



## **Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina**

### **2025-2026 Federal Policy Priorities**

#### **Farm Bill 2025 Priorities: Protect & Strengthen SNAP and TEFAP**

The Farm Bill is a comprehensive piece of legislation that authorizes most federal policies governing food and agriculture programs. Approximately every five years, Congress reauthorizes the Farm Bill. This reauthorization process offers policy makers an opportunity to review programs included in the legislation and consider programmatic changes. Title IV, the “nutrition title”, authorizes several federal nutrition programs and comprises approximately 80% of the funding in the Farm Bill.

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as “food stamps”)** is the nation’s first line of defense against hunger. [In North Carolina, SNAP is known as FNS or Food & Nutrition Services.]
  - Ensure SNAP’s purchasing power aligns with rising grocery prices and provides adequate support during tough economic times.
    - With the passage of the FY25 budget, SNAP benefits will be based solely on inflation. This may not cover the costs for recipients to maintain a healthy and reasonable diet; therefore, we need to educate elected officials on the impact of the recently approved approach and encourage it to be reassessed.
      - This will decrease the need for charitable food assistance, helping to reduce the strain on food banks.
  - Simplify SNAP eligibility and enrollment for older adults, college students, veterans, working families, immigrants and other people facing challenges to accessing the program.
    - We need to educate elected officials on the impact of these changes and seek to reverse them.
      - New work requirements and taking away some exemptions under the FY25 budget has made it more difficult.
  - Improve assistance to individuals seeking employment by supporting effective state employment and training programs and ensuring people have access to SNAP benefits as they find work.

**Note:** With the changes to SNAP, more children will not be automatically eligible for free breakfast/lunch. They are still eligible; however, families who will no longer be eligible for SNAP, due to new requirements, will need to complete paperwork for the program for their children.

- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)** is the cornerstone of the emergency food assistance program and 20% of the product Second Harvest has distributed in FY2023/2024. The Storage and Distribution reimbursement for receiving, storing, and distributing TEFAP product only covers between 25% and 30% of actual Second Harvest's costs. For FY25, Second Harvest received over 8 million pounds through TEFAP.
  - Reauthorize and maximize annual mandatory funding for TEFAP food purchases, adjusted for inflation.
  - Reauthorize and increase discretionary funding for TEFAP Storage and Distribution.
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) provides nutritious food boxes to seniors aged 60 and above each month.
  - Maintain current level of funding.

## **SNAP-Ed Funding**

- Restore funding for the Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Program (SNAP-Ed). SNAP-Ed is a proven, cost-effective program that delivers evidence-based nutrition education and obesity prevention interventions to individuals and families eligible for SNAP.

## **Bills Investing in Local Farmers to Support Our Mission**

- H.R. 4782, Local Farmers Feeding Our Communities Act
- S.2338, Strengthening Local Food Security Act of 2025
  - Both are LFPA funding bills.

## **Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR): Protect and strengthen child nutrition programs by improving program access, ensuring nutrition quality, and streamlining program administration and operation**

The Child Nutrition Reauthorization is the process used to update child nutrition programs, including the School Breakfast Program (SBP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), summer and afterschool nutrition programs, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). CNR generally occurs every 5 years, but Congress has not passed a CNR since 2010 – leaving programs without significant improvements.

- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally funded, state-administered program that was established to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. When school is out, SFSP provides free meals to kids and teens in low-income areas.
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides healthy meals and snacks that support good nutrition, helps children fully develop, and prepares them to be ready to learn at school. CACFP also provides high-quality, affordable childcare that supports parents' ability to work.
  - SFSP and CACFP both feed children but have separate rules, paperwork, and funding. Streamlining into a single, year-round program would reduce red tape and ensure consistent, nutritious meals.

## **Child Tax Credit**

Continue to monitor legislation around this issue.

- In the FY25 budget, the maximum refundable amount was increased to \$2200 per child for Tax Year 2025 and it indexes for inflation after 2025.

## **Tracking & Assessing Impact of Presidential Executive Orders**

- Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking (E.O. 14332)
- Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders (E.O. 14218)
- Possible Executive Order directing the IRS to revoke the tax-exempt status of nonprofits and other tax-exempt entities that operate missions that are inconsistent with priorities of the current Administration.

## **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 are making strides to improve their situation for themselves and their families. The result maintains generational poverty, prevents company growth by discouraging impactful worker’s growth, and suppressing economic mobility.

- 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.