



**HUNGER SOLUTIONS**  
NEW YORK UNITING POLICIES AND  
PROGRAMS TO END HUNGER

## **Update Regarding COVID-19 & Nutrition Assistance Programs**

### **Congress Passes COVID Relief Package Including Needed Nutrition Assistance**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 passed by Congress on December 21 provides funding for needed nutrition assistance that will go a long way toward addressing the rising hunger crisis associated with the pandemic and economic downturn. While it falls short of responding to the full need in communities across New York, this bill will provide immediate relief in the following ways:

#### **SNAP Investments**

- Boosts SNAP benefits by 15 percent for six months (through June 30, 2021) for all SNAP participants.
- Excludes federal unemployment compensation (extra \$300 per month) from being counted as income or a resource for the purposes of calculating SNAP benefits and eligibility.
- Provides college students access to SNAP by waiving requirements that apply only to students and giving them access to SNAP similar to impacted workers with reduced work hours due to COVID.
- Invests \$5 million to add additional retailers to online SNAP, including farmers markets and direct to consumer sales.
- Provides administrative funds to support states to keep SNAP benefits flowing to needy households.

#### **Other Critical Nutrition Assistance Investments**

- Simplifies the ability to issue Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefits to children under six-years-old, a program offering a lifeline that fills nutrition needs when child care is closed due to COVID-19, and gives states some additional

flexibilities to support the distribution of P-EBT benefits to school-age children.

- Provides emergency funding to support the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) providers and sponsors, as well as School Nutrition Programs, by replacing 55 percent of the total reimbursement funding lost for each claiming month from April 2020 to June 2020 plus half of March 2020.
- Establishes a task force to support online delivery systems for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.
- Provides funding for Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs, including congregate and home-delivered meals, and extends waivers providing flexibility in Older Americans Act nutrition services.
- Provides additional funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

Hunger Solutions New York is deeply grateful to Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) for his leadership in these negotiations, and to the members of the New York Congressional delegation who continuously supported increased nutrition assistance relief. We are committed to working with our national partners and you to ensure that the new Congress and the next administration pass a longer-term and more robust package in the new year. This new package must include the full range of economic relief necessary to alleviate hunger and hardship for millions of families across our nation.

For more details see this [Summary of the Nutrition Provisions](#) of the bill from Feeding America, and the media statement from the [Food Research and Action Center](#).

Keep checking our [COVID-19 page](#) in the new year for more details on these provisions.

### Read full updates on our COVID-19 Webpage

Hunger Solutions New York will continue to send email updates, post updates to our website, and use Facebook and Twitter to share information. Thank you for your continued efforts to help New Yorkers with needed access to food during this time.



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