

Farm Bill and Older Adults

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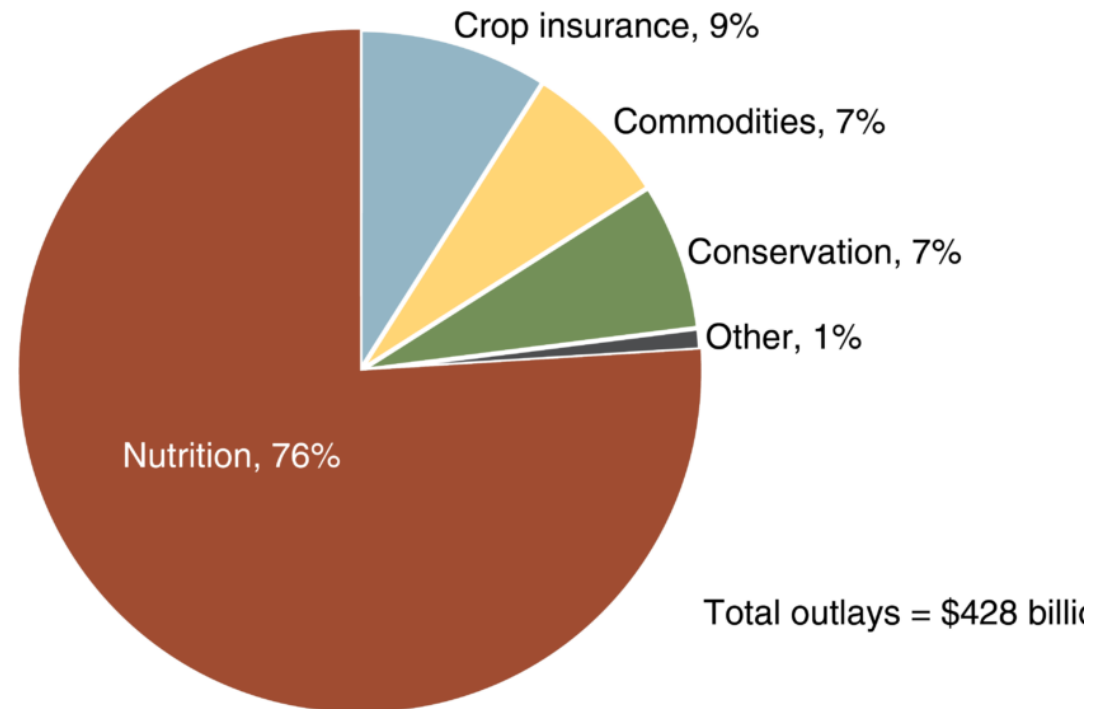
The Basics of the Farm Bill

- Reauthorized every five years (last in 2018; one small but relevant nutrition change – online purchasing pilot created)
 - Debate, amendments, changes
- Includes nutrition and agriculture
 - You need both for a successful, bipartisan bill
- Could be key part of achieving White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health national strategy

Nutrition Programs in the Farm Bill

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) (alternative to SNAP)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)
- Community Food Projects
- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)
- Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) grants

Projected outlays under the 2018 Farm Act, 2019-2023



Sources: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations based on Congressional Budget Office estimates.

