

# STRENGTHEN FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS, ENSURING EQUITY AND ACCESS FOR OVERLOOKED POPULATIONS

The Farm Bill is one of the most transformational pieces of legislation that Congress regularly reauthorizes. In addition to authorizing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) and other federal nutrition programs that serve tens of millions of Americans each year, the Farm Bill presents an opportunity to advance long-overdue policy solutions to help populations that face unique food security challenges — these include active-duty military families, veterans, Indigenous communities, the people of Puerto Rico and the territories, single mothers, and LGBTQ+ older adults.

Congress must approach the Farm Bill reauthorization process by reflecting on our shared values, exploring effective policy solutions, and acting with compassion and humanity toward those in need of assistance.

**Regardless of circumstance, no one deserves hunger.** Every person should be able to feed themselves and their families with dignity and choice. The federal government fulfills this moral calling and our collective responsibility to care for those among us who struggle with hunger.

The next Farm Bill must protect against hunger by strengthening SNAP and other essential federal nutrition assistance programs, remove barriers to access for struggling individuals and families, and increase access to affordable, nutritious foods for vulnerable populations to support good nutrition and health.



**“These days, I’m eating at a pretty low level, just canned goods because \$200 in food stamps is just not enough. I can’t afford fresh food. I only eat lunch and dinner and have only coffee for breakfast. When my food stamps run out, it’s kinda scary not knowing if I’m gonna have any money to eat tomorrow.”**

— Mollie, Louisiana

## The Farm Bill should:

### ✓ **Protect and Strengthen the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

Maintain the update to the Thrifty Food Plan benefit authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill and prevent the reinstatement of harmful and ineffective work restrictions for “Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents” (ABAWDs).

### ✓ **Empower Tribal Food Sovereignty and Address Food Insecurity in Indian Country**

Give tribal nations the option to self-administer SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Allow tribal eligibility for SNAP-Ed funds and allow participation in both SNAP and FDPIR at the same time. Enable more Native-produced and culturally appropriate foods to be purchased as part of FDPIR and expand the traditional foods pilot program under FDPIR.

### ✓ **Improve Equity and Food Security for the People of Puerto Rico**

Authorize a plan for the transition of Puerto Rico from the block-granted and inadequate Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) back into SNAP.

### ✓ **Promote Food Security Among Active-Duty Military Families**

Eliminate the barrier to SNAP for low-income military families by excluding the Basic Allowance for Housing as counted income.

### ✓ **Address Food Insecurity Among Veterans**

Lower the VA disability rating required for veterans for SNAP purposes. Support veteran access to affordable healthy foods and expand veterans farmers market nutrition programs through the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP). Establish a veteran food security grant program open to states, tribal nations, and territories, and formalize the establishment of the Office of Veteran Food Security at the VA.

### ✓ **Remove Barriers to SNAP for Single Mothers**

Eliminate the state option in effect in several states that requires SNAP applicants to comply with state child support authorities.

### ✓ **Improve Nutrition Support for LGBTQ+ Older Adults**

Expand SNAP access and participation for LGBTQ+ older adults through targeted outreach programs and develop innovative approaches to strengthen nutrition support for this community, including an understanding of — and response to — the needs of those aging with HIV or AIDS.

Nearly

# 34 MILLION

Americans, including 9 million children, are food insecure — that is more than the entire population of Canada



Every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates more than

# \$1.50

in economic activity that helps create jobs and boost local businesses



The average SNAP recipient receives just

# \$2.03

per meal

# MAZON

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