

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
Chairman, Senate Budget Committee  
332 Dirksen Building,  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee  
290 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

June 29, 2021

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Graham,

**We, the undersigned 344 national, state, and local organizations, write to urge Congress to extend the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer program permanently for all children eligible for free and reduced-price school meals in either Child Nutrition Reauthorization or the forthcoming economic recovery legislation.**

During the summer months far too many children experience increased food insecurity, compromising their health and ability to thrive during summer break and beyond. The limited reach of the Summer Nutrition Programs creates the need for Summer EBT, a complementary program that has been proven to effectively combat summer hunger by providing additional resources to purchase food during the summer months. This approach has been piloted by USDA since 2011 and supported through annual appropriations funding and proposed legislation.

An [evaluation from 2016](#) which looked at the impact of \$30 or \$60 monthly benefit amounts (the American Families Plan proposes \$75 to adjust the \$60 benefit level for inflation and other approaches would provide the daily value of the free reimbursement for school meals) and distribution model (SNAP and WIC) found that participation in Summer EBT led to several positive results including:

- **Reduced food insecurity.** By providing low-income households with a \$30 or \$60 per month per child benefit, the most severe type of food insecurity (very low food security) was reduced by one-third, and food insecurity was reduced by one-fifth.
- **Improved nutrition.** Both the \$30 and \$60 monthly benefit levels led to an improvement in children's summertime nutritional intake, but children in households that received the \$60 benefit ate slightly more nutritious foods (fruits, vegetables, and whole grains) than those in the \$30 group.
- **High rates of participation.** More than 75 percent of households in the program redeemed some or all of their benefits. While both were efficient at reaching families, those who participated in the project modeled after SNAP redeemed benefits at higher rates than those who were in the project that was based on the WIC model (95 percent versus 83 percent). This is likely due to the more [limited availability](#) of WIC retailers and the simplicity of redeeming the benefit through SNAP. The approach of the American

Families Plan builds upon the SNAP model, which will support greater redemption of benefits and simplify food purchases for participants and retailers.

Despite these benefits, Summer EBT has been critically underfunded since it was piloted: only 11 states and three Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) have been able to participate through the funds annually appropriated since 2011. Expanding Summer EBT nationwide and making it available every summer will ensure that children and their families have additional critical resources to support a healthy diet at home when they lose access to the free and reduced-price meals at school. It also would allow states to maintain and build on the success of Pandemic-EBT, particularly as all states have now developed the capacity and infrastructure to implement a similar program during the summer months.

Thank you for your leadership and we look forward to working with you to ensure that every child in this country receives the healthy food they need to learn and grow during the summer months.

Sincerely,

**National Organizations**

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
African American Health Alliance  
Alliance for Excellent Education  
Alliance to End Hunger  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
Chiefs for Change  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Common Threads  
Congressional Hunger Center  
The Education Trust  
Fair Food Network  
Feeding America  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Food Research & Action Center  
FoodCorps  
Friends of the Earth  
Girls Inc.  
National Afterschool Association  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Education Association  
National PTA  
National Recreation and Parks Association  
National Urban League  
National Women's Law Center

Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies

**RESULTS**

Save the Children

Save the Children Action Network (SCAN)

School Board Partners

SchoolHouse Connection

Share Our Strength

Stand for Children

UnidosUS

Union for Reform Judaism

Union of Concerned Scientists

US Conference of Mayors

**Alabama**

Alabama Food Bank Association

**Alaska**

Food Bank of Alaska

**Arizona**

Arizona Center for Economic Progress

Arizona Food Bank Network

GARDEN, Inc.

Pivot Produce

Torah Day School of Phoenix

**Arkansas**

AR Hunger Relief Alliance

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

**California**

Abrazar Inc

Alameda County Community Food Bank

ATCAA Food Bank – Tuolumne County

Alum Rock Union Elementary School District

California Association of Food Banks

Californians for Disability Rights Inc.