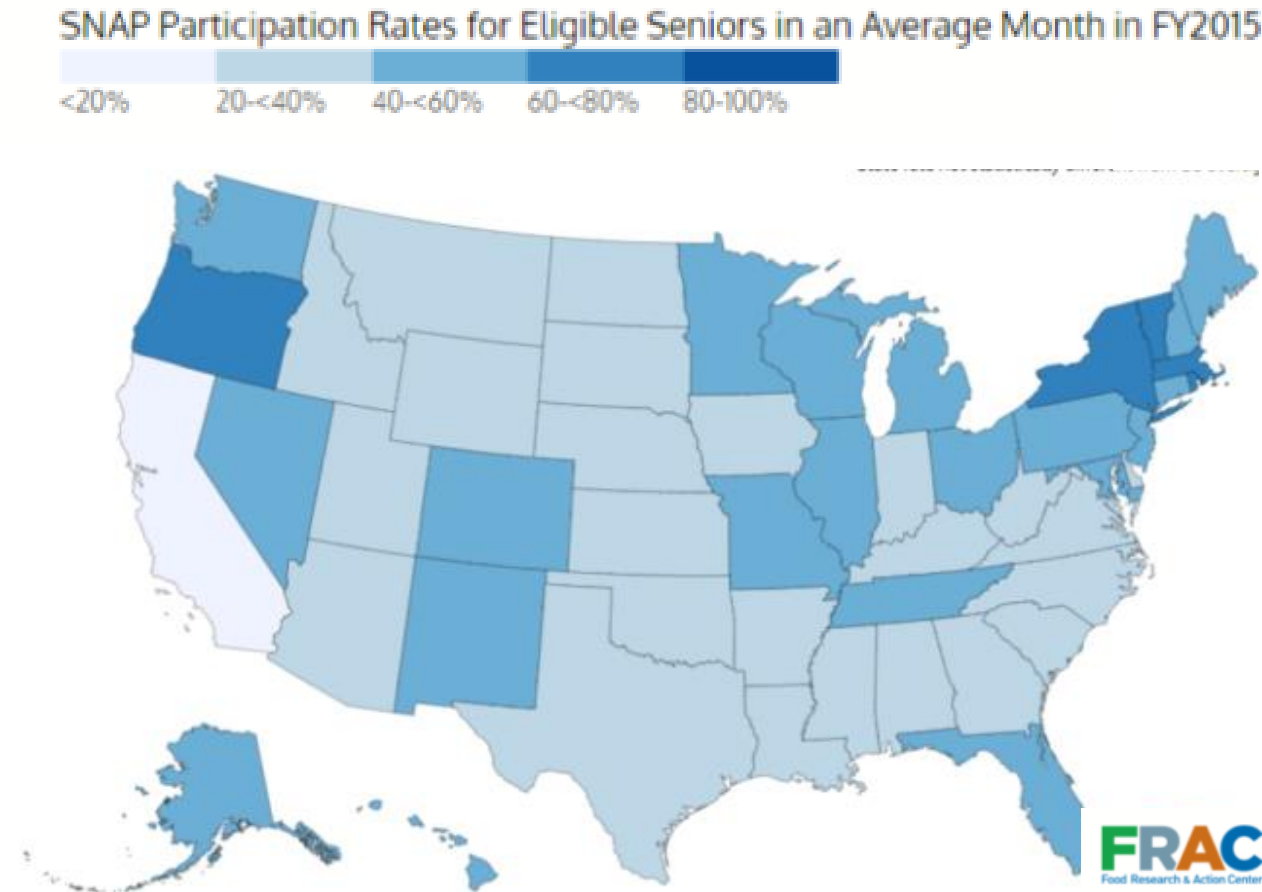
Farm Bill 2023 SNAP Debate



- Bill is a referendum on SNAP
 - SNAP has grown because it's a safety net program (SNAP's yearly spending is driven by program participation)
 - Contention over update to Thrifty Food Plan, which raised monthly benefit
 - Discussion around expanding work requirements to older adults
- Hearings have begun. Will be a battle
- Going into the debate was sunset of pandemic EBT- extra SNAP pandemic funding which ended in March across the nation
- Older adult who qualify for the lowest benefit saw a cut from \$250 to \$23 a month
 - How healthy is the food you can buy with \$23?
 - This will impact malnutrition rates

SNAP Barriers

- A central goal of **SNAP** is to alleviate hunger and **malnutrition** by increasing resources for the purchase of food for a nutritious diet
- In 2015, Only 42% of eligible older adult (60+) used SNAP, compared to 83% of all SNAP-eligible people (FRAC) – stigma, low benefits among reasons
- Increasing SNAP enrollment could help decrease malnutrition among older adults
 - SNAP has one of the most rigorous eligibility determination systems of any federal benefit program, which can be a barrier to participation
 - SNAP medical cost deduction



