



2018 House Farm Bill Nutrition Title Side-by-Side Summary

Updated April 17, 2018

The table below provides a comparison of current law to changes proposed in Farm Bill released on Wednesday, April 12, 2018 by Chairman Conaway of the House Agriculture Committee. For full bill text [click here](#); for section by section summary provided by the majority [click here](#); for CBO cost estimates [click here](#). If you have any questions, contact policy@feedingamerica.org.

| TOPIC (Section of House Bill) | CURRENT LAW | HOUSE PROPOSAL |
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| TEFAP (Sec 4032) | <p>Authorizes TEFAP entitlement food purchases at \$250 million per year indexed to the Thrifty Food Plan.</p> <p>The 2014 Farm Bill provided an additional \$125 million over 5 years for TEFAP entitlement food purchases in decreasing amounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY2015: \$50 million • FY2016: \$40 million • FY2017: \$20 million • FY2018: \$15 million <p>Authorizes discretionary TEFAP storage and distribution at \$100 million a year through FY2018, subject to annual Congressional appropriations.</p> | <p>Reauthorizes TEFAP entitlement food purchases at \$250 million per year indexed to the Thrifty Food Plan.</p> <p>Provides an additional \$60 million per year for TEFAP food purchases for FY2019 through FY2023, indexed to the Thrifty Food Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the \$60 million, authorizes and requires \$20 million per year for Farm to Food Bank programs that connect excess fruits and vegetables with food banks and communities in need. <p>Reauthorizes TEFAP discretionary storage and distribution grants at \$100 million per year. (Sec. 4101)</p> |
| SNAP: Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit (Sec 4015) | <p>ABAWDS: Able-bodied adults between the ages of 18 and 50 without dependents are subject to time-limited SNAP benefits.</p> <p>ABAWDs are limited to 3 months of benefits out of a 36-month period unless they work at least 20 hours per week; 2) participate in a qualified E&T program, or 3) participate in a state's workfare program.</p> | <p>Removes the ABAWD distinction.</p> <p>Expands the number of people subject to time-limited SNAP benefits by including older adults and adults with children (see below) and shortens the time limit to one month of benefits for inability to meet work requirements.</p> |

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| <p>SNAP: General Work Requirements (Sec 4015)</p> | <p>General: All physically and mentally fit individuals between the ages of 15 and 60 must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - register for work and accept suitable job offers, not quit or reduce hours for jobs over 30 hours per week without “good cause”, or - participate in a state employment and training program (E&T) if required by the state. <p>Individuals exempt from these requirements are under age 15 and older than 60, pregnant, people with disabilities, or in a caretaking role.</p> <p>Disqualifications: Beneficiaries are disqualified from SNAP for failure to comply with work requirements. States have discretion on length of the ineligibility period, typically ranging from one to six months, and they can vary based on whether first, second, or third violation.</p> | <p>General: All physically and mentally fit individuals between the ages of 18 and 60, including those with children above the age of six, must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work 20 hours a week (increasing to 25 hours a week in 2026); or - Register for mandated state employment and training program if currently not enrolled or are unemployed. <p>Continues to allow for certain individuals to be exempt from work requirements.</p> <p>Disqualifications: Allows one month for initial compliance with the work requirements; inability to meet requirements results in a mandated 12-month ineligibility period, and a 36-month ineligibility period for subsequent violations unless an individual obtains employment sufficient to meet the hourly requirement or is otherwise exempt.</p> <p>Establishes a two-year transition period for state implementation before enforcement of the updated work requirement rules and disqualifications.</p> |
| <p>SNAP: Work Waivers (Sec 4015)</p> | <p>Waivers: States can seek waivers to temporarily suspend the ABAWD time limit restrictions for areas of high unemployment or insufficient jobs. States can combine labor markets.</p> <p>15% Exemptions: States are allowed to exempt 15% of their ABAWD population from the ABAWD time limits restriction.</p> | <p>Waivers: Maintains option for states to seek waivers to temporarily suspend the time limit sanctions. Limits the criteria states may use when requesting waivers.</p> <p>15% Exemptions: Maintains the 15% exemptions to be applied to the broader category of individuals subject to work requirements.</p> |

