



April 27, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-146A The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-128 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Cc: Chairwoman Tammy Baldwin, Chairwoman Patty Murray, Senator John Hoeven, Senator Roy Blunt, Chairman Sanford D. Bishop, Congressman Andy Harris, Congressman Tom Cole

Dear Chair Leahy, Ranking Member Shelby, Chair DeLauro, and Ranking Member Granger,

The Alliance to End Hunger would like to thank Congress for its critical investments in the federal nutrition programs in the 2022 fiscal year (FY), and we urge Congress to continue this investment in FY 2023 to ensure the nutritional needs of Americans are met. The entire global community is experiencing a food crisis and Americans are not immune to the associated hardship. On-going supply chain disruptions and rising inflation and food costs have put healthy foods out of reach for many.

The Alliance to End Hunger is a diverse coalition of nearly 100 members—ranging from corporations, non-profits, faith-based organizations, universities, foundations, international organizations, and individuals—with a shared conviction that addressing hunger is essential. The Alliance to End Hunger recommends Congress take a comprehensive approach to addressing food security, recognizing the inseparable relationship between nutrition access and overall health, social well-being and future economic prosperity.

The federal nutrition programs are a crucial lifeline for the millions of families who have fallen on hard times and lack the resources to support a healthy diet. No one is feeling deficits harder than the families who have lost incomes and communities that continue to be devastated by COVID. Data collected in October 2021 indicated that between 5 and 9 million children did not eat enough because the household couldn't afford it and households of color were more than twice as likely to

lack sufficient food when compared to white households.<sup>1</sup> Charitable organizations are helping to address the unprecedented need but cannot solve the current crisis alone. Robust and accessible federal nutrition programs can ensure nutrition assistance is targeted to communities and individuals that need it most.

It is imperative that Congress allocate adequate funding to ensure uninterrupted and timely benefits are delivered to those most in need. As Congress considers its FY 2023 priorities, the Alliance to End Hunger\* strongly urges the following funding levels to alleviate hunger in America:

- **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): \$6.3 billion**

Appropriators extended the successful increase in WIC's fruit and vegetable benefits through FY 2022 and should sustain this WIC benefit bump in FY 2023. Overall funding should be inclusive of annual set-aside priorities, including \$90 million for breastfeeding peer counselors and \$14 million for infrastructure and special project grants.

- **WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP): \$30 million**

Since 1992, the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program has strengthened connections between nutrition programs and agriculture by providing WIC families with a small annual benefit to redeem at local farmers markets or farm stands (capped at \$30 per year). After years of flat funding, a small increase in fiscal year 2021 allowed new states to start WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Programs and Congress expanded that new investment in the fiscal year 2022 omnibus. Congress should continue to strengthen this program and support even more states in establishing programs through additional investment.

- **Summer Meals: \$100 million**

Allocate a minimum of \$100 million for expanded Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Demonstration Projects. This will provide families with an additional grocery benefit over the summer and ensures that children in rural and underserved areas have access to nutrition during the summer.

- **The Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Program: No less than \$1.934 billion**

We are requesting that the OAA Nutrition Program be funded at a minimum of \$1,933,506,000. The COVID-19 pandemic magnified the essential role of local senior nutrition programs, like Meals on Wheels, in addressing senior hunger and social isolation. Increased funding is necessary for community-based senior nutrition programs to continue to provide services now and reach the growing number of older adults who will require services in the coming fiscal year. This is especially critical as elevated operating, food, and gas costs.

- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): \$115 million**

To support costs associated with distributing TEFAP commodities to emergency food providers and help defray the costs of storing, transporting, and distributing TEFAP foods, Congress should appropriate the fully authorized amount of \$100 million for TEFAP

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<sup>1</sup> Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *The COVID-19 Economy's Effects on Food, Housing, and Employment Hardships*, 2022, retrieved from <https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/8-13-20pov.pdf>

Storage and Distribution Funds and \$15 million for the TEFAP Infrastructure Grants program. These funds help cover costs associated with distributing TEFAP commodities to emergency food providers and help defray the costs of storing, transporting, and distributing TEFAP foods.

- **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): \$338.64 million**

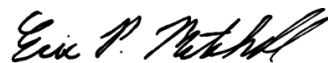
Appropriators should allocate no less than \$338.64 million and we respectfully request your consideration of providing additional funds due to increasing food costs. Over the last fiscal year, CSFP packages experienced a significant increase in cost per box and these costs are not expected to decline in FY 2023. Additional funding is needed to meet the needs of older adults who are struggling with hunger during the pandemic.

- **Maintain the effectiveness of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

Add language to protect against potential appropriations shortfalls, such as “provide such sums as are necessary to ensure continuity of SNAP operations and benefits.”

Each of the federal nutrition programs play a critical role in closing nutrition gaps and building a more equitable future for America’s children. Research is clear that children and adults who lack access to healthy nutrition are more likely to have poor educational, economic, and health outcomes. The federal nutrition safety net is an investment in the futures of families who have been hardest hit by the pandemic and Congress must ensure families are not left behind due to financial hardship and inaccessible nutrition. The Alliance to End Hunger urges Congress to commit to prioritizing the health of the nation and fund the federal nutrition programs in FY 2023 to meet the increased demand for nutrition assistance.

Respectfully,



Eric Mitchell  
Executive Director  
Alliance to End Hunger

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## ***Alliance to End Hunger Organizational Members:***

### **Corporate**

Amazon  
American Peanut Council  
Bank of America  
Cantera Partners  
Cargill, Inc.  
Corteva Agriscience  
DoorDash  
GrainPro  
HEB  
Instacart  
Nuro

### **Non-Profit**

1,000 Days  
A Place at the Table  
AARP  
Association for International Agriculture and Rural  
Development (AIARD)  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
The Breadfruit Institute  
Congressional Hunger Center  
Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA)  
Edesia  
The Farmlink Project  
Feeding America  
Food Enterprise Solutions  
Food Rescue Hero  
FoodFinder  
GIVN  
Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF)  
The Global FoodBanking Network  
Global Volunteers  
Growing Hope Globally  
Helping Hands Community  
Helping the Hungry Virtually  
The Hunger Project  
Hungry Harvest  
InterAction  
March of Dimes  
Meals on Wheels America  
MEANS Database  
Mercy Without Limits  
Move For Hunger  
National Farmers Union  
National FFA Organization

National WIC Association  
One Acre Fund  
Opportunity International  
The Outreach Program  
Penny Appeal USA  
Poetry X Hunger  
ProMedica  
RESULTS  
Rise Against Hunger  
The Root Cause Coalition  
SAHAVE  
Save the Children  
Seed Programs International  
Share Our Strength - No Kid Hungry  
Souper Bowl of Caring  
Trees for the Future  
World Food Program USA

### **Faith-Based**

Bread for the World  
Christian Connections for International Health  
Church World Service (CWS)  
Convoy of Hope  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ECLA)  
ICNA Relief  
Islamic Relief USA  
Lutheran World Relief  
MAZON - A Jewish Response to Hunger  
Partners Worldwide  
Society of St. Andrew  
World Renew

### **University**

Auburn University  
Maxwell | Syracuse University  
Walsh University

### **Foundation**

AARP Foundation  
Eleanor Crook Foundation  
Farm Journal Foundation  
GlobalWorks Foundation  
SODEXO Stop Hunger Foundation

*\*Alliance to End Hunger policy priorities are developed through consultation with the Alliance's Advocacy Committee. This letter is signed by the Alliance to End Hunger as an organization and does not necessarily reflect official views of the Alliance's individual members.*