



November 15, 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

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

As a diverse coalition of over 100 corporates, non-profit, faith based, and academic organizations and individuals committed to solving the root causes of hunger at home and abroad, the Alliance to End Hunger urges Congress to continue prioritizing food insecurity in the upcoming FY 2023 Appropriations bill so that the nutritional needs of all Americans are met.

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 impacted by COVID-19.

According to United States Department of Agriculture, in 2021, 33.8 million individuals were food insecure including 9.3 million children. Food insufficiency, tracked through U.S. Census [Household Pulse Survey data](#), measures the number of households in the last 7 days reporting they “sometimes” or “often” did not have enough to eat. The most recent data set from October 5 - October 17 reports 10 percent of households experienced food insufficiency. Further, specific populations experienced rates of food insufficiency that were higher than the general population. This was the case for households with children (12 percent), Black (non-Hispanic) (17 percent) and Hispanic (15 percent) households.

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 works to finalize 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: At least \$75 million

Allocate a minimum of \$75 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 due to elevated operating, food, and gas costs.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): \$100 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 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.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Such sums as necessary

To maintain the effectiveness of the 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 these 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 our most vulnerable families. The Alliance to End Hunger urges Congress to commit to prioritizing the health of the nation and to complete appropriations for FY 2023.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with the Appropriation Committees to pass a strong spending bill that supports the nutritional needs of households struggling to make ends meet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric P. Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Eric Mitchell, Executive Director
Alliance to End Hunger**



Alliance to End Hunger unites diverse sectors to address today's hunger and malnutrition needs and to solve the root causes of hunger at home and abroad.

Alliance to End Hunger Organizational Members

Corporate

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

Non-Profit

1,000 Days
AARP
ACDI/VOCA
A Place at the Table
ARAHA
Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development (AIARD)
Black Women's Health Imperative
The Breadfruit Institute
CEO Action for Racial Equity
Changing Narratives Aftica
Congressional Hunger Center
Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA)
Edesia
The Farmlink Project
Feeding America
Food Enterprise Solutions
Food Rescue Hero
FoodFinder
Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF)
The Global FoodBanking Network
Global Volunteers
Growing Hope Globally
The Healthy Living Coalition
Helping Hands Community
Helping the Hungry Virtually
IFANCA (Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America)
The Hunger Project
Hungry Harvest
InterAction
March of Dimes
Meals on Wheels America
MEANS Database

Meds & Food for Kids
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
Save the Children
Seed Programs International
Share Our Strength - No Kid Hungry
Souper Bowl of Caring
World Food Program USA

Faith-Based

Bread for the World
Christian Connections for International Health
Church World Service (CWS)
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
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.*