CAP OC/Orange County Food Bank

Central California Food Bank

Ceres Community Project

City of San Jose

Community Action Agency of Butte County – North State Food Bank

Community Action of Napa Valley Food Bank

Community Action Partnership of Kern

Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County

Community Food Bank of San Benito County

County of Santa Clara Social Services  
CRLA Foundation  
Dignity Health Connected Living  
Emergency Food Bank  
Feeding America Riverside San Bernardino Counties  
Feeding San Diego  
FIND - Food In Need of Distribution  
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano  
Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County  
Food Bank of El Dorado County  
Food Bank for Monterey County  
FOOD Share of Ventura County  
FoodLink for Tulare County  
Food for People  
Foodbank of Santa Barbara  
GLIDE  
Healthier kids Foundation  
Hunger Advocacy Network  
Imperial Valley Food Bank  
Interfaith Council of Amador  
The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank  
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles  
Jewish Family Service of San Diego  
Kings Community Action Organization  
Larkin Street Youth Services  
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank  
Mendocino Food & Nutrition Program  
Merced County Food Bank  
Morgan Hill Unified School District  
Nourish California  
Orange County Food Bank  
Placer Food Bank  
Redwood Empire Food Bank  
Resource Connection Food Bank  
Roots of Change  
Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services  
San Diego Food Bank  
San Diego Hunger Coalition  
San Francisco-Marin Food Bank  
Santa Clara County, Social Services Agency -DEBS  
Second Harvest of the Greater Valley  
Second Harvest Food Bank Orange County  
Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County  
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley  
Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

Slow Food California  
Stanford University  
The Gubbio Project  
The Women's Building  
unBox  
Western Center on Law and Poverty  
Westside Food Bank  
Yolo Food Bank  
Yuba-Sutter Food Bank

### **Colorado**

Feeding Colorado  
Hunger Free Colorado

### **Connecticut**

Connecticut Food Bank/Foodshare  
End Hunger Connecticut!

### **Delaware**

Food Bank of Delaware  
District of Columbia  
Capital Area Food Bank  
D.C. Hunger Solutions

### **Florida**

Feeding Tampa Bay  
Florida Impact to End Hunger  
Florida Policy Institute  
Second Harvest Food Bank Of Central Florida  
South Florida Hunger Coalition

### **Georgia**

Atlanta Community Food Bank  
Georgia Food Bank Association

### **Hawaii**

DOE Hawaii Child Nutrition Programs  
Hawaii Appleseed  
Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!

### **Idaho**

Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force

### **Illinois**

Arab American Family Services  
Community Food Basket of Ottawa

FISH of Galesburg  
Healthy Schools Campaign  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Illinois Hunger Coalition  
ILLINOIS VALLEY FOOD PANTRY  
Indo American Center  
Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry  
Northern Illinois Food Bank  
Respond Now  
The Greater Chicago Food Depository  
United African Organization

### **Indiana**

AAUW Indianapolis  
Boys & Girls Clubs in Indiana, Inc.  
Citizens Action Coalition of IN  
Community Harvest Food Bank of NE IN, Inc.  
Covering Kids & Families of Indiana  
Exodus Refugee Immigration, Inc.  
Feeding Indiana's Hungry  
Food Bank of Northern Indiana  
Food Finders Food Bank  
Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank  
Indiana Afterschool Network  
Indiana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs  
Indiana Catholic Conference  
Indiana Community Action Association, Inc.  
Indiana Institute for Working Families  
Indiana Public Health Association  
Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council (INSILC)  
Indy Hunger Network  
Marion County WIC  
MCCOY (Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc.)  
Meals on Wheels of Central Indiana  
Open Doors of Washington Twp.  
Saint Vincent de Paul - Indianapolis Council  
Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana  
The Arc of Indiana  
Tri-State Food Bank  
United Northeast Community Development Corporation  
Washington Township Parent Council Network

### **Iowa**

Mount Pleasant Home  
River Bend Food Bank

**Kansas**

Harvesters--The Community Food Network  
Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice

**Kentucky**

Advocacy Action Network  
Feeding Kentucky  
Kentucky Center for Economic Policy  
Kentucky Equal Justice Center  
Kentucky Voices for Health  
Kentucky Youth Advocates

**Louisiana**

Education Trust Louisiana  
Feeding Louisiana  
Greater Mount Carmel Baptist Church of Scotlandville  
Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans  
Louisiana Budget Project  
New Schools for New Orleans  
South Louisiana Coalition for Education  
Urban League of Louisiana

**Maine**

Cumberland County Food Security Council  
Falmouth Public Schools Food Service  
FoodCorps - Maine  
Full Plates Full Potential  
Good Shepherd Food Bank  
Healthy Communities of the Capital Area  
Maine Farm to Institution  
Maine Farm to School Network  
Maine Principals' Association  
Preble Street Maine Hunger Initiative  
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**Maryland**