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| SNAP: Employment & Training (Sec 4015) | SNAP E&T: States are required to operate an E&T program of their own design for work registrants. The program may be voluntary or mandatory. | SNAP E&T: Requires states to operate mandatory E&T programs. Requires states to provide minimum services in employment and training (including offering case management services) to all individuals subject to the work requirements. Updates components of employment and training programs to include subsidized employment and apprenticeship. |
| SNAP: Categorical Eligibility (Sec 4006) | <p>Categorical Eligibility for non-cash TANF recipients is called broad based categorical eligibility (BBCE). The non-cash benefits vary widely among the state-run TANF programs.</p> <p>Federal SNAP law sets gross income limits at 130% of poverty; however, states have the option to go as high as 200% of poverty by connecting to the state's TANF program rules.</p> <p>BBCE is currently being used by more than 42 states, while 5 others use Traditional and 6 use Narrow.</p> | <p>Removes the state option for BBCE, restricting categorical eligibility to traditional or narrow categorical eligibility through which a beneficiary is receiving either "cash assistance or ongoing and substantial services" through TANF.</p> <p>Limits the eligibility for SNAP to those with gross income not more than 130% of the poverty line, or 200% for elderly and people with disabilities.</p> |
| SNAP: Asset Testing (Sec 4012) | <p>Through categorical eligibility states are allowed to waive or modify the asset limit by connecting to the state's TANF program rules. Five states modify the asset limits and 37 have no asset limit.</p> <p>Currently, these are the asset rules in statute: Countable Resources: Households may have \$2,250 in countable resources, such as a bank account, or \$3,500 in countable resources if at least one person is age 60 or older, or a person with disabilities.</p> | <p>Makes asset limits mandatory and sets a standard asset limit amongst states.</p> <p>Countable Resources: Households may have \$7,000 in countable resources, and \$12,000 of countable resources if at least one person is age 60 or older, or a person with disabilities. Such levels will be adjusted for inflation.</p> |

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| SNAP: Savings Allowance (Sec 4014) | All savings are considered countable assets. | Savings Excluded from Assets: Excludes up to \$2,000 (adjusted annually for inflation) in savings from household assets in determining eligibility for SNAP. |
| SNAP: Vehicle Allowance (Sec 4013) | <p>Vehicle Allowance: Counting vehicles as assets is determined at the state level. States have the option of substituting the vehicle rules used in their TANF program when it results in a lower attribution of household assets.</p> <p>Currently 32 States exclude the value of all vehicles entirely. 21 States totally exclude the value of at least one vehicle per household. The 2 remaining States exempt an amount higher than the SNAP's standard auto exemption of \$4,650 from the fair market value to determine the countable resource value of a vehicle.</p> | Vehicle Allowance: Requires all States to exclude \$12,000 (adjusted annually for inflation) of the value of one vehicle per licensed driver from household asset calculations. |
| SNAP: LIHEAP (Sec 4011) | States are required to contribute a minimum of \$20 per person of LIHEAP funding to trigger use of the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA), which is a deduction used in lieu of producing actual utility bills. | Eliminates the availability of the Standard Utility Allowance for heating and cooling costs to those households that do not consist of an elderly member. |
| SNAP: Child Support (Sec 4007) | <p>Custodial Parent: Gives states the option to make a custodial parent ineligible to participate in SNAP if they fail to cooperate with the State pursuing child support. Includes a good cause exemption for noncooperation.</p> <p>Noncustodial Parent: Gives states the option to make a non-custodial ineligible to participate in SNAP if the non-custodial parent fails to cooperate with State agency in paying child support.</p> | <p>Striking the State option to provide a deduction from income for child support payments, therefore requiring all states to provide an exclusion for child support payments, eliminating SNAP disqualification for participants who do not pay child support when they are required.</p> <p>All single parents (custodial/non-custodial) must cooperate with child support if enrolled in SNAP.</p> |

