

Nutrition Priorities for the 2018 Farm Bill

The undersigned organizations offer the following recommendations to address hunger while improving nutrition and health, and to increase access to affordable, nutritious food, particularly for vulnerable populations. While our organizations have specific missions and farm bill priorities, we are guided by three shared principles that shape our collective priorities. The 2018 Farm Bill must: I) protect against hunger and strengthen federal nutrition programs, especially SNAP; II) improve nutrition and health outcomes among vulnerable populations; and III) strengthen community-based initiatives that stimulate the economy and increase access to affordable, healthy food.

Promote food security, nutrition, and health by ensuring adequate resources for federal nutrition assistance programs and emergency food providers.

- Protect access to and the funding structure of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the nation's fundamental nutrition safety net program.
- Strengthen SNAP benefits to ensure that low-income individuals and families have the resources necessary to prevent hunger and afford a nutritious diet.
- Ensure an adequate supply of nutritious commodities through emergency food providers by increasing mandatory commodities provided by The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and maintaining authorized funding levels for TEFAP storage and distribution.
- Maintain authorized funding levels for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) for low-income seniors and support CSFP nationwide; and ensure an adequate supply of nutritious commodities and maintain funding for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).
- Ensure policies and funding to address food waste across the food supply chain, including the financial support necessary for food banks and other nonprofits to acquire surplus agricultural products for the free, safe, and efficient distribution to communities that addresses hunger and supports health.

Improve nutrition and health outcomes for vulnerable populations by increasing consumption of fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foods.

- Protect and support continued innovation in the SNAP Nutrition Education and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program which empower low-income Americans to make healthy choices on a limited budget and reduce the risk of chronic disease and obesity.
- Maintain current funding for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and protect the program to ensure that low-income elementary students have a fresh vegetable or fruit snack at school every day.
- Provide increased funding for successful SNAP incentive programs to increase the purchase and consumption of fruits and vegetables through SNAP retailers across the country.
- Maintain funding for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for vital research on nutrition, hunger and food security, and obesity prevention.
- Support pregnant women, infants, and young children in making healthier food choices through nutritional and dietary information specific to their unique needs.

Stimulate economic development, create jobs, and promote self-reliance in low-income urban communities, rural areas, and small towns by supporting farmers and healthy food retailers in order to reduce hunger, improve health, and improve access to nutritious and affordable food.

- Reauthorize the Healthy Food Financing Initiative which supports projects that increase access to healthy, affordable food in underserved communities.
- Sustain funding for small food retailers such as farmers markets, community food programs, and agriculture marketing development initiatives, and support increased access of incentive programs to more types of food retailers, including large grocery stores, to improve outcomes, meet demand, and maximize impact.
- Increase access to SNAP EBT technology at farmer's markets, farm stands, online grocery delivery services, and other non-traditional food retailers to improve access and increase consumption of fruits and vegetables.
- Support fruit and vegetable producers and innovations in industry to increase fruit and vegetable consumption through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program that supports research, agricultural extension activities, and programs for the specialty crop industry.

1,000 Days

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK)

Alliance to End Hunger

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Diabetes Association

American Heart Association

American Institute for Cancer Research

American Public Health Association

American School Health Association

Association of SNAP Nutrition Education Administrators (ASNNA)

Association of State Public Health Nutritionists

Boulder County Public Health

Bread for the World

California Project LEAN

Center for Law and Social Policy

Center for Science in the Public Interest

Central Appalachian Network (CAN)

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces

Consumer Federation of America

DC Greens

EAC Network, Nutrition & Food Services

Eat Smart Move More South Carolina

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Fair Food Network

Farm to Table - New Mexico

Farmers Market Coalition

Feed the Children

Feeding America

Field & Fork Network

First Focus

Food For Thought

Food Policy Action

Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Food, Nutrition and Policy Consultants, LLC
FoodCorps
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Global Food Research Program Univ. of North Carolina
Hawaii Public Health Institute
Healthy Kingsport
Healthy Schools Campaign
Hunger Free America
Idaho Farmers Market Association
Islamic Relief USA
Jefferson County (CO) Public Health
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Teachers College Columbia University
LiveWell Colorado
MANNA (Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance)
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Meals on Wheels America
Mom2Mom Global
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Farm to School Network
National Farmers Union
National Recreation and Park Association
National WIC Association
Nemours Children's Health System
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association
NJ Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Orange County Food Access Coalition
Pinnacle Prevention
Project Angel Food
Public Health Advocates

Public Health Institute
Real Food for Kids
Reinvestment Fund
RESULTS
School Nutrition Association
SHAPE America
Share Our Strength
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
Society for Public Health Education
The Food Trust
The Good Food Institute
The Joy Bus
Tri-County Health Department
Trust for America's Health
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee
UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Fresh Produce Association
University of Minnesota Extension
Utahns Against Hunger
Wholesome Wave