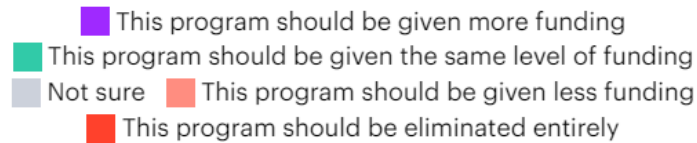


Other Nutrition Programs

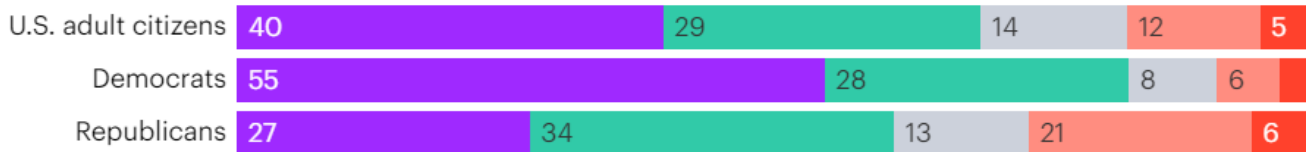
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
 - Food bank support
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)
 - Food boxes for older adults
- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)
 - Vouchers for farmers markets for older adults
- Community Food Projects
- Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)
 - Grants for fruits and vegetables

Americans have a favorable view of SNAP (67%)

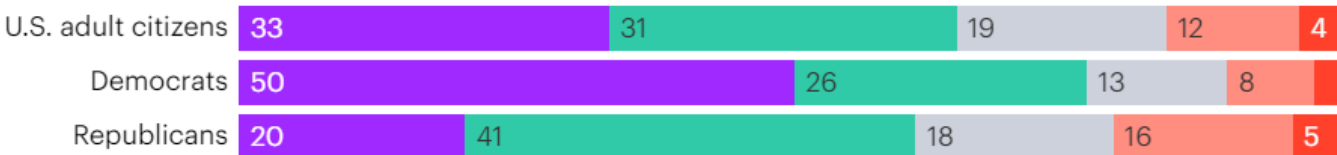
Thinking about the following U.S. program, do you believe they should be given more or less funding? (%)



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

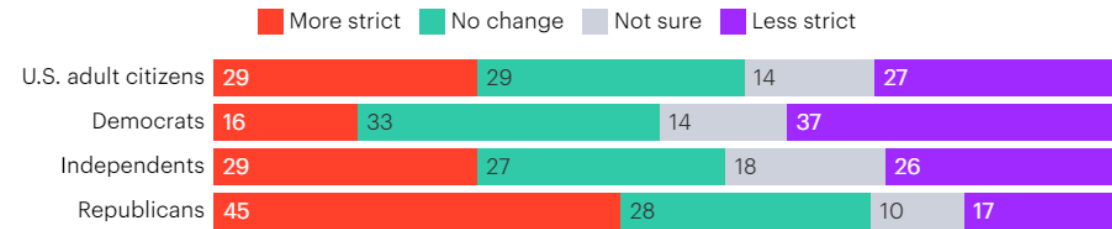


Temporary Assistance for Needy Families



Americans are split on whether eligibility requirements for SNAP benefits should be more or less strict

Do you think the eligibility requirements for receiving SNAP benefits (also called food stamps) should be made more or less strict? (%)



YouGov

January 5 - 9, 2023

Some of the many SNAP Bills introduced

- Add Work Requirements
 - **In the Republican debt ceiling bill**
 - Let's Get to Work Act - Expand work requirements for single adults to 60 and those with children over 6
 - Jobs and Opportunities for SNAP Act (HR1550/S1062) Expand work requirement to 18-65 years old
- Expand access
 - SNAP Second Chance Act of 2023 - repeal the drug felon ban
 - Improving Access to Nutrition Act of 2023 (HR1510) Eliminate work requirements
 - Opportunity To Address College Hunger Act (HR.309)
 - Puerto Rico Nutrition Assistance Fairness Act (H.R.253)
- Benefit adequacy
 - Closing the Meal Gap Act-switch thrifty to low-cost plan, end time limit on work, authorize standard medical deduction, eliminate the cap on the excess shelter deduction

U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



CHAIRMAN Special Committee on Aging

The Senior Hunger Prevention Act of 2023

U.S. Senators Bob Casey (D-PA), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), and John Fetterman (D-PA)

Why do we need the Senior Hunger Prevention Act?

