Federal Policy Update 2021

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Setting the context

- Huge spikes in hunger and hardship
- Historic demand for food assistance
- Record unemployment

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities - US Census Bureau Pulse Survey
A few things have changed in Washington in the past few months.
American Rescue Plan

1. Provide direct relief
2. Safely reopen schools
3. National vaccination program and contain COVID-19
Some of the Exciting Provisions

Here’s a grab-bag of nutrition highlights from the Rescue Plan

- **P-EBT**
  Access to the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program available for the duration of the health emergency, including through the summer.

- **SNAP**
  Extension to the 15% increase in benefits for all participants through September 30, 2021, or about $28 per month per person.

- **WIC**
  Funding to deliver expanded access to more fruits and vegetables for moms and babies and investments in innovation.

- **Senior Nutrition**
  Funding for Commodity Supplemental Food Program.
But wait! There’s more!

More investments and plans for program improvements

**Online EBT**
Investments in technology to expand access for families to use their SNAP benefits to purchase groceries safely online.

**Farmers**
Debt relief for socially disadvantaged farmers to pay off burdensome debts that have prevented many farmers of color from making a living.

**Food banks**
Increases food available for distribution through food banks, nonprofits, or restaurants to help feed families in need (TEFAP).

**Racial Equity**
Create a racial equity commission and address longstanding discrimination across USDA.
State & Local Funding Relief

$26B

$16B
USDA Food Box Program

USDA is listening to stakeholder feedback

Future is TBD
USDA Child Nutrition Waiver Extensions

**Summer Feeding**
Summer meal programs available everywhere for free

**Flexibilities**
Allow meals to be served outside normally requires times/locations

**Pick-Up**
Allow parents and guardians to pick-up meals for their children, including bulk pick-up for multiple days
Child Nutrition Reauthorization

- Free school meals for all
- CACFP Investments
- Extend WIC Eligibility
Resources

http://bit.ly/Am_RescuePlan
Contact

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