

HEROES Act Bill Summary

Resource – Bill Summary

The Feeding America Government Relations Team is providing a legislative summary of the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES Act).

HEROES Act (H.R. 6800) Bill Summary of Nutrition and Other Provisions

Updated 5-18-20

The HEROES Act passed in the House on May 15, 2020. The text of the bill as passed in the House is [here](#) and the managers amendment is [here](#). A section-by-section summary of the bill as introduced is [here](#).

Nutrition Provisions

SNAP:

- Temporarily increases SNAP benefits by 15 percent from June 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.
- Temporarily increases the nutrition assistance block grants for Puerto Rico and American Samoa by 15 percent in FY2020 and FY2021.
- Temporarily increases the SNAP minimum benefit from \$16 to \$30.
- Suspends time limits and work requirement sanctions for 2 years.
- Allocates \$150 million in SNAP administrative funds for FY2020 and FY2021.
- Blocks implementation of 3 harmful administrative rules (ABAWD Rule, BBCE Rule, and SUA Rule) that, if finalized, would eliminate or severely limit food support for millions of households.
- Excludes Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) from being considered as income for SNAP.
- Provides \$150 million to supplement SNAP state administrative funding for FY20 and FY21.
- Temporarily allows SNAP benefits to be used to purchase hot foods from authorized SNAP retailers until the end of the public health emergency.
- USDA may allow SNAP-Ed staff to support meal distribution activities for commodity or child nutrition programs until 30 days after the end of the public health emergency.

TEFAP:



- Provides \$150 million for TEFAP food purchases available through September 30, 2021.
- Provides \$25 million for Farm to Food Bank priority agriculture products like dairy and meat that will pay for the harvesting and transportation needed to connect donated food with emergency feeding organizations working in partnership with states.

Child Nutrition and WIC:

- P-EBT extended through the summer “until school reopens” in the 2020-2021 school year and extends benefits to children in childcare settings through CACFP.
 - Allows Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa to participate in P-EBT pending results of a required feasibility study conducted by USDA.
- Provides funds to school food authorities to support financial challenges due to lost revenue from lower than expected meal service.
- Increases the fruit and vegetable benefit in WIC through September 2020.
- Extends USDA’s authority to allow nationwide waivers for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program; similar authority was given under the Families First Act for waivers related to school lunch and breakfast, CACFP and SFSP for the purpose of providing meals and meal supplements.
- Requires USDA to make publicly available online State requests for waivers under authority granted by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the USDA response, and any related USDA guidance.

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR):

- Waives the non-federal cost share requirement for funds provided in the CARES Act.
- Allows participation for Tribal member households already participating in SNAP who cannot access approved SNAP retailer stores to access FDPIR.

Older Americans Nutrition Programs:

- Provides \$20 million for Older Americans Act senior nutrition programs including home-delivered and congregate meals.
- Provides \$10 million for Older Americans Act health promotion and disease prevention services.
- Provides \$10 million to Ryan White HIV/AIDS clinics to support increased staffing and equipment needs, additional home-delivered meals, and transportation.



Other Provisions

- Provides relief to states and localities.
- Provides new housing assistance to avert spikes in evictions and safely house those who are homeless.
- Provides another round of stimulus payments and includes immigrant families and others previously left out.
- Includes temporary expansions of the Child Tax Credit and EITC for workers without children at home.
- Provides short-term extension of key unemployment benefit measures.

