



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.¹ 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

¹ 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.*