MISSION: READINESS
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

117th Congress Opportunities: Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization

Nutrition Road Map

Our battle plan to fight malnutrition and strengthen our national security

- Adapt And Innovate Federal Nutrition Programs
- Modernize And Integrate Nutrition Education Programs
- Support A Durable, Responsive Food System
- Support State and Local Efforts

Adapt and Innovate Federal Nutrition Programs

Child Nutrition programs need to meet
<u>all</u> children's needs, year 'round

- Means re-thinking delivery, composition, and access
- Strengthen nutritional standards and increase participation
- School Lunch Program (+Breakfast), Summer Meals, SNAP GusNIP and WIC will be "reauthorized" by this Congress

Modernize And Integrate Nutrition Education Programs

When kids know what they are eating, why it's good for them, and reflects regional and cultural preferences, fresh and nutritious food consumption increases

- Provide recipes ideas and nutritional information at EBT retailers, farmer's markets and on-line
- Expand Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) in schools and out of school time programs
- Increase investments in technical assistance to school and summer meal programs for preparers to offer regional and diverse food offerings

Support A Durable, Responsive Food System

Where a child lives should not dictate her/his access to fresh and nutritious food

- Fund networks of local food providers, social service agencies and public health officials to meet unique needs
- Innovate food waste elimination & invest in food recovery
- Incentivize healthy, balanced shelf stable foods and packaging for school meals
- Strengthen local farm to school and WIC farmers' market programs

Support State and Local Efforts

States should fully participate, fund and expand access to nutrition programs

- Apply the myriad of adaptations and waivers available within federal food programs
- Increase funding into existing food and nutrition programs
- Launch locally designed food access programs and foster private/public partnerships
- Focus nutrition education at all stages of development

Opportunities in the 117th Congress

Build on the adaptations from the COVID relief legislation:

- Make permanent the **summer meal** expansions and flexibilities: additional sites, delivery, pick-up, & mobile
  - P-EBT available only when meal programs are not feasible
- Continue **school meal** pick-up and delivery for remote learning
- Continue remote registration and eligibility review for **WIC** participants, and maintain the increased amount available for fresh fruits and vegetable purchase

Opportunities in the 117th Congress

Urge reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act:

- Strengthen school meal nutrition standards to encourage consumption of fresh and nutritious foods
- Expand summer meal programs, include options for non-congregate sites
- Require WIC packages be updated every 5 years/USDA dietary recommendations

Opportunities in the 117th Congress

Promising ideas in introduced child nutrition bills:

- S. 1421 / H.R. 4282 The Food and Nutrition Education in Schools Act
- S. 876 / H.R. 3444 School Meal Modernization Act
- S. 2005 & S. 1170 / H.R. 783 – Summer Meals Expansion Bills

Ideas

Questions

Next Steps

MISSION: READINESS
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA