

Federal Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Legislation

What's on the horizon



Louisiana Budget Project

Jan. 11, 2022

The current situation

1 in 7

Louisiana households reported they
sometimes or often did not have enough to eat in 2020

1 in 5

Louisiana households *with children* reported they sometimes or often did not have enough to eat in 2020

1 in 8

Louisiana households *with children* reported they sometimes or often did not have enough to eat in the first two weeks of January, 2022

Opportunities on the horizon

Child Nutrition Reauthorization

Covers most major child feeding programs

Overdue for renewal

- **Last renewed in 2010; expired 2015**

- **School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program**
- **Child and Adult Care Food Program**
- **Summer Food Service Program**

- **WIC (and WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program)**
- **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program**
- **Special Milk Program**

Key themes:

- **Increase access**
- **Streamline administration**
- **Build on successes of P-EBT**

Early Childhood

H.R.5919 – Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act of 2021

- **Allows additional CACFP meal service (typically: snack or supper for kids in a full day of childcare**
- **Improves cost of living adjustment for childcare home reimbursements**
- **Allows annual (rather than monthly) eligibility for for-profit childcare centers**
- **Streamlines paperwork**

S.1270 – Access to Healthy Foods for Young Children Act of 2021

- Allows another meal or snack for kids in a full day of care
- Allows annual eligibility for for-profit child care centers
- Increases reimbursement rates for providers and sponsors
- Improves area eligibility
- Eliminates overly burdensome and outdated paperwork.

S.853 / H.R.2011 – Wise Investment in Children Act (WIC Act)

- Extends the WIC certification period to two years.
- Extends program eligibility for children from 5 years until their sixth birthday.
- Extends postpartum eligibility to two years for all mothers.

School Based

S. 1530 / H.R. 3115 – Universal School Meals Program Act of 2021

- Provides free school breakfast and lunch to all children
- Increases school breakfast and school lunch reimbursements rates to match recommended rates from USDA School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study (April 2019)
- Provides free afterschool and summer meals and snacks to all children

S. 1530 / H.R. 3115 – Universal School Meals Program Act of 2021 (cont'd.)

- Expands Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) to all low-income children
- Provides up to three meals a day and a snack at no charge to children in child care
- Provides a 30-cent reimbursement for schools that procure local foods

Out-of-School Time

H.R. 6357—Afterschool Meals Act of 2022

- Allows schools to provide afterschool meals through NSLP to include *meals* that meet federal nutrition standards. Currently, schools can only provide afterschool *snacks* through NSLP and must operate the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to serve afterschool meals.
- Prioritizes already existing Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) afterschool meal programs.

S. 1831 / H.R. 3519 – The Stop Child Hunger Act of 2021

- Builds on P-EBT by:
 - Providing Summer-EBT
 - Providing EBT benefits for school breaks and closures
 - Providing grant funds for upgrading data systems

S. 1170 / H.R. 783 – Summer Meals Act of 2021

- **Lowers area eligibility from 50 percent to 40 percent**
- **Allows nonprofit and local government agencies to provide meals year-round through SFSP**
- **Allows all sites to serve three meals**
- **Provides grant funding to support efforts to reach underserved areas**

Farm Bill

Due for renewal in 2023; hearings are beginning now.

Key themes:

- **Remove barriers to access**
- **Make benefits more adequate**

- **SNAP** (Food Stamps)
- **TEFAP** (The Emergency Food Program)
- **FDIPR** (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations)
- **CSFP** (Commodity Supplemental Food Program)

H.R.2837 – Making Essentials Available and Lawful (MEAL) Act of 2021

- **Removes SNAP drug felony ban**
- **Allows SNAP applications for returning citizens prior to release**

S.2192 / H.R.4077 – Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2021

- **Increases baseline SNAP benefits by ~30%**
- **Permanently authorizes standard medical deduction at a minimum of \$140 for seniors and disabled individuals applying for SNAP benefits**
- **Eliminates shelter deduction cap**
- **Eliminates benefit time limits**

H.R. 1753 – Improving Access to Nutrition Act

- **Eliminates SNAP's 3-month time limit to ensure that all people have access to nutrition assistance while seeking full-time work**

S. 2515 / H.R. 1919 – Enhanced Access To SNAP Act (Eats Act) of 2021

- **Ends policies that exclude low-income college students from SNAP**

S. 1809/H.R. 3822 – ASSET Act

- **Eliminates asset limits on SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
- **Raises the asset limits on the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program**

Build Back Better

- **Summer EBT benefits**
- **Expanded Community Eligibility in NSLP**
 - **Statewide CEP option**
 - **ISP threshold lowered to 25% (from 40%)**
 - **Multiplier increased to 2.5 (from 1.6)**

- **\$30 million for school kitchen equipment grants**
- **\$250 million for Healthy School Meal Incentives demo project**

Potential threats

Watch out for legislation that could

- **Increase barriers to access**
- **Impose new paperwork hurdles**
- **Limit state options**

You have a role to play!
Ask your representatives to
co-sponsor the bills you care about.

**For more information, visit
www.frac.org**



Louisiana Budget Project

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The Louisiana Budget Project (LBP) monitors and reports on public policy and how it affects Louisiana's low- to moderate-income families. We believe that the lives of Louisianans can be improved through profound change in public policy, brought about by: creating a deeper understanding of the state budget and budget-related issues, looking at the big picture of how the budget impacts Louisiana residents, encouraging Louisianans to be vocal about issues that are important to them, and providing insight and leadership to drive the policy debate.

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