

# FACT SHEET (May 2021)

## Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) and the Child Nutrition Programs

**Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR)** is the process Congress uses to update the Child Nutrition programs, including the School Breakfast Program (SBP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Summer and Afterschool Nutrition Programs, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). CNR generally occurs every 5 years, but Congress has not passed CNR legislation since 2010 – leaving the Child Nutrition programs without significant improvements. CNR is a critical opportunity for Congress to improve the programs and help end child hunger. **Learn more about [Feeding America’s CNR priorities](#).**

*Use the below chart to learn more about each of the Child Nutrition programs we’re fighting for through our CNR priorities.*

Program Name	Program Description	Program CNR Priorities
<b>The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP)</b> <a href="#">Learn more about NSLP</a> <a href="#">Learn more about SBP</a>	These are federally assisted meal programs operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions. They provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free meals to children each school day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Congress should improve and simplify meal access, moving more schools to offer free school meals to all students by expanding community eligibility and increasing opportunities to directly certify children for free meals.</li> <li>■ Congress must continue to support schools as they strive to improve the nutritional quality of meals by providing support, equipment, and training to meet guidelines set in past CNR legislation.</li> </ul>
<b>Out-of-School-Time Programs: The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)</b>	These federal programs provide free healthy meals and snacks to eligible children during the summer months (SFSP) and after school during the school year (CACFP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Congress can allow organizations to operate one meal program all year, instead of switching between operating SFSP during the summer and CACFP during the school year, to eliminate duplicative administrative processes and ensure organizations are able to focus on feeding kids.</li> <li>■ Congress can allow kids to consume meals off-site, which would enable communities to adopt innovative program models to reach children who lack access to a summer feeding site.</li> </ul>



**DONATE. VOLUNTEER. ADVOCATE. EDUCATE.**

Feeding America is a nationwide network of food banks that feeds more than 40 million people through food pantries and meal programs in communities across America and leads the nation in the fight against hunger.

161 North Clark Street, Suite 700 | 1627 I Street NW, Suite 1000 | 1.800.771.2303  
 Chicago, Illinois 60601 | Washington, DC 20006 | [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org)

<p><a href="#">Learn more about SFSP</a></p> <p><a href="#">Learn more about CACFP</a></p>		
<p><b>Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)</b></p> <p><a href="#">Learn more</a></p>	<p>This federal program provides pregnant and postpartum mothers and young children who are low income with health and social service referrals and culturally appropriate, nutritious foods, which all contribute to their overall health and well-being.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Congress must strengthen families' access to the benefits WIC provides by expanding eligibility, streamlining and extending certifications, and supporting continued integration of technology to modernize service delivery.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (Summer EBT)</b></p> <p><a href="#">Learn more</a></p>	<p>Summer EBT program pilots started more than a decade ago and have led to positive results, including reducing food insecurity and improving nutrition. More recently, the Pandemic EBT program, modeled after Summer EBT, found similar positive results.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Congress should provide a Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) grocery card to families with children eligible for free and reduced-price school meals during the summer months and when schools are closed to supplement their household food budgets.</li> </ul>



**DONATE. VOLUNTEER. ADVOCATE. EDUCATE.**

Feeding America is a nationwide network of food banks that feeds more than 40 million people through food pantries and meal programs in communities across America and leads the nation in the fight against hunger.

161 North Clark Street, Suite 700 | 1627 I Street NW, Suite 1000 | 1.800.771.2303  
Chicago, Illinois 60601 | Washington, DC 20006 | www.feedingamerica.org