

Federal & State Nutrition Assistance During COVID



Families First Coronavirus Response Act

- SNAP:
 - Suspend ABAWD three-month time limit
 - Establishes SNAP Emergency Allotments
 - Allows state waivers for SNAP flexibilities
- Child Nutrition:
 - Establishes Pandemic EBT
 - USDA authority to issue waivers to child nutrition programs
 - \$500M emergency WIC funding; flexibility for remote visits
- Senior Nutrition Programs
 - \$250M for home delivered and congregant meal programs
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
 - \$300M for food and \$100M for storage/distribution



Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)

- SNAP & Child Nutrition
 - Additional \$15.5B (SNAP) and \$8.8B (CN) for increased caseload and emergency benefits
- Senior Nutrition
 - \$500 for meal program services and relaxed guidelines
- TEFAP
 - \$300M for food/\$150M for storage/distribution

Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection, and Schools Act (HEALS Act)

No new funding for nutrition programs

Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES Act)

This bill, or its subsequent version (HEROES 2.0), was not enacted into law. Portions of it were folded into other relief packages.

Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 (HR 8337)

- SNAP
 - Extension option for state-based waivers
- Child Nutrition
 - USDA authority to extend waivers
 - Extends P-EBT for 20-21 school year and to younger children
 - Supports summer EBT projects

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (HR 133)

- SNAP
 - 15% temporary (6-month) increase in SNAP benefits
 - Expands access to SNAP for college students
 - \$5M to support expansion of SNAP online purchasing
- Child Nutrition Programs
 - Clarifies P-EBT extension for children under 6
 - Provides emergency funding for school and childcare meal programs
 - WIC taskforce to explore new technology
- Senior Nutrition Programs (\$175M)
- TEFAP (\$400M)

COVID Economic Relief Executive Order

- SNAP
 - Tasks USDA with reviewing Thrifty Food Plan formula, and to review authority to provide lowest income households with emergency allotment
- Child Nutrition
 - P-EBT 15% increase

American Rescue Plan Act

- SNAP
 - Extends SNAP 15% boost through end of September
 - \$25M to support expansion of SNAP online purchasing
- Child Nutrition Programs
 - Extends P-EBT for summer 2021 and future public health emergencies
 - WIC: \$800M including additional \$35/month for fresh produce
- Senior Nutrition Programs
 - \$750M

Key State Actions

Nourish New York

- Funding to provide surplus agricultural products to NYS food banks for distribution
- \$35M to date
- Proposed for permanency in NYS budget

P-EBT

- Round 1: \$1B to 2.4M children; Round 2: Spring 2021

SNAP

- Enrollment up ~5%; Benefit value up 30%



Child Nutrition Waivers

School meals and out-of-schooltime meals

- Free meals for all kids during the 2020-21 school year
- Key waivers extended through September 30, 2021:
 - Area eligibility – sites can now operate in all areas
 - Grab-and-go or delivered meals

WIC

- Physical presence waiver & remote benefit issuance

SNAP Waivers

- Statewide waiver of ABAWD time limits
- Optional waivers for local agencies:
 - Flexibility in application/recertification interviews
 - Expedited processing
 - Extensions on recertifications

Learn more: HungerSolutionsNY.org/COVID-19



Looking Ahead: Federal Opportunities

- Permanently boost SNAP benefits and expand eligibility
- Extend emergency cost reimbursement for schools and child care
- Make the most of Child Nutrition Reauthorization, including:
 - Free school meals for all
 - Expanded access to out-of-school-time meals
 - Summer EBT
 - WIC to 6

Looking Ahead: State Opportunities

- Implement cross-program outreach, eligibility determination and enrollment for means-tested programs, including SNAP, WIC, TANF, and Medicaid
- Streamline participation in child nutrition programs for schools and CBOs
- Make Nourish New York permanent

See HSNY [Public Policy Priorities](#) for more information



Looking Ahead: Local Opportunities

Encourage schools and CBOs to maximize child nutrition programs:

- Implement [universal free school meals](#) where eligible
- Serve [Breakfast After the Bell](#) to close the school breakfast gap
- Expand access to [summer](#), [afterschool](#), and [child care meals](#)

Share information with families:

- SNAP: FoodHelpNY.org
- WIC: WICHelpNY.org
- Summer Meals: SummerMealsNY.org
- Pandemic-EBT: HungerSolutionsNY.org/PEBT
- School Meals: SchoolMealsHubNY.org

