

Support the Commodity Supplemental Food Program In Fiscal Year 2019

Deadline: Wednesday, April 25

Dear Colleague:

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is a critical nutrition program that delivers U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities to nearly **700,000 seniors** each month.

Please join Senator Klobuchar in urging the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee to maintain support for the CSFP at a sufficient funding level that will maintain the current caseload, and will provide an opportunity for the two remaining states to start programs subject to USDA approval. The estimated appropriation is no less than \$250 million.

CSFP recipients are seniors with annual income levels at or below \$15,678 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.

The letter below urges the Chairman and Ranking Member to allocate no less than \$250 million in funding for the CSFP in the FY2019 Agriculture Appropriations Act.

Contact Brian Werner (Brian_Werner@klobuchar.senate.gov) in Senator Klobuchar's office with questions or if you would like to be added to the letter.

FY 2018 Signers: Klobuchar, Reed, Heitkamp, Murphy, Kaine, Whitehouse, Donnelly, Menendez, Peters, Casey, Hirono, Cantwell, Hassan, Franken, Markey, Warren, Shaheen, Baldwin, Coons, Gillibrand, Manchin, Van Hollen, Stabenow, Cardin, Sanders, Blumenthal, and Wyden.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program Letter

Dear Chairman Hoeven and Ranking Member Merkley:

As your subcommittee considers the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you provide no less than \$250 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). This would support current assigned caseload levels and, if approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), provide an opportunity for the one remaining state to participate in the program. As you know, CSFP is a critical nutrition program that delivers up to 728,552 food packages each month to seniors 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. 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 49 states, the District of Columbia, 3 Indian Tribal Organizations, and Puerto Rico.

It is vitally important that we continue to provide nutritious food to this vulnerable population. We thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,