streamlined administration for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).**

Hunger Task Force supports mandatory funding for TEFAP to be more responsive to changes in need by adjusting funding levels to accommodate unemployment levels, changes in the economy and enhancing the Secretary of Agriculture’s authority to purchase bonus or emergency



commodities during community crises as well as in times of low commodity prices. We also recommend the following:

- Reauthorizing funding and increasing to \$200 million annually for discretionary funding for TEFAP storage and distribution
- Reauthorizing and increase mandatory funding for TEFAP food purchases to \$500 million annually
- Authorizing up to \$20 million to be appropriated for TEFAP infrastructure grants
- Expanding the Farm to Food Bank Projects and providing \$8 million in annual mandatory funding while evaluating and eliminating or decreasing the 50% nonfederal match
- Providing TEFAP adjustments annually based on inflation

**Hunger Task Force supports the expansion and protection of the School Breakfast Program (SBP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Summer and Afterschool Nutrition Programs, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).**

**Hunger Task Force supports the following:**

**Increasing access to Out-of-School Programs and investing in:**

- Expansion of area eligibility requirements so more communities can provide summer and afterschool meals
- Modernization of operations for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and allowing three (3) meals to be claimed under one program
- Increasing CACFP reimbursements for sponsors and providers to allow the program to be more fiscally practical
- Eliminating the two-tier system for family childcare providers in CACFP and allowing all providers to submit for reimbursement at the same rate regardless of community poverty statistics

**Hunger Task Force believes in expanding the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) by:**

- Raising the ISP multiplier from 1.6 to 2.5 to determine the percentage of meals that will be reimbursed at the free rate
- Requiring eligible schools to use Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to provide universal meals unless a written waiver is granted
- Permanently lowering the threshold for schools to participate in CEP to 25% while reducing administrative burdens by streamlining application and reimbursement processes for school and community programs
- Increasing eligibility for free meals to 200% and expanding direct certification
- Implementing statewide community eligibility options

**Hunger Task Force supports funding the WIC program at a national funding level of \$7.5 billion with annual adjustments based on projected need. We also advocate for the following:**

- Supporting the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) at a funding level of \$30 million and 100% federal coverage of administrative costs. Funding levels should be evaluated annually and adjusted based on projected need.
- Modernizing WIC EBT

**Annual Appropriations that Benefit Those in Need and Boost the National Economy**

Hunger Task Force believes that the annual appropriations process should include legislation that supports the creation of a national state-based food commodities box for all 50 states by providing waiver authority to any state able to create a commodity program to make local food purchases. In each state, a selected agency will be chosen to administer a commodity program, purchasing and distributing food from their own state to their own citizens, at no cost to recipients.

Hunger Task Force also takes the position of supporting block grants to states to be given to in-state food banks to expand operations and storage capacities at a cost of \$100 million annually.

Hunger Task Force also supports policies and programs that have a net-positive impact on the national economy, supports Tribal Nations, and increases governmental purchasing power of local agricultural products.

Hunger Task Force also supports an expanded child tax credit. With this legislation, approximately 16 million children will benefit from a partial or full child tax credit and about 400,000 children will be lifted above the poverty line, thus potentially reducing instances of childhood hunger.

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