



March 24, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
2308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Ranking Member Collins, Chair Granger, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As a diverse coalition of over 100 corporations, non-profits, faith-based networks, academic institutions, healthcare institutions, and individuals committed to solving the root causes of domestic and global hunger, the Alliance to End Hunger urges Congress to continue prioritizing food insecurity in the upcoming FY 2024 Appropriations bills 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 wellbeing, and future economic prosperity.

Food insecurity is one the most pressing social issues in America. According to United States Department of Agriculture, in [2021](#) 33.8 million people including 9.3 million children were food insecure at some point due to having insufficient money or other resources for food. Food insecurity rates remain the [highest](#) among single-mother households and households with incomes below the poverty line. The nation is still enduring high food price inflation—accompanied by elevated costs for other essential needs such as rent, transportation, and childcare— which continues to drive national hunger. Additionally, with the end of the Public Health Emergency, pandemic-related food and nutrition provisions that provided a buffer for food insecurity will no longer be in place. Although unemployment rates have declined significantly since early COVID-19 pandemic days, and wages have increased for many, wage growth has not mirrored rapidly rising inflation.

Adequate funding investments are needed to continue modernizing nutrition programs so that they better serve and reach eligible individuals, encourage adequate nutrition and advance equity. We commend the Biden Administration for creating a FY 2024 budget that undergirds the goals of the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health and aims to improve health outcomes and reduce diet-related disease among low-income children and adults in our nation. Congress has the opportunity to continue to ensure a strong nutrition safety net for communities and individuals that are most in need. It is imperative

that Congress allocates sufficient funding so that every American household has a consistent and dependable access to nutritious foods.

As Congress works to finalize its FY 2024 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): \$6.35 Billion**

Congress has long honored a bipartisan commitment to fund WIC at a level to serve projected caseload. In 2024, 6.5 million individuals are expected to participate in WIC, a program that is critical to the health and wellbeing of pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and young children. This is a program that supports low-income families and helps families put nutritious foods on the table, while addressing racial disparities in maternal and child health outcomes and economic prosperity. We are requesting WIC to be funded at \$6.35 billion, higher than fiscal year 2023 appropriated levels, to account for the funding pressures of increased caseload, rising food prices, and infant formula shortages. We also urge Congress to sustain this increased issuance of fruits and vegetables to improve nutrition outcomes for WIC's population. In addition to ongoing set-aside priorities for breastfeeding and infrastructure, we are requesting \$50 million in new set-aside funding for WIC Management Information Systems, which will support State WIC agencies in implementing updated food packages and integrating innovative new features—including online shopping and telehealth platforms—into WIC's complex computer infrastructure.

### **WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP): \$30 Million**

Although a separate program and funding line, the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is a critical partner that connects WIC families with their local farm economy, providing a benefit of no more than \$30 per year to redeem at a farmers market or farm stand. We applaud the recent expansions of FMNP funding, which allowed new States to establish FMNP programs for the first time. Congress should continue modest expansions to allow more WIC families, counties, and farmers markets to realize the benefits of participating in FMNP. We are requesting total funding for FMNP to be \$30 million.

### **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Storage, Distribution & Infrastructure: \$115 Million**

TEFAP is a federal program that supports food banks, food pantries, and other emergency feeding organizations with supplementing the diets of low-income individuals through a variety of USDA-purchased commodities. TEFAP administrative funds are used to provide grants to states to support the storage and distribution costs associated with distributing TEFAP commodities. We urge Congress to fully fund TEFAP Storage and Distribution at \$100 million in order to provide the operational resources necessary in this time of critical need for food bank services. Additionally, we request the TEFAP Infrastructure Grants program be funded at \$15 million.

### **The Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Program: \$1.284 Billion**

OAA [supports](#) nutrition services for older individuals throughout the country that reduces hunger and nutrition insecurity, promote socialization, advance health and well-being, and impede adverse health conditions. We are requesting that the OAA Nutrition Program be funded at a minimum of

\$1.284 billion. Local senior nutrition programs, like Meals on Wheels, are essential to addressing senior hunger and social isolation. Increased funding is necessary for community-based senior nutrition programs to maintain their current level of and meet the growing need for services in the coming fiscal year. This is especially critical due to elevated operating, food, and gas costs. The OAA Nutrition Program has a long history of bicameral, bipartisan support and is one of the best examples of a public-private partnership, leveraging multiple funding sources and volunteers to operate.

**Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): \$390 Million**

CSFP supplements the diets of low-income persons at least 60 years of age with nutritious USDA commodity foods that are distributed by local food banks or local sponsors. CSFP serves [619,000 seniors](#) with incomes at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Line and helps vulnerable seniors choose between food and other basic needs. It is a critical nutrition program that delivers up [to 736,110 food packages](#) each month to seniors with an income at or below \$16,744. We strongly urge Congress to provide sufficient funding to maintain the current caseload for the program at no less than \$390 million for FY 2024, providing a much-needed nutritional lifeline to many seniors in our communities.

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

To maintain the reach and 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 plays a paramount role in closing nutrition gaps by making sure every American has consistent and equitable access to healthy and affordable foods that promote optimal health and wellbeing. Efforts to improve nutrition security impact health equity as they address one of the root causes of diet-related chronic diseases for historically underserved populations. Poor nutrition has a negative impact on our nation’s economy as it leads to [85% of domestic health care spending](#).

The Alliance to End Hunger urges Congress to commit to prioritizing the health of the nation and secure robust funding for federal nutrition programs. 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,



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

*The 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. 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.*

### **Alliance to End Hunger Organizational Members**

#### **Corporate**

Amazon  
American Peanut Council  
Bank of America  
Cantera Partners  
Cargill, Inc.  
Corteva Agriscience  
DoorDash  
GrainPro  
Grubhub  
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 Africa  
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  
SODEXO Stop Hunger Foundation