

Updated HEROES Act Bill Summary

Resource – Bill Summary

The Feeding America Government Relations Team is providing a legislative summary of the Updated HEROES Act.

Updated HEROES Act Bill Summary of Nutrition and Other Provisions

Updated 9-29-20

The updated HEROES Act was released on September 28, 2020. The text of the bill as introduced in the House 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 November 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.
- Temporarily increases the nutrition assistance block grants for Puerto Rico and American Samoa by 15 percent from November 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.
- Temporarily increases the SNAP minimum benefit from \$16 to \$30.
- Suspends time limits and work requirement sanctions through September 30, 2021.
- Temporarily prevents students from losing SNAP eligibility due to work study or job loss during the pandemic.
- Allocates \$300 million in SNAP administrative funds for FY2021 and FY2022.
- Excludes Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) from being considered as income for SNAP.
- 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.
- Requires that USDA publish on its website within 10 days of receipt/issuance of any state agency request to participate in SNAP online, modify statutory or regulatory requirements, and any denials of those requests.
- Allows USDA to ease current in-person rules to more safely and efficiently serve seniors in the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.



- Provides \$10 billion in additional appropriations to help ensure SNAP has enough funding to handle increased caseload and related costs due to the pandemic.

TEFAP:

- Provides \$450 million for TEFAP food purchases available through September 30, 2021.

Child Nutrition and WIC:

- Provides funds to school food authorities to support financial challenges due to lost revenue from lower than expected meal service.
- Extends USDA's authority to allow nationwide waivers for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- Temporarily increases the fruit and vegetable cash-value benefit in WIC.
- Provides \$400 million in additional appropriations to help ensure WIC has enough funding to handle increased caseload and related costs due to the pandemic.

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 \$500 million for Older Americans Act senior nutrition programs including home-delivered and congregate meals
- Provides \$44 million for Older Americans Act health promotion and disease prevention services.

Other Provisions

- Provides \$100 million to Ryan White HIV/AIDS clinics to support increased staffing and equipment needs, additional home-delivered meals, and transportation.
- Provides new housing assistance to avert spikes in evictions and safely house those who are homeless.
- Provides another round of stimulus payments.

