FARM BILL PRIORITIES

Food Is Medicine Coalition: An American success story

Bringing value to our health care system

THE BIG IDEAS:

SNAP works.
SNAP works well for households where individuals can visit retailers to purchase the food items that best fit their budgets and families.

Unfortunately, individuals who are too sick to shop or cook for themselves may not be able to access traditional SNAP even if they are eligible for the benefit.

GusNIP works, too.
GusNIP has proven to be extremely successful despite the limited number of enrollees who are eligible to participate in the nutrition incentive program.

OUR REQUEST: To maximize access to medically tailored meals and cost-savings for taxpayers in the Farm Bill, Congress should:

Create an MTM pilot program.
MTMs can be customized to the medical needs of Americans who are too sick to shop or cook for themselves and support their recovery from medical conditions.

Increase funding for GusNIP.
Promote additional access for participants in states around the nation, and eliminate state dollar-for-dollar match requirements.

Provide additional SNAP-Ed funding.
Increase the number of organizations and SNAP enrollees that can be reached through additional grants.

Promote expanded supports provided by SNAP, including:
Higher allotments for emergency use that help households keep up with increasing food costs.

Procedural innovations that better support enrollees like extended certification periods, adjusted reporting requirements, initial and recertification interview waivers, and telephonic signatures for initial applications.
THE BACKGROUND:

FIMC agencies are guided by an unwavering belief that diet, access to good nutrition, and public health are interwoven elements of a complex system that magnify racial and socioeconomic healthcare inequities.

**Why the Farm Bill matters:** The Farm Bill remains the marquee bill in Congress to address these glaring inequities and ensure that seniors, working families, and food insecure households have access to nutritious and healthy food options.

**Approach:** We believe that a whole of government approach is needed to solve the health, hunger, and chronic disease crises afflicting millions of Americans.

THE OPPORTUNITY:

The Farm Bill does not fund the work that goes into tailoring food to meet the clinical needs of sick Americans enrolled in Farm Bill programs.

**What we should do:** Congress can overcome this hurdle by updating the Farm Bill to meet 21st century challenges and implementing policies that encourage access to “medically-tailored nutrition.”

THE IMPACT:

While it will take time to address those challenges, there are several changes to the FY23 Farm Bill that Congress can make to support individuals who are too sick to shop or cook for themselves.

The 2023 Farm Bill presents an important opportunity to expand and diversify nutrition supports in a manner that improves the nation’s health outcomes and financial interests.

**Changes:**
- Boosting access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Scaling investments that provide access to fresh fruits & vegetables through GusNIP.
- Enhancing consumer awareness about nutritious and healthy foods through SNAP-ED.
- Providing Medically Tailored Meals to Americans directly in their homes & communities.