



*A Union of Professionals*

## **Stabilization Funding for Nutrition-Related Programs During COVID-19**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (passed March 27, 2020):

- Includes \$15.5 billion more for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to cover the projected increase in applications and the costs of relief authorized in H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.
- Doesn't expand benefits or eligibility under SNAP.
- Includes \$8.8 billion in funding for existing child nutrition programs in order to ensure children receive meals while school is not in session.

Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (passed March 18, 2020):

- The Department of Agriculture has additional authority to issue waivers to support access to child nutrition programs, including nationwide waivers, which would reduce paperwork for states and help more schools, local governments and community organizations quickly adapt and provide meals; waivers that can increase programmatic costs; and waivers to adapt meal pattern requirements in response to disruptions to the food supply.
- The USDA will be able to approve state plans to provide an electronic benefits transfer card to purchase food for households with children receiving free or reduced-price school meals due to school closures.
- The USDA also will have the authority to allow child care and adult care centers to operate as non-congregate sites (i.e., sites that can serve outside the school or in individual settings).
- States can request waivers from the USDA to provide temporary emergency SNAP benefits to SNAP households, up to the maximum monthly benefit amount.
- Time limits on SNAP eligibility for unemployed and underemployed individuals are suspended.

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The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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