BALTIMORE HUNGER PROJECT  
Maryland Hunger Solutions  
Maryland Out of School Time Network  
Montgomery County Maryland Community Action Board  
Prince George's County Food Equity Council  
Public Justice Center  
Qiydaar Academy, Inc.  
Student Support Network  
Suitland Elementary

**Massachusetts**

AIDS Project Worcester  
DOVE (DOMestic Violence Ended), Inc.  
Groundwork Lawrence  
JF&CS Greater Boston  
Mass Law Reform Institute  
Project Bread-The Walk for Hunger  
Quinsigamond Village Community Center  
Somerville Food Security Coalition  
The Open Door  
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts  
The Greater Boston Food Bank  
Veterans Legal Services  
Woburn Public Schools  
Worcester County Food Bank, Inc.  
Yes We Care, Inc.

**Michigan**

Center for Civil Justice  
Food Gatherers  
Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities  
United Way for Southeastern Michigan

**Minnesota**

Hunger Solutions Minnesota  
Second Harvest Heartland  
West Central Initiative

**Missouri**

Harvesters--The Community Food Network (MO)  
Jewish Family Services of Greater Kansas City  
Marillac Indigent Care Fund  
Operation Food Search  
Ozarks Food Harvest  
St. Louis Area Foodbank

**Montana**

Montana Food Bank Network

**Nebraska**

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest  
No More Empty Pots

**Nevada**

Food Bank of Northern Nevada



**New Hampshire**

NH Hunger Solutions

**New Jersey**

Abundant Life Community Develop Corp

Hunger Free New Jersey

**New Mexico**

New Mexico Appleseed

YouthWorks, Inc of Santa Fe

**New York**

A Single Bite

Bronx Impact Food Access Collective

Bushwick Food Cooperative

City Harvest

Coalition for Healthy School Food

Cuba Cultural Center, Inc.

Edible Schoolyard NYC

Equity Advocates

Family Enrichment Network

Food Bank of Central New York

Food Bank of the Southern Tier

Hunger Free America

Hunger Solutions New York

Montour Falls Memorial Library

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group

Phipps Neighborhoods

SCAN-Harbor, Inc.

Seeds in the Middle Inc.

United Neighborhood Houses of New York

**North Carolina**

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association

Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy

MANNA FoodBank

North Carolina Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

North Carolina Alliance for Health

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina

The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina

**Ohio**

Children's Hunger Alliance

Freestore Foodbank

Local Matters

Ohio Association of Foodbanks

The Center for Community Solutions  
YMCA of Central Ohio

**Oklahoma**

Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy  
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma

**Oregon**

Oregon Alliance of YMCAs  
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

**Pennsylvania**

Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger  
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank  
Pittsburgh Food Policy Council

**South Carolina**

Harvest Hope Food Bank  
Legacy Early College  
SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center

**South Dakota**

Feeding South Dakota

**Tennessee**

Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee  
Tennessee Justice Center

**Texas**

El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank  
Every Texan  
Feeding Texas  
Greenwood ISD  
Houston Food Bank  
Southwest Foodservice Excellence, LLC

**Utah**

Community Action Partnership of Utah  
Community Action Services and Food Bank  
Crossroads Urban Center  
Family Connection Center dba Open Doors Social Services  
Housing Connect  
Tri Star Kennel Club  
United Way of Salt Lake  
Utah Food Bank

Utahns Against Hunger  
Voices for Utah Children

**Vermont**

Hunger Free Vermont

**Virginia**

Federation of Virginia Food Banks  
Virginia Hunger Solutions  
Virginia Poverty Law Center

**Washington**

Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition  
Concerned Citizens  
Feeding Washington  
Food Lifeline  
Hunger Intervention Program (HIP)  
Northwest Harvest  
Sunrise Outreach Center of Yakima  
The Council on Aging & Human Services  
United Way of King County

**West Virginia**

American Friends Service Committee-West Virginia  
West Virginia University - Food Justice Lab

**Wisconsin**

Blessings Community Food Pantry  
Community Action Partnership  
CORE Community Resources  
CORE Food Pantry  
Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin  
Feeding Wisconsin  
Hunger Task Force  
Lakeland Pantry  
Loaves & Fishes of the Fox Valley, Inc.  
Menominee Food Distribution Program  
Shawano Area Food Pantry and Resource Center  
St. Patrick's Pantry  
The Good Will Place  
The Salvation Army of Manitowoc  
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice