

# H.R.1319 - American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

## Resource – Bill Summary

The Feeding America Government Relations Team is providing a summary of the nutrition provisions and other key provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

### The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 - Summary of Nutrition and Other Provisions

*Updated 3-10-21*

These COVID-19 relief proposals were passed in the House on February 27, 2021. The Senate passed an amended version of the legislation on March 6, 2021, which was subsequently passed in the House on March 10, 2021 and is expected to become law. Text of the bill can be found [here](#); a section-by-section summary of the bill can be found [here](#); a comparison of modifications from the House bill to what was passed in the Senate is [here](#).

## Nutrition Provisions

The bill provides funding for needed nutrition assistance, a critical investment toward what is needed to address the rising hunger crisis associated with the pandemic and economic downturn. Below is a summary of key nutrition programs funded in the legislation.

## SNAP

- Extends the 15 percent boost in individual monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for three additional months, from the end of June through the end of September 2021.
- Provides \$25 million to support expansion of online SNAP purchasing efforts, including for farmers markets and direct to consumer sales.
- Provides \$1 billion for SNAP state administrative expenses
- Provides \$1 billion for nutrition grants to the Puerto Rico, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.



## Child Nutrition Provisions

- Extends Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) for any school year during which the public health emergency declaration is in place, and allows P-EBT to provide benefits during the summer months following that school year.
- Includes more than \$800 million for WIC, including increasing the cash value benefit to \$35 per month for purchasing fruits and vegetables, as well as providing funds to improve outreach, innovation, and modernization of the program.
- Allows the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to temporarily serve children up to age 25 for the duration of the public health emergency to receive nutrition resources at emergency homeless shelters.

## Additional Nutrition Provisions

- Provides \$37 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) to meet program needs.
- Provides \$750 million for nutrition services for seniors under the Older Americans Act, such as Meals on Wheels

## Agriculture Provisions

- Provides \$4 billion for the Secretary of Agriculture to support agriculture. \$400 million is to help support overtime payments for food safety inspectors at meat processing plants. \$3.6 billion is for the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase food and ag commodities, including fresh produce, dairy, seafood, eggs, and meat and distribute the food to individuals in need, including through delivery to nonprofit organizations and through restaurants and other food related entities, as determined by the Secretary, that can store, process, and distribute food items. The funds can also be used to make grants and loans for small and midsize food processors or distributors to respond to COVID-19 and to maintain and improve food supply chain resilience. Provides \$400 million to pay for overtime costs for federal food safety inspectors at meat processing facilities.
- Provides \$500 million in Community Facility Program funds to help rural hospitals and local communities broaden access to COVID-19 vaccines & food assistance.



- Provides \$1 Billion in assistance to and support for community-based organizations and 1890 Land Grant and other minority-serving institutions that work with Black farmers and other farmers of color on land access, financial training, heirs property issues, training the next generation and access to education. Also provides Farm Loan Assistance for Black farmers and other farmers of color.

## Economic Support Provisions

- Temporarily increases the Child Tax Credit for \$3,000 for kids age 6-17 and \$3,600 for age 6 and under; makes the credit fully refundable for families whose tax liability is below the value of the credit. 4.1 million kids would be lifted above the federal poverty line and the parents of 27 million kids would be newly eligible for the full value of the credit.
- Increases the value of the Earned Income Tax Credit for workers without dependents from \$530 to \$1,500; would lower the eligibility age for taxpayers without dependents from 25 to 19. 17 million low-income workers would be newly eligible or receive more EITC assistance.
- New round of direct payments worth up to \$1,400 per adult and child, also ensuring that mixed-status families receive payments.
- Extends temporary federal unemployment and benefits through September 6, 2021. Keeps the weekly benefit at \$300.