For many older adults, including grandparent and kinship caregivers, and adults with disabilities, access to federal nutrition assistance programs supports their ability to remain healthy and independent, while also improving their overall economic well-being. An estimated **5.2 million** older adults and **28 percent** of households with an adult who is out of the labor force because of a disability struggle to put enough food on the table. Programs administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), help to support households facing food insecurity by providing access to healthy food.

Many older adults, grandparent and kinship caregivers, and adults with disabilities are eligible for federal nutrition assistance programs. Yet, they often face preventable barriers to accessing critical nutritional benefits, which can result in significantly lower participation rates than other groups. In 2020, for example, less than half of eligible older adults and grandparent caregivers were enrolled in SNAP compared to nearly 80 percent of all eligible people. Confusion over eligibility criteria, complicated applications and limited enrollment periods, as well as transportation and mobility limitations are some of the barriers older adults, grandparent and kinship caregivers, and adults with disabilities face when trying to access nutrition assistance.

What will the Senior Hunger Prevention Act do?

The Senior Hunger Prevention Act would ensure older adults, grandparent and kinship caregivers, and adults with disabilities are able to access the food they need and stretch their budgets. Specifically, the bill will:

- Increase the minimum monthly SNAP benefit for all participants
- Simplify application and certification processes for eligible individuals in nutrition programs, including SNAP, and ensure they can stay enrolled in programs for longer periods of time
- Support outreach efforts to enroll more older adults, grandparent and kinship caregivers, and adults with disabilities in nutrition programs
- Enable adults with disabilities to participate in additional programs that provide shelf stable, supplemental food and fresh, locally sourced food
- Provide grants to non-profits, local aging and disability service providers, and related organizations to bring fresh, local food to accessible locations
- Expand SNAP food delivery options through public-private partnerships and strengthen retail delivery options for older adults and adults with disabilities

Original Cosponsors: Senator Blumenthal, Senator Kelly, Senator Warren

Supporting Organizations: The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, ADvancing States, Alliance to End Hunger, The American Public Health Association, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County, [Defeat Malnutrition Today](#), Feeding America, Feeding Pennsylvania, Food Research & Action Center, Generations United, The Gerontological Society of America,

DMT and NANASP Farm Bill Priorities

Contained in The Senior Hunger Prevention Act of 2023, for older adults and adults with disabilities:

