

H.R.5376 – Build Back Better Act of 2021

Resource – Bill Summary

The Feeding America Government Relations Team is providing a summary of the nutrition provisions and other key provisions of the Build Back Better Act of 2021.

The Build Back Better Act of 2021 - Summary of Nutrition and Other Provisions

Updated 10-28-21

These economic relief proposals were outlined in a framework released on October 28, 2021. A summary of the framework can be found [here](#). The text of the Build Back Better Act as released in the House on Thursday, October 28 is [here](#); a section-by-section summary is [here](#).

Child Nutrition Provisions

The bill provides funding for needed nutrition assistance that will help ensure children have access to food year-round, helping them overcome the health, educational, and economic impacts of the pandemic and address longstanding challenges to improve food security. Below is a summary of key nutrition programs funded in the legislation.

- Authorizes Summer EBT (S-EBT) for two years and provides a \$65 per child per month benefit to the families of 29 million children to purchase food during the summer. This will allow S-EBT benefits through the summer of 2024 (benefits for the summer of 2022 will be provided through Pandemic EBT as previously authorized in the American Rescue Plan).
 - Authorizes Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) that participate in WIC to provide S-EBT.
 - Includes \$50 million in grants for states and ITOs to build capacity to implement S-EBT.
- Expands the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for five years to allow free school meals to an additional 8.7 million children during the school year. More schools would be eligible for CEP by lowering to the Identified Student Percentage from 40 percent to 25 percent and changing the multiplier that determines federal reimbursement levels from 1.6 to 2.5. This also allows for a statewide CEP option.
- Provides \$250 million for a Healthy School Meal Incentives demonstration project to improve healthy food options.



- Provides \$30 million for school kitchen equipment grants to help serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and increase scratch cooking.

Additional Provisions

Below is information on additional provisions included in the Build Back Better Act.

- Extends for one year the recently enacted expansions to the Child Tax Credit, with no work requirements imposed as a condition of receiving the credit. Also continues the monthly advance payments to the parents of nearly 90 percent of American children for 2022 – \$300 per month per child under six and \$250 per month per child ages 6 to 17.
- Makes permanent the enhanced refundability of the Child Tax Credit, ensuring that the families of 27 million children with very low incomes will continue to receive the full benefit of the credit that was previously unavailable to them.
- Extends the improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) that benefit 17 million vulnerable workers.
- Provides universal pre-school for more than 6 million children ages 3 and 4. This is a long-term program, with funding for six years.
- Limits child care costs for families to no more than 7% of income, for families earning up to 250% of state median income. It enables states to expand access to about 20 million children. Parents must be working, seeking work, in training or taking care of a serious health issue. This is a long-term program, with funding for six years.

