

# Feeding America Analysis of the Biden Administration's Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Federal Budget

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On March 9, the Biden administration released its proposed 2024 federal budget, which includes much-needed investments in nutrition programs that we know are critical to help ensure fewer individuals and families face hunger. The proposed budget is a welcome sign that the Biden administration is prioritizing hunger relief and other [goals of the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#). It also largely aligns with the letter Feeding America recently sent, proposing investments in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other vital federal nutrition programs.

A breakdown of the administration's funding proposals for key programs for people facing hunger and the Feeding America network can be found below.

## **More Information:**

- [President Biden's Full Budget for Fiscal Year 2024](#)
- [Fact Sheet: The President's Budget for FY 2024](#)
- [USDA FY 2024 Budget Summary](#)
- [USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services FY24 Budget Summary](#)

## **President's Budget Basics**

**The Budget Process:** The president's budget is a messaging document and does not make changes to policies or funding levels. Such changes require congressional action. However, the proposed budget is an important step in the annual budget and appropriations process: It is the most direct signal of what the administration's priorities will be in the coming fiscal year.

**Types of Funding:** Within the budget, funding proposals are broken down into mandatory and discretionary funding.

- Mandatory programs are authorized by Congress and their funding is mandated by law. This means the base funding levels for these programs are generally not dependent upon the annual appropriations process.



- Discretionary programs are also authorized, but their funding is not guaranteed. Congress can make annual changes to the amount of funding these programs receive through the appropriations process.

## **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)**

**TEFAP Commodities (Food Purchases):** The budget requests **\$469 million** for TEFAP commodities for fiscal year 2024 (FY24), **an increase of \$23 million** from fiscal year 2023 (FY23). This funding is mandatory—it was established in the 2018 Farm Bill.

**TEFAP Storage and Distribution:** The budget requests **\$100 million** for TEFAP storage and distribution funding, **an \$8 million increase** from FY23. This is **the maximum amount** of funding that is authorized for this discretionary program.

**TEFAP Farm Bill Projects:** The budget requests **\$4 million** to fund the Farm to Food Bank Projects authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill; **the same as FY23**. This funding is mandatory—it was established in the 2018 Farm Bill.

## **Section 32**

The budget requests **\$1.5 billion** for Section 32, **a \$192 million decrease** from FY23. Section 32 is a USDA fund that supports domestic farmers and producers through a variety of means. USDA can use these funds to, for example, purchase surplus commodities and distribute them through federal nutrition programs, such as TEFAP and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Within the requested Section 32 funding, **\$1.4 billion is for commodity program expenses, down \$192 million**. It also includes **\$37 million, the same as FY23, for commodity purchasing services**, which provide administrative and oversight services for the commodity program.

## **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

The budget requests **\$122 billion** for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), **a \$32 billion decrease** from FY23. SNAP is a mandatory entitlement program, so funding is provided to meet need and serve all eligible participants. The sharp drop in spending reflects 1) a decrease in benefits due to the nationwide end of emergency allotments and the Pandemic EBT program (which ends after summer 2023) and 2) an estimated 1.3 million fewer participants in the program. This decrease in SNAP



participation reflects projected economic improvements and ongoing recovery from the pandemic, as well as the end of COVID-era program enhancements, which will make it harder for college students and able-bodied adults without dependents to access SNAP.

The Biden administration has requested additional funding in the SNAP portion of the budget for:

- Projects that drive system improvements in the SNAP client enrollment and participation experience.
- Testing the use of robotic process automation “bots” to strengthen program delivery.
- Staffing to support EBT modernization and EBT benefit threat fraud prevention.
- SNAP employment and training programs.
- Increased promotion of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPlate in SNAP nutrition education.
- Expansion and evaluation of Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) self-determination projects.
- Critical research on TEFAP access, coverage and service models, with the goal of better serving program stakeholders and enhancing nutrition security.

## **Child Nutrition**

**Child Nutrition Programs:** The budget requests **\$32 billion** for child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer EBT (S-EBT) and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP). This is a **\$3.6 billion increase** from FY23.

NSLP, SBP, SFSP, CACFP and S-EBT are mandatory entitlement programs, so funding is provided to meet caseloads and serve all eligible participants. No significant change in participation is projected for FY24, meaning that much of the increase in funding is due to new proposals. The administration is requesting increased funding for child nutrition programs to:

- Strengthen integrity controls in CACFP.
- Modernize food ordering and inventory management systems.
- Increase staffing to enhance the USDA Food and Nutrition Service’s ability to provide critical technical assistance and oversight of child



nutrition programs, including the implementation of Summer EBT and increased support for the Farm to School Program.

**Community Eligibility Provision Proposal:** The largest increase to the child nutrition programs funding request comes from a legislative proposal that would advance a pathway to free school meals for an additional 9 million school children through increased use of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) among schools and states. This proposal is expected to cost \$234 million in 2024 and \$15 billion over 10 years. The proposal would have a large impact on participating schools and children, reducing administrative burden, increasing equitable access, and reducing the stigma associated with school meal program participation.