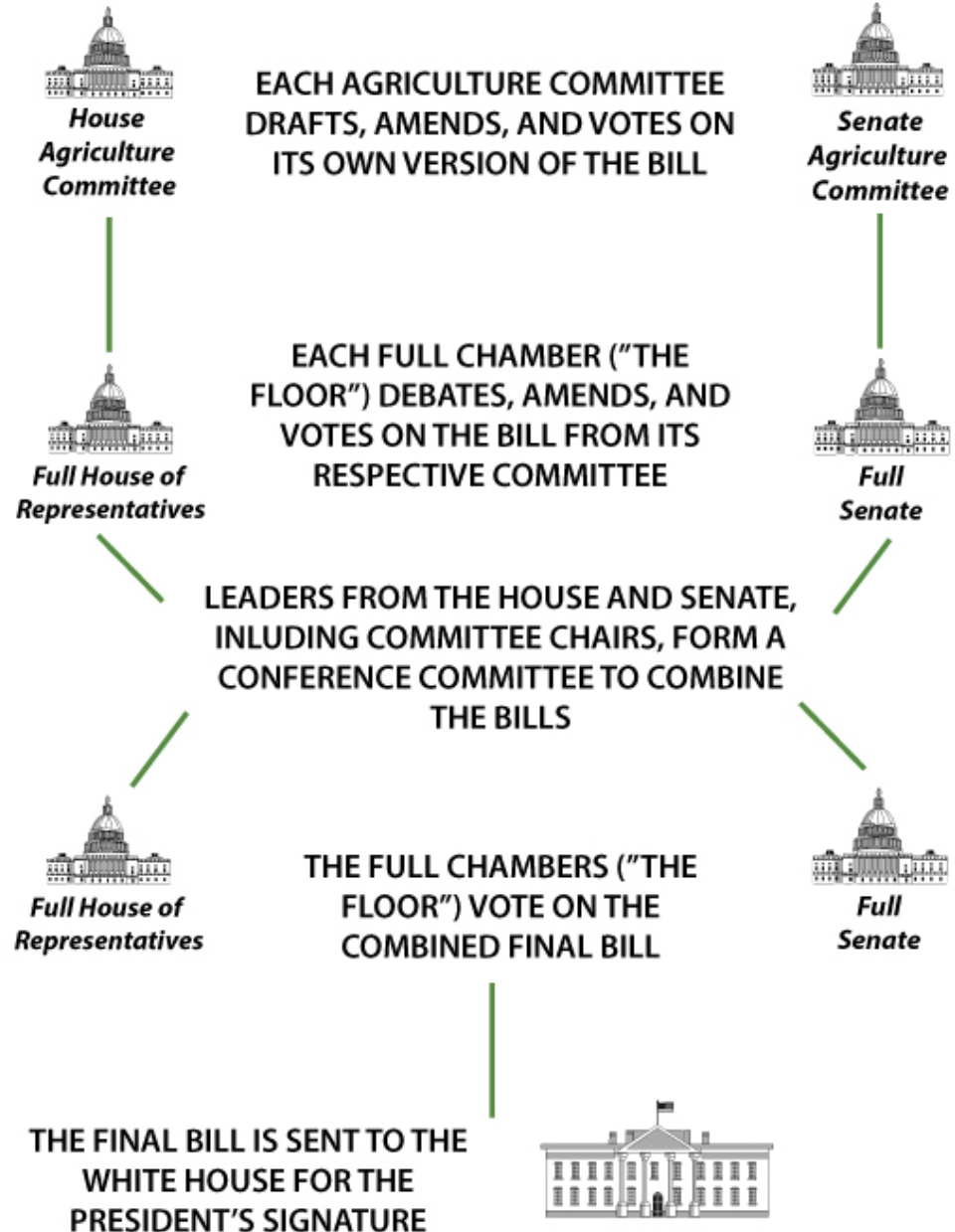
- Extend the SNAP certification period from 24 months to 36 months
- Streamline and standardize medical expense deduction
- Increases the monthly SNAP benefit amount from 8% to 33% of the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan to one-third (would raise minimum for one person household from \$23 to \$95)
- Streamline application and certification process for SNAP if all adult household members are elderly or disabled and have no earned income
- Establish a pilot program to provide grants to raise awareness of SNAP
- Public-private partnerships between USDA, authorized SNAP retailers, and community-based organizations to support free or low-cost food delivery
- Increase funding for Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

Deadline: September 30, 2023

- Farm bill determined by Agriculture Committee:
 - Senate side : Chair Stabenow (D-MI), Ranking Member Boozman (R-AR)
 - Subcommittee on Nutrition: Fetterman (D-PA), RM Braun (R-IN)
 - House side: Chair Thompson (R-PA) RM David Scott (D-GA)
- Communicate your priorities to your own members of Congress and to these members as well!

Source: National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

The Path to a New Farm Bill



Advocacy: All we control is our message

- Focus on impacts on individuals and communities
 - Data and Stories
- Stay on message and build support
- For many, SNAP is not supplemental and is everything
- [Find your representatives in Congress](#) and tell them why hunger matters. Tell key decision-makers to strengthen SNAP to ensure our neighbors in need have enough to eat.
- [Sign a pledge](#) from organizations like Feeding America, a national network of food banks, to urge lawmakers to act.
- Share your story and find other ways to spread the news at [Food Research and Action Center's SNAP advocacy website](#).
- Find a farmer to join you in advocacy!

Resources

- Primer on Farm Bill <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF12255>
- SNAP older adult enrollment tips <https://www.ncoa.org/article/senior-snap-enrollment-promising-practices>
- Statement on SNAP <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/Joint-Statement-in-Support-of-SNAP-FINAL-031623.pdf>
- Senior Hunger Prevention Act of 2023
https://www.aging.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/the_senior_hunger_prevention_act_one_pager.pdf
- Interactive maps <https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/interactive-data>
- Op-Eds: <https://www.icaa.cc/blog/2023-04/Nutrition-program-to-fall-short-on-addressing-food-insecurity-and-malnutrition-.htm>; <https://thehill.com/opinion/congress-blog/3881283-we-cant-throw-older-adults-over-a-hunger-cliff/>
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