



April 1, 2020

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Acts**  
**Summary of Nutrition-Related Provisions**

Families First Coronavirus Responses Act, H.R. 6201, P.L. 116-127, 3/18/20

**Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC):**

- \$500 million in emergency funding. Available until September 30, 2021

**The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)**

- \$400 million increase in funds; \$100 million of which could be used for costs related to the distribution of goods. Available until September 30, 2021.
- Allows the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to purchase commodities in any area of the US during a Coronavirus related public health emergency.

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

- Benefits for Kids: Would provide more funding on Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card (i.e. SNAP) to replace the cost of school meals while schools are closed during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
  - If a school is closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a public health emergency, states could adjust SNAP to provide additional aid to households with children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Additional benefits would have to be, at a minimum, equal to the value of the meals at the free rate over the course of 5 school days for each eligible child in the household.
- SNAP Waivers:
  - USDA may approve waivers for SNAP certification periods (current certification periods: 12 months for most households, 24 months for elderly/disabled households) and approve waivers of standard reporting requirements (e.g. income verification, work verification, etc.).
  - Automatically waives Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependent Time-Limit nationally (i.e. 3 months on SNAP in a 36-month period) going into effect after the bill is enacted and in place until the COVID-19 emergency declaration is lifted by HHS.
  - Allows States to apply to the USDA for temporary emergency increases in monthly SNAP benefits including emergency CR-SNAP benefits)
  - Allows States to apply for flexibility in methods of benefit issuance, SNAP applications, reporting requirements to account for actual conditions in affected areas.
- \$100 million in grants would be provided to Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa for nutrition assistance.

**National School Lunch Program:**

- **Waivers:** Provides the Secretary of Agriculture authority to issue nationwide school meal waivers during the COVID-19 emergency, which would eliminate paperwork for States and help more schools quickly adopt and utilize flexibilities.
  - Waives restrictions on federal allowable cost increases by States and other service providers. Allows States the ability to increase programs costs that will be reimbursed by the federal government.
  - Allows USDA to waive any requirement for the purpose of providing meals and meal supplements during a school closure due to COVID-19.

**National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), School Breakfast Program, and the Summer Food Service Program:**

- **Waiver:** allows all child and adult care centers to operate as non-congregate (sites that can serve meals outside the school or in individual settings) and waive all meal pattern requirements if there is a disruption to the food supply.
  - States that utilize a waiver must submit a report to USDA that summarizes the use of the waiver and provides a description of whether the waiver improved services to children.

**Nutrition Programs for Older Americans & Native Americans:** (funds available until September 30, 2021.)

- Provides \$160 million for home-delivered meals.
- Provides \$80 million for congregate meals.
- Provides \$10 million for nutrition services for Native Americans.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), H.R. 748 , P.L. 116-136, 3/27/20

Nutrition Appropriations Summary: USDA Food and Nutrition Service Total Appropriations: \$25.06 billion

**Child Nutrition Programs: \$8.8 billion**

- The bill provides additional funding for food purchases and demonstration projects to increase flexibility for schools.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): \$15.51 billion**

- The bill provides additional funding for SNAP to cover waiver authorities granted in H.R. 6201 and anticipated increases in participation as a result of coronavirus.

**Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR): \$100 million**

- The bill provides additional funding for low-income households living on Indian reservations and participating Indian Tribal Organizations.

**Nutrition Assistance for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa: \$200 million**

- The bill provides additional funding for U.S. territories that cannot access SNAP. This amount is in addition to annual block grant funding.

**The Emergency Food Assistance Program: \$450 million**

- The bill provides additional funding for commodities and distribution of emergency food assistance through community partners, including food banks.

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