**School Meal Equipment Grants:** The budget requests **\$30 million** in discretionary funding for school meal equipment grants, **the same as FY23**.

**Farm to School Grants:** The budget requests **\$12 million** for the Farm to School Program, **a \$2 million decrease** from FY23. This discretionary program assists in making local food and agricultural education available to child nutrition program participants through grants, research, technical assistance and training. It helps producers, large or small, take advantage of additional market opportunities in their own backyards and improves children's access to fresh, local, nutritious foods at school.

**Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):** The budget requests **\$6.3 billion** in discretionary funding for WIC, **an increase of \$300 million** from FY23. This funding accounts for rising participation and continues the longstanding bipartisan commitment to serve all projected participants. It also supports:

- Continued investments in modernizing infrastructure and technology.
- Expanding the online shopping experience.
- A continuation of the bump in benefits for the purchase of fruits and vegetables.

**WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program:** The budget requests **\$26 million** in discretionary funding for this program, **the same as FY23**.

## **Nutrition Programs Administration**

The budget requests **\$221 million** in discretionary funding for nutrition programs administration; **an increase of \$32 million** from FY23. The request includes an increase of \$2 million to support tribes' successful management of federal food programs, an increase of \$1 million to help ensure Food and



Nutrition Service programs are administered equitably, and an increase of \$9 million to focus on improving nutrition security.

## **Senior Nutrition Programs**

**Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP):** The budget requests **\$390 million** for CSFP, **an increase of \$51 million**, to ensure this discretionary program can maintain its current caseload.

**Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP):** The budget requests **\$21 million** in mandatory funding for this program, the same as FY23.

**Senior Nutrition Services:** The budget requests **\$1.3 billion** in mandatory funding for senior nutrition services, **an increase of \$218 million** from FY23.

## **Other Nutrition Programs**

**Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR):** The budget requests **\$165 million** in discretionary funding for FDPIR, **an increase of \$20 million**. The increase is primarily due to expected increases in program participation as a result of lower SNAP benefits. Individuals who are eligible for FDPIR and SNAP can only enroll in one of the two programs, which encourages them to enroll in the program that offers more benefits.

**FDPIR Nutrition Education:** The budget requests **\$998 million** in mandatory funding for FDPIR nutrition education, **the same as FY23**.

**Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP):** The budget requests \$53 million in mandatory funding for GusNIP, the same as FY23.

## **Other Funding Requests**

### **Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) requests:**

- **Local and Regional Commodity Procurement:** The budget requests **\$2 million** in discretionary funding for AMS to purchase and deliver nutritious food, in response to the rising demand faced by emergency food organizations. The funding will support the implementation of long-term ordering, procurement, distribution, outreach, and technical assistance transformations to modernize the business process and



customer experience. Funding for this was not appropriated in the past two years.

- **Micro-Grants for Food Security:** The budget requests **\$5 million** in discretionary funding for grants to assist agricultural agencies or departments in eligible states and territories in increasing the quantity and quality of locally grown food in food-insecure communities. This is **\$3 million less** than FY23.

**Congressional Hunger Center:** The budget requests **\$2 million** in discretionary funding for the operation of the Congressional Hunger Center, including the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowships and the Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellowships. Hunger Fellows focus on developing solutions to hunger based on their experience at field placements with local anti-hunger host organizations and their policy placements with national and international organizations.

## **Additional Policy Proposals**

The budget includes several policy proposals that would provide critical financial support to families and individuals that have low incomes. Implementing these changes would require legislative action.

**Child Tax Credit (CTC):** The budget proposes expanding the CTC in the following ways:

- Increasing the credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child for children 6 years old and above, and from \$2,000 per child to \$3,600 per child for children under 6 years old.
- Permanently reforming the credit to make it fully refundable.
- Allowing families to receive monthly advance payments.

**Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):** The budget calls to make the EITC expansion for childless workers permanent to help pull low-paid, childless individuals out of poverty.

## **The 2023 Farm Bill**

The budget acknowledges the 2023 Farm Bill and the opportunity it presents to make progress toward ensuring everyone in the U.S. has access to healthy, affordable food.



It highlights the potential of strengthening cross-enrollment capabilities across federal assistance programs and addressing barriers to accessing food assistance. It notes these barriers make it harder for underserved groups to succeed, including college students, formerly incarcerated individuals, youth who have aged out of foster care, kinship families, people in U.S. territories, and SNAP recipients facing time limits. The budget draws attention to research on the role SNAP time limits have in exacerbating inequities in food and economic security.

The budget also emphasizes the opportunity to improve access to food choices via the 2023 Farm Bill, through the expansion of food purchasing options, produce incentives and local food procurement. The references to these important opportunities demonstrate the administration's position on key farm bill issues, including support for some of [Feeding America's farm bill priorities](#).

## Questions?

All questions should be directed to [policy@feedingamerica.org](mailto:policy@feedingamerica.org).

