



# SHARE OUR STRENGTH PRIORITIES FOR THE 2023 FARM BILL

Protecting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

As Congress negotiates the 2023 Farm Bill, Share Our Strength is committed to protecting the value of SNAP benefits, maintaining and increasing access to SNAP and defending and expanding access to SNAP Education (SNAP-Ed).

## Protect the value of SNAP benefits

- Protect the increase in SNAP benefits resulting from the recent Thrifty Food Plan revision directed by the 2018 Farm Bill.

## Maintain and increase access to SNAP

- Preserve and expand broad-based categorical eligibility (BBCE).
- Prevent additional work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) or the elimination of state waivers.
- Expand and improve online ordering through SNAP.
- Oppose limits on eligibility through changes to the asset test.
- Improve SNAP technology to streamline administration and promote equitable access, including making permanent the COVID-19 waiver options for telephonic signatures and telephone interviews.
- Support equity for Tribal communities by allowing participation in both SNAP and FDPIR in the same month.
- Allow U.S. citizens residing in Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to fully participate in SNAP.
- Strengthen the collection and disaggregation of data.
- Support access to SNAP for military families by excluding the basic housing allowance as income and ensuring access for veterans with disabilities.
- Promote community engagement and outreach among underserved communities.
- Provide USDA with permanent authority to issue nationwide SNAP waivers in the event of future crises.

## Defend and expand access to SNAP-Ed

- Strengthen nutrition education by protecting and supporting SNAP-Ed, maintaining the current funding stream to states.
- Provide increased flexibility within the program activities, evaluation and allowable expenses that increase community engagement in SNAP-Ed.

# ABOUT THE FARM BILL & SNAP

## What is the Farm Bill?

The Farm Bill is an omnibus, multiyear law that governs an array of agricultural and food programs. It provides an opportunity for policymakers to comprehensively and periodically address agricultural and food issues. It is renewed roughly every five years and provides support for farmers, rural communities and nutrition assistance.

## What is SNAP?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is our nation's most effective nutrition program, especially for children. SNAP enables eligible households to afford nutritious food by providing monthly funds through a debit-style Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card.

## What is SNAP-Ed?

SNAP-Ed is an evidence-based grant program that provides free nutrition education and support for children, youth, and adults who receive or are eligible to receive SNAP benefits.

## What is the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)?

FDPIR, another nutrition assistance program included in the Farm Bill, provides food to income-eligible households living on or near Indian reservations. Food is purchased by the federal government and distributed to Indian Tribal Organizations or state agencies that administer the program. Households cannot participate in FDPIR and SNAP in the same month.

## What is the Thrifty Food Plan?

The Thrifty Food Plan is a meal plan used to estimate the cost of a nutritious diet at the lowest budget level. The mathematical model used to generate it is based upon current food prices, eating patterns and dietary guidance. SNAP benefit levels are based on the Thrifty Food Plan. Congress directed the USDA to update the Thrifty Food Plan in the bipartisan 2018 Farm Bill, resulting in a benefit level that better reflects today's economic conditions and food preparation practices.

## What is Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE)?

BBCE is a set of state policy options for determining SNAP eligibility, including less restrictive income thresholds and asset tests. States use this flexibility to streamline and simplify the application process and extend eligibility. BBCE reaches households that may have slightly higher gross income and assets but also have very significant expenses, like high housing or medical costs.

## What are Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs)?

ABAWDs are persons ages 18–49 years who do not have children under age 18 in their household or a physical or mental limitation that prevents them from working. They make up about 13 percent of all SNAP participants. Generally, all SNAP participants ages 16–59 who are able must participate in some form of work activity. ABAWDs must already be able to prove they meet both the general work requirements and additional ABAWD work requirements in order to receive SNAP benefits for more than 90 days in a three-year period.

## What is the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)?

GusNIP is a competitive grant program that funds projects incentivizing the purchase of fruits and vegetables with SNAP benefits or providing opportunities to implement and track the impact of produce prescriptions.