



SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF NORTHWEST NORTH CAROLINA FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES

FARM BILL 2023: Congress Must Protect and Strengthen SNAP, TEFAP, and Other Anti-Hunger Programs

► **SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)**

We urge policymakers to strengthen SNAP's structure and funding.

- **Use the more adequate Low-Cost Food Plan** as the basis for SNAP benefit allotments.
- **Boost the SNAP minimum monthly benefit** which currently is only \$23.
- **Improve SNAP access** for low-income college students.
- **Improve equitable access** by extending SNAP to Puerto Rico and other U.S. Territories: allowing eligible households on Indian Reservations to receive both the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and SNAP; and providing authorization and funding for U.S. Territories to transition from the Nutritional Assistance Program (a block grant) to full participation in SNAP.

► **THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)**

TEFAP accounts for 38% of the product that Second Harvest Food Bank distributed in FY 2022. The Storage and Distribution reimbursement for receiving, storing, and distributing TEFAP product, covers only 24% of the actual cost to Second Harvest.

We urge policymakers to reauthorize and strengthen TEFAP's funding.

- **Reauthorize and increase to \$500 million per year mandatory funding for TEFAP food purchases, adjusted for inflation.**
- **Reauthorize and increase to \$200 million per year discretionary funding for TEFAP Storage and Distribution.**
- **Reauthorize \$15 million per year in discretionary funding for TEFAP infrastructure grants.**

► **COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP)**

CSFP provides nutritious food boxes to seniors aged 60 and above each month.

We urge policymakers to:

- **Maintain the current level of funding (\$375 million).**

CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION (CNR): Congress Must Protect and Strengthen Child Nutrition Program

► **SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (SFSP)**

We urge policymakers to expand the reach and impact of summer feeding sites.

- **Support USDA's efforts** to examine ways to streamline the application process for SFSP and CACFP.
- **Lower area eligibility requirements** to allow more communities to provide summer and afterschool meals.

CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION (CNR) CONT'D:

▶ CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP):

CACFP provides healthy meals and snacks to children in after-school and childcare programs that support parents' ability to work.

We urge policymakers to:

- Allow for reimbursement of up to two meals and two snacks, or three meals and one snack, per child per day for children in care for at least eight hours per day.

OTHER FEDERAL PRIORITIES

▶ CHILD TAX CREDIT

The expanded child tax credit, implemented to assist families affected by the immediate and ongoing impact of the pandemic, decreased the child poverty rate in North Carolina and the country.

We urge policymakers to:

- **Renew the expanded Child Tax Credit** to include families with very low or no incomes, who were previously ineligible for this benefit.

▶ CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Tax policy plays a key role in addressing persistent food insecurity. Individual and corporate giving are critical to helping food banks meet the need and maintain services.

We urge policymakers to:

- **Support universal, non-itemizer tax deductions or credits for charitable contributions.**

BENEFITS CLIFF

People face a "benefits cliff" as they secure promotions or new opportunities that raise their wages to support their families. Existing rules for many benefit programs dis-incentivize individuals from seeking improved incomes by eliminating this support, as they make strides to improve their situation for themselves and their families.

The results of the "benefits cliff" results serve to maintain generational poverty, prevent company growth (by discouraging impactful growth among workers), and suppresses economic mobility.

We urge policymakers to:

- Support changes to government support programs (such as SNAP, housing, childcare, and health insurance) that allow benefit amounts to taper off (creating a "slope" versus a "cliff") as individuals receive promotions or secure new opportunities in their careers to improve the quality of life for themselves and their families.

To learn more about Second Harvest Food Bank's federal policy priorities, please contact:

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