

Alliance to End Hunger Domestic Talking Points:

- Food insecurity affects 42 million people in the United States, including 13 million children and 5.6 million seniors.
- Hunger is a solvable problem and the U.S. has committed to eliminating hunger by 2030.
- It is important to safeguard federal nutrition programs to achieve this goal.
 - In particular, it is vital to protect nutrition programs from block grants, structural changes, and budget cuts.
- The Farm Bill has to be reauthorized in 2018 and is a critical part of the safety net for people affected by hunger, especially the nutrition title, including SNAP and TEFAP.
 - SNAP helps mostly vulnerable people; nearly 90% of SNAP households contain a child under age 18, a senior over age 60 or a disabled individual.
 - SNAP reduces poverty & food insecurity; 10.3 million SNAP recipients including 4.9 million children were lifted out of poverty in 2012.
 - SNAP responds to economy; as lower incomes increase, SNAP usage decreases. There were 44.2 million people on average using SNAP in FY16, as compared to the all-time high of 47.6 million in FY13.
 - SNAP stimulates the economy; stores redeem over 90% of SNAP benefits. In FY15, stores redeemed \$69.5B in SNAP benefits, compared to the total program costs of \$76B.
 - SNAP benefits are modest and vary with need. Poorer households receive larger benefits; however, the average SNAP recipient receives assistance of about \$1.39 per meal.
 - Most SNAP participants who can work, do work. SNAP rules require all recipients meet work requirements unless they are exempt because of age, disability or another specific reason. Among SNAP households that include someone who is able to work, more than 75% had a job in year before or after receiving SNAP. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has concluded, “Workers turn to SNAP to supplement low and fluctuating pay and to help them get by during spells of unemployment.”
 - SNAP is a worthwhile investment in families. A 2015 White House study finds, “A growing body of high-quality research shows that SNAP is highly effective at reducing food insecurity” which in turn has benefits that “include improvements in short-run health and academic performance as well as in long-run health, educational attainment, and economic self-sufficiency.”
 - TEFAP is critical to the charitable sector response to hunger. TEFAP provides a significant portion of the food distributed through food banks.