

Making Food and Nutrition Security a SNAP: Recommendations for the 2023 Farm Bill

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Ensuring that all Americans have equitable access to affordable, nutritious foods is foundational to our nation's health, education, national security, and economic priorities. Typically reauthorized every five years, the farm bill is an omnibus multi-year law that governs an array of food and agricultural programs. In 2023, the nutrition title is expected to comprise 84% of total farm bill spending, mostly for the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**, the nation's largest federal nutrition program that provides EBT benefits to eligible, low-income individuals and families to purchase food at SNAP-authorized retailers. The **2023 Farm Bill** provides Congress an opportunity to improve food and nutrition security through SNAP and other federal nutrition assistance programs authorized in the farm bill.

Statistics Related to the Farm Bill and Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs

41M

Individuals participate in SNAP each month. Nearly half of participants are children, 66% are in households with children and over 33% are in households with older adults or nonelderly adults with disabilities.

\$159B

Estimated federal expenditures for SNAP in FY2022, including the re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP).

10.2%

of U.S. households (13.5 million) experienced food insecurity at some point in 2021—6.4% had low food security and 3.8% had very low food security.

Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs Authorized Under the Farm Bill:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

The Emergency Food Assistance Program

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Community Food Projects

Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

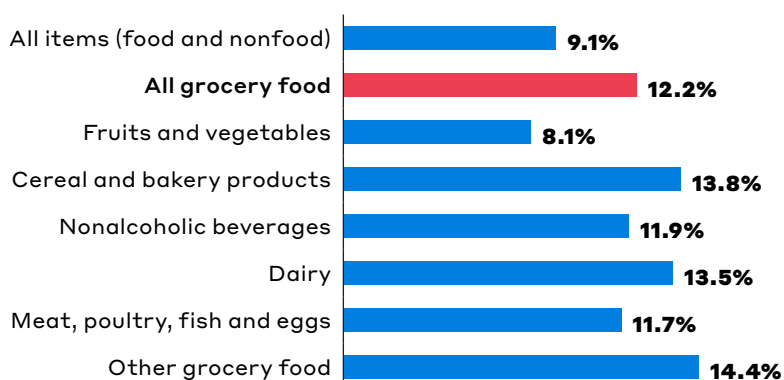
Healthy Food Financing Initiative

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

IMPACT OF INFLATION ON FOOD PRICES

Food Prices Have Risen Rapidly

Percent change, June 2021-June 2022



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

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In 2023, the **average SNAP benefit per person** is estimated to be **\$186 per month, or \$6.10 per day**, including the update to the Thrifty Food Plan and adjusted annually for inflation.

MAKING THE CASE FOR IMPROVING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN SNAP

Key Findings from BPC/Morning Consult Poll



Most current SNAP participants agree that benefits should be allowed to be used for hot, prepared foods (80%) and the purchase of **groceries online (91%)**.



A large **bipartisan majority** of current SNAP participants and adults support providing additional benefits for the purchase of healthful foods.



More than half (**58%**) of current SNAP participants say **states should be able to operate pilot programs** to improve the nutrition of SNAP participants, as does a bipartisan majority of adults.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

The Task Force makes the following policy recommendations for strengthening SNAP and other federal nutrition assistance programs authorized in the farm bill to improve food and nutrition security:

- ✓ Ensure that SNAP benefit levels are adequate to achieve a nutritious diet; that eligibility requirements and employment and training programs promote workforce participation and increased earnings without presenting undue barriers to SNAP participation; and that access to SNAP is expanded to all U.S. territories.
- ✓ Strengthen nutrition in SNAP by encouraging the consumption of nutritious foods through establishment of a fruit and vegetable cash value benefit (CVB), further expansion of and investment in the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP), stronger retailer stocking standards, improvements to the SNAP-Ed program, better data collection, and demonstration projects.
- ✓ Use data matching, online purchasing, and other technology enhancements to improve SNAP access, integrity, and operations for participants and retailers.
- ✓ Modernize the food distribution programs, including The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) to improve nutrition, program access, and program operations.
- ✓ Improve food and nutrition security for priority populations through other food and nutrition assistance programs, including the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP), Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI), Public-Private Partnerships Program, and Micro-Grants for Food Security Program.

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