

Support the Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Sending Office: Honorable Andy Levin
Sent By: Abbas.Alawieh@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: COB Tuesday, March 26

Dear Colleague:

In this time of continued economic hardship, support for effective programs to ensure our constituents' basic needs is more important than ever. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program provides up to **736,110 food packages each month in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 5 Indian Tribal Organizations, and Puerto Rico**. Please join us in urging the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee to maintain support for the CSFP at a sufficient funding level that will maintain the current caseload. The estimated appropriation is no less than \$238.120 million.

CSFP recipients are seniors with annual income levels at or below \$16,237 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 sufficient funds in the FY2020 Agriculture Appropriations Act for the CSFP.

Please contact Abbas Alawieh at Abbas.Alawieh@mail.house.gov to be added to the letter or for any questions.

Sincerely,

Andy Levin

Member of Congress

March X, 2019

The Honorable Sanford Bishop Jr.

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 Jeff Fortenberry

Ranking Member

Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

1514 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Fortenberry,

We write to express our strong support for preserving the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 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 2020 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 appropriations will need to be no less than \$238.120 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 2019, CSFP will provide up to 736,110 food packages each month in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 5 Indian Tribal Organizations, and Puerto Rico. This year, program participants are elderly individuals with an income at or below \$16,237. 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 \$23 per participant package.

As you begin the appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2020, we urge you to maintain sufficient funding for 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,