

# H.R. 133-Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021-Summary

## Resource – Bill Summary

The Feeding America Government Relations Team is providing a summary of the nutrition provisions and other key provisions of H.R. 133 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 that was introduced on December 21.

### **The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021- Summary of Nutrition and Other Provisions**

*Updated 1-7-21*

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 would fund all federal government departments and agencies through September 30, 2021 as well as provide an additional \$900 billion in COVID-19 relief funding.

The text of the spending package, H.R. 133, is available [here](#). A division-by-division summary of the appropriations provisions is [here](#). A division-by-division summary of the coronavirus relief provisions is [here](#). A division-by-division of the authorizing matters is [here](#).

### **Nutrition Provisions**

The bill provides funding for needed nutrition assistance, a critical down payment on 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**

- Temporary increase in individual monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by 15 percent for six months, through the end of June 2021.
- Excludes unemployment compensation from being counted as income for the purposes of calculating SNAP benefits and eligibility.
- Provides college students access to SNAP by waiving requirements that apply only to students and giving them access to SNAP similar to impacted workers with reduced work hours due to COVID.
- Provides \$5 million to add additional retailers to online SNAP, including for farmers markets and direct to consumer sales.
- Provides \$100 million for SNAP state administrative expenses
- Provides \$614 million for nutrition grants to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa.



## TEFAP

- Provides \$400 million for food banks through the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) with up to 20 percent for distribution of commodities.

## Additional Nutrition & Agriculture Provisions

- Provides \$13 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) with up to 20 percent for State administrative expenses.
- Provides \$175 million for nutrition services for seniors under the Older Americans Act, such as Meals on Wheels
- Supports food purchases, donations, and worker protection by including no less than \$1.5 billion to fund purchases of food for distribution to those in need, and to provide worker protection measures, and retooling support for farmers, farmers markets, and food processors to respond to COVID-19. Includes a mandatory review of USDA food purchasing and distribution.
- Supports dairy product donations by providing \$400 million for a Dairy Product Donation Program, modeled after the 2018 Farm Bill pilot milk donation program, to facilitate the donation of dairy products and minimize food waste.
- Supports healthy food purchases by including \$75 million for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) and provides additional flexibilities to directly respond to COVID-19 by incentivizing purchases of fruits and vegetables by SNAP participants which supports farmers and retailers and stimulates local economies.

## Child Nutrition Provisions

- Includes improvement to Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) that will expand access to food benefits for children by allowing all children under age 6 to be deemed “enrolled” in child care, so they will be eligible for P-EBT benefit. The bill also clarifies what constitutes a “closure” making it easier to reach school-aged children with P-EBT assistance when schools are shifting between in-person, virtual and hybrid schooling.
- Includes emergency funds for schools and daycares that are facing increased costs and reduced participation due to COVID. Because funding for schools and daycares are tied directly to participation, many are facing budget shortfalls, putting in jeopardy their ability to continue to offer meals to children. The bill would provide funding to ensure these critical feeding programs may continue.
- Establishes a taskforce to test new technology in WIC to help with online, deliveries, self-checkout and other measures.



- Extends free meals reimbursement through the Child and Adult Care Food Program to young adults up to age 25 residing in emergency shelters
- Funding for school foodservice authorities and childcare institutions to help cover Covid-19 related emergency operational costs from March-June 2020 to make up for budget shortfalls due to low child nutrition program participation.

## Other Provisions

- Extension of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans to small businesses, including set asides for smaller borrowers and underserved communities, as well as expansion of forgivable expenses and simplified loan forgiveness process
- Extension of all pandemic unemployment insurance programs through mid-March, including Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), from their expiration at the end of December
- Federal supplemental unemployment insurance benefits expanded by \$300 per week from the end of December until mid-March
- An additional year of eligibility for expenses under the CARES Coronavirus Relief Fund
- Provides \$10 billion for new grants for child care providers impacted by Covid-19
- Extends the current CDC eviction moratorium until January 31, 2021 and provides \$25 billion in rental assistance to states and local governments and Native American tribes through the Coronavirus Relief Fund
- New round of direct payments worth up to \$600 per adult and child, also ensuring that mixed-status families receive payments.
- The agreement helps ensure that families who faced unemployment or reduced wages during the pandemic are able to receive a strong tax credit based on their 2019 income, preserving these vital income supports for vulnerable families.