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| SNAP: Basic Allowance for Housing <i>(Sec 4008)</i> | <p>Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) is an allowance for active-duty military based on geographic duty location, pay grade, and dependency status. It provides uniformed Service members equitable housing compensation based on housing costs in local civilian housing markets within the United States when military housing is not provided.</p> <p>Does not allow housing allowance to be excluded for active-duty military service members when calculating eligibility for SNAP benefits.</p> | <p>Excludes up to \$500 of active-duty military housing allowance received from any calculation of income when determining eligibility. Households that receive the allowance can only claim expenses in excess of that allowance when determining the household's expenses for the excess shelter deduction.</p> |
| SNAP: Transitional Benefits <i>(Sec 4024)</i> | <p>A State option allowing transitional SNAP benefits to be made to a household that ceases to receive cash benefits or at the option of the State, to a household with children that ceases to receive cash assistance under a State- funded public assistance program.</p> <p>A household may receive transitional SNAP benefits for a period of not more than 5 months after the date on which cash assistance is terminated.</p> | <p>Requires states to offer five months of transitional benefits for households that cease to receive cash assistance.</p> |
| SNAP: Nutrition Education <i>(Sec 4033)</i> | <p>Provides formula grant funding for states to provide nutrition education programming for SNAP participants as well as other low-income households. State agencies deliver nutrition education and obesity prevention services directly to eligible individuals or through agreements with other State or local agencies or community organizations</p> <p>State agencies implement a nutrition education and obesity prevention program for eligible individuals that promotes healthy food choices and physical activity consistent with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans published.</p> | <p>Funds are allocated based solely on states' SNAP populations. Transfers the role of carrying out nutrition education from state agencies to land grant universities.</p> <p>Requires eligible institutions to provide for the employment and training of professional and paraprofessional aides from the target population to engage in direct nutrition education, and to partner with other public and private entities to optimize program delivery.</p> |

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| SNAP: Benefit Expungement (Sec 4020) | <p>States may store recovered electronic benefits offline, if the household has not accessed the account after 6 months.</p> <p>States must expunge benefits from participants EBT cards that have not been accessed after a 12-month period.</p> | <p>Adjusts benefit storage to three months.</p> <p>Requires states to expunge benefits from participants EBT cards after six months, or upon verification that all members of a household are deceased.</p> |
| SNAP: Re-Evaluation of Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) (Sec 4004) | No comparable provision | By 2022 USDA and in 5 year intervals, USDA must re-evaluate and publish market baskets of the TFP based on current food prices, food composition data, and consumption patterns. |
| SNAP: State Performance Bonus Awards (Sec 4029) | <p>State agencies are currently eligible for, in total, \$48 million per year in performance awards. States must reinvest performance awards in SNAP. These grant awards are provided to states for performance accomplishments in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - payment accuracy - program access - application timeliness - best negative error rate | <p>Repeals bonuses to States that demonstrate high or most improved performances for fiscal year 2018 and each fiscal year thereafter, while retaining requirements regarding performance criteria including actions taken to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - correct payment errors - reduce error rates - improve eligibility determinations. |
| SNAP: Duplicative Enrollment Database (Sec 4001) | This database pilot, currently known as the National Accuracy Clearinghouse, is a state-initiated effort between Mississippi and LexisNexis, and allowed five participating Southern states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi) to share data on their SNAP participants to identify and prevent SNAP participation in more than one state. | <p>Under the title of National Enrollment Database, expands this effort to all states. The database shall include the following information for all SNAP participants, reported on a monthly basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Security numbers or substitute - employment status - income (distinguishing between earned and unearned), and - asset information |

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| SNAP: National Gateway <i>(Sec 4022)</i> | No comparable provision | Pending the completion of a feasibility study, requires USDA to create a national database to and requires the routing of all SNAP transactions through a national gateway for the purposes of transaction validation and settlement, pending completion of a feasibility study. |
| SNAP: Tolerance Level for Payment Errors <i>(Sec 4028)</i> | SNAP's Quality Control (QC) system measures the accuracy of the eligibility and benefits calculation in SNAP. Consistently low performing states are subject to financial penalties. Sets the error rate tolerance threshold, in which payment errors are not counted in the state error rate at no more than \$37. | Eliminates the tolerance level for payment errors from \$37 to \$0. |
| SNAP: SNAP Benefit Transfer Transaction Data Report <i>(Sec 4026)</i> | No comparable provision | Requires USDA to collect a sample of retail food store transaction data to be summarized and reported in such a way that prevents identification of individual retail food store chains and SNAP participants. To be done no more than every two years. |
| SNAP: Replacement of EBT Cards <i>(Sec 4019)</i> | USDA may require a state agency to decline a request for a replacement card of an "excessive amount" unless the household provides an explanation for the loss of the card. | Specifies the amount of EBT cards a recipient may receive if they lose their EBT card from an "excessive amount" to 2 lost cards in a 12 month period. |

