

# How We Can End Child Summer Hunger through Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR)

Fact Sheet | April 2022



**“No more homework, no more tests...no more lunch?” That’s the reality for millions of children who rely on school meal programs once class is not in session and summer break starts.**

Lawmakers must strengthen summer feeding programs to ensure every child has access to the food they need to grow and thrive when school ends and summer begins.

## We Can End Child Summer Hunger by Investing in Summer Feeding Programs

Congress can ensure more children can get the meals they need to grow and thrive during the summer by making it easier for communities to establish summer feeding sites in underserved areas and allowing states the flexibility to feed kids in alternate ways.

Those cost-effective programs provide quality nutrition, childcare, and educational activities while improving health, development, and academic achievement.

Through CNR, Congress can strengthen the child nutrition programs – improving the health, nutrition, and well-being of millions of children across the country. Congress should improve program access, ensure nutrition quality, and simplify program administration and operation.



## Strengthen Summer Feeding Sites

★ **Support the Summer Meals Act of 2021:** S.1170 from Senators Gillibrand (D-NY) and Murkowski (R-AK) and H.R.783 from the late Representative Young (R-AK) and Representative Larsen (D-WA)

■ **Streamline regulations for community-based providers so they can feed children year-round:** Right now, community-based organizations such as food banks have to switch from one government program to another in order to provide meals during the summer and after school. Congress can allow organizations to operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) all year to provide seamless, year-round food distribution.

■ **Align the area eligibility requirement for summer feeding and educational programs to allow more learning programs to offer meals in the summer:** Reducing the area eligibility threshold would allow more community providers to offer meals in the summer. Allowing more programs to offer meals in the summer means more children can receive meals closer to home.

## Allow Alternate Strategies to Help Feed Children When Schools Are Closed

★ **Support the Hunger-Free Summer for Kids Act of 2021:** S.2005 from Senators Boozman (R-AR) and Leahy (D-VT)

★ **Support the Stop Child Hunger Act of 2021:** S. 1831 from Senator Murray (D-WA) and H.R.3519 from Representatives Levin (D-CA) and Hayes (D-CT)

■ **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:** Pandemic EBT (P-EBT), like previous Summer EBT pilots, provide families with funds on an EBT card to make up for meals missed at school due to disruptions. Making a program like those permanent will ensure children in need can access the healthy meals they need to thrive.

■ **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:** Site-based models for food delivery to kids aren't always accessible, especially since children are dispersed during the summer. During the pandemic, Congress allowed non-school food providers to use alternate delivery models to serve kids in hard-to-reach areas – a change we should keep.

## Have questions or need more information?

- Email the Feeding America Government Relations Team at [policy@feedingamerica.org](mailto:policy@feedingamerica.org)
- Visit [FeedingAmericaAction.org](https://FeedingAmericaAction.org)
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