MISSION: READINESS
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

Federal Policy Update
November 2, 2021

Introduction

- What is going on in Congress?
  - Implementation of American Families Plan
  - Reconciliation (Build Back Better)
  - FY22 Appropriations
  - Debt Ceiling
  - Bipartisan Infrastructure
  - Pending Child Nutrition Reauthorization

Where are we now: American Rescue Plan Impacts

Investments & Policies to
"Get Food on Tables" & "Strengthen our Food Supply"

M:R Areas of Interest:

- P-EBT was continued through the health emergency (Summer Meal program waivers continued, but no additional funding)
- Funding to assist recipients and retailers in using SNAP/WIC for food purchases on-line
- Increase WIC allowance for fresh produce
- Investments to help local food producers get their product to local markets, schools, children/youth programs and pantries

Current Opportunities: Build Back Better

- Expand school meal programs.
- Invests in expanding the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT) program to provide nutrition benefits to eligible low-income children nationwide.
- School Kitchen Equipment Grants.
- Launch a healthy foods incentive demonstration.

Moving Forward: Opportunities in 117th Congress for the Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization

Build on the adaptations from the American Families Plan, Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization proposals:

- 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

Creating the Case for Change

Child Nutrition programs need to meet all children's needs, year 'round - it's time to innovate, invest, modernize and adapt

- Child Nutrition School/Summer Meals, GusNIP and WIC will be "reauthorized" by this Congress
  - Importance of summer meals – cost effective balanced nutrition, P-EBT is for children that can not access meals
  - Purchasing power of WIC fresh produce allowance has lagged behind costs
  - Modernization of food access and supply needs to be fundamental to all federal nutrition programs

Conclusion

- American Families Plan
- Reconciliation (Build Back Better)
- Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization in 2022