

## Prevent Seniors in Your District from Going Hungry

Sending Office: Honorable Sander M. Levin  
Sent By: Rose.Luttenberger@mail.house.gov

### **Prevent Seniors in Your District from Going Hungry Support the Commodity Supplemental Food Program**

This is a Programmatic Request.

Electronic Submission Instructions will be Provided.

**Deadline: Friday, March 09**

Dear Colleague:

With over 40 million Americans suffering from food insecurity, support for effective programs to ensure our constituents' basic needs is more important than ever. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program currently provides up to **728,552 nutritious food packages each month in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and 3 Indian Tribal Organizations.** Please join us in urging the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee to preserve the CSFP and provide sufficient funding to maintain the current caseload, and to provide an opportunity for the remaining state to start programs subject to USDA approval. The estimated appropriation is no less than \$250 million to achieve this goal.

CSFP recipients are seniors with annual income levels at or below \$15,782 and many have no means of transportation. **CSFP is often a program of last resort for seniors who qualify for no other form of nutrition assistance,** and by providing for delivery of fresh food packages, the CSFP plays a crucial role in ensuring that even the homebound have their nutrition needs met.

As you may know, President Trump has proposed to eliminate all funding for the CSFP in his Fiscal Year 2019 budget request. The letter below urges the Chairman and Ranking Member to preserve the program and to allocate sufficient funds in the FY2019 Agriculture Appropriations Act for the CSFP.

Contact Rose Luttenberger ([rose.luttenberger@mail.house.gov](mailto:rose.luttenberger@mail.house.gov), x5-4961) with Congressman Sander Levin's office if you have any questions or would like to be added to the letter.

Sincerely,

Sander Levin

Member of Congress

March X, 2018

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Sanford Bishop  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies  
2407 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member Bishop,

We write to express our strong support for preserving the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in the Fiscal Year 2019 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. As you may know, President Trump has proposed to eliminate all funding for the CSFP in his Fiscal Year 2019 budget request. We strongly urge you to reject this proposed elimination and provide sufficient funding to maintain the current caseload, and to provide an opportunity for the one remaining state to start their program subject to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approval. Based on currently available program costs, we estimate that the needed appropriation will need to be no less than \$250 million.

As you may know, CSFP is a critical nutrition program that delivers USDA commodities primarily to seniors. In this time of continued economic hardship, reliance on nutrition assistance is greater than ever. CSFP is an important component of our nutrition efforts because it reaches many seniors who qualify for no other program while providing delivery for those that are homebound.

In FY 2018 CSFP will provide up to 728,552 food packages each month in 49 states, the District of Columbia, 3 Indian Tribal Organizations, and Puerto Rico. This year program participants are elderly individuals with an income at or below \$15,782. CSFP food packages are designed to supplement needed sources of nutrients typically lacking in participants' diets, including protein, iron, zinc, and vitamins B-6 and B-12. CSFP providers also have been very cost efficient: the typical food package has a retail value up to \$50 but costs the Federal government approximately \$20 per participant package.

As you begin the appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2019, we urge you to maintain sufficient funding to this important lifeline that supports many seniors in our communities. We appreciate your consideration of this important request and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that no American goes hungry.

Sincerely,

Sander M. Levin