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| SNAP: Mobile Technologies <i>(Sec 4017)</i> | <p>Pilots the use of mobile technologies to test the feasibility and implications for program integrity, by allowing retail food stores to accept benefits from recipients of supplemental nutrition assistance through mobile transactions.</p> <p>To be eligible the retailers must submit a plan that includes: a description of the technology; how the retailer will provide proof of the transaction to households; the provision of data to USDA.</p> | <p>Creates mobile pilot projects, to allow no more than 5 pilot projects be implemented around the use of mobile technologies for SNAP access. Based on the success of the pilots, requires the availability of mobile technologies in accessing SNAP.</p> <p>The state agency must: provide recipient protection; ease of use for household access and retailers must: bear cost of point of sale equipment; food can't be sold at a higher price than in store cost; adequate security to deter fraud; evaluation of demonstration projects.</p> |
| Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) <i>(Sec 4042)</i> | <p>Adjusts the eligible demographic for CSFP to low income elderly persons at least 60 years of age, and phases-out all women, infants, and children who were certified and receiving benefits. Authorizes CSFP through 2018.</p> | <p>Reauthorizes the program through 2023, giving authority to Congress to appropriate funds to this discretionary program.</p> |
| Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives (FINI) <i>(Sec 4003)</i> | <p>Extends and amends the hunger-free community grants to "incentive grants" for projects that incentivize SNAP participants to buy fruits and vegetables. Limits federal cost share to 50%.</p> <p>Provides \$100 million in mandatory funding over 5 years. Discretionary authority of \$5 million per year.</p> | <p>Renames FINI to the Gus Schumacher Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program.</p> <p>Limits the program incentives to financial incentives, updating program priorities, and establishes a training, evaluation, and information center for use by program grantees.</p> <p>Reauthorizes and provides \$155 million in mandatory funding through fiscal year 2023.</p> |

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| Retailer Funded Incentives Pilots <i>(Sec 4002)</i> | No comparable provision | <p>Establishes a pilot project through which retailers may provide bonuses to participating SNAP households based on household purchases of fruits, vegetables, and milk.</p> <p>Retailers participating in the pilot project may be reimbursed in an amount not to exceed 25 percent of the dollar value of bonuses earned by households and used to purchase SNAP-eligible foods.</p> <p>No more than \$120,000,000 annually for such reimbursements.</p> |
| Public-Private Partnerships <i>(Sec 4030)</i> | No comparable provision | <p>Allows for no more than 10 pilot projects to support public-private partnerships that address food insecurity and poverty.</p> <p>The section authorizes appropriations of \$5,000,000 to carry out the projects, to remain available until expended.</p> |
| Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program <i>(Sec 4602)</i> | Reauthorizes and continues to provide Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) mandatory funding of \$20.6 million annually through FY2018. | Extends funding through 2023. |
| Community Food Projects <i>(Sec --)</i> | <p>Amends the definition of Community Food Project, to include many of the entities (gleaners, public food program service providers, tribal organizations, and private nonprofit entities) and areas of expertise that may have been eligible for Hunger-free Community Grants.</p> <p>Increases funding by \$4 million to a total of \$9 million in FY2015 and each fiscal year thereafter.</p> | Funding and authorization for the program is not included in the bill. |

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| Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) <i>(Sec 4603)</i> | <p>Authorizes up to \$125 million to be appropriated for a “Healthy Food Financing Initiative” to remain available until expended.</p> <p>USDA is authorized to approve a community development financial institution as “national fund manager” that would administer these funds by supporting food retail projects that would expand or preserve access to staple foods and accept SNAP benefits.</p> | <p>Extends funding authorization through 2023.</p> |
| Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program <i>(Sec 4604)</i> | <p>Provides fruit and vegetable snacks to school children throughout the day. Program is permanently authorized and permanently funded.</p> <p>The prior Farm Bill required USDA to administer a pilot project for five states that participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program to offer frozen, canned, and dried fruits and vegetables (in addition to fresh); provided \$5 million to implement and evaluate the pilot.</p> | <p>Amends the language of the School Lunch Act to allow canned, frozen, and pureed fruits and vegetables in schools, in addition to current allowance of only fresh fruits and vegetables.</p> |
| Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) <i>(Sec 4005)</i> | <p>These funds are for USDA purchase of traditional and locally-grown foods to be distributed to FDPIR households.</p> | <p>Includes regionally-grown foods in addition to traditional and locally-grown foods to be distributed to FDPIR households.</p> <p>Allows appropriated funds for the program to remain available for two fiscal years.</p> |