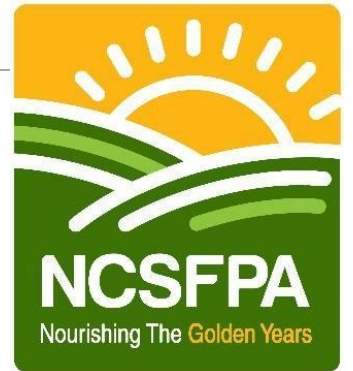


CSFP Advocacy and Education

JULY 19, 2023



Welcome to today's NCSFPA Office Hour

Today's training is a look at a "year in the life" of how NCSFPA communicates with USDA, members of Congress, and their committees that support and fund CSFP



Thank you for joining us!

Please,

- ❖ Rename yourself and include your name and organization
- ❖ Put yourself on mute when others are speaking
- ❖ State your name, state, and organization when speaking
- ❖ Feel free to enter comments and questions in the chat

Advocacy & Engagement Activities

- ❖ Communication with USDA
- ❖ House & Senate Sign on Letters
- ❖ Appropriations Request Forms
- ❖ Testimony to House & Senate Subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies
- ❖ Legislative Visits

NCSFPA Legislative Work Timeline

January	February	March	April	May	Summer
Review national caseload participation numbers	Anticipated release of next fiscal year budget request	Next fiscal year CSFP appropriations requests submitted	Visits to House and Senate offices as needed throughout the funding process	NCSFPA written testimony and Truth in Testimony Form for House and Senate are due	Meet with Office of Management and Budget to discuss support of CSFP, caseload, and expansion for the President's next proposed budget
	Anticipated annual release of new CSFP income guidelines	Visits to House and Senate offices as needed throughout the funding process		FRAC Conference and visits to Senate and Congress representatives	

NCSFPA, USDA & Congress

The Board is in contact with USDA and members of Congress. Like most relationships, it takes regular communication to keep each other informed and involved in supporting shared goals, meeting with elected officials and their staff.

The Board invites USDA National Office staff to our board meetings four times a year. We submit questions, get responses, and have discussion on current topics that affect CSFP. This is a welcome chance to build an ongoing relationship with USDA.

The Board also contacts or responds to members of Congress throughout the year to keep CSFP planning on track to meet budget and planning deadlines.

While the efforts we will discuss tend to take place at the same time each year, they are subject to delays. All timelines are anticipated timelines.



House and Senate Sign-on Letters

- ❖ A “sign-on” letter is like a petition in Congress. They are circulated by champions in Congress to ask other members to join them in showing their support for an issue. NCSFPA works to support this process for CSFP.
- ❖ The number of signers on these letters set a marker for just how much support an issue area has.
- ❖ As leaders of the committee start writing their annual spending bill, having clear support from their colleagues is important when they are deciding how to divide up their budget for the year.
- ❖ These letters can have a lot of sway with leadership when a strong number of their colleagues are asking them to support a cause – especially if it shows bipartisan support!



Source <https://results.org/blog/fy22-global-sign-on-letters/>

House and Senate Sign-on Letter Timeline

January	February	March	April
NCSFPA Board work on House & Senate sign-on letters begins	Start of individual House/Senate member requests and sign-on letters	Individual member requests and sign-on letters continue	Individual member requests and sign-on letters continue. House deadline is mid/late April. Senate deadline is similar.

House Support

Senate Support

**80 Signatures
of support for
CSFP!**

Sign-on 2024

Appropriations Request Forms

- Many Congressional Offices post Appropriations Request Forms in March-ish
- Forms ask for Program information, funding request, and impact to state/region
 - Support President's Budget request \$390M
 - 760,547 annual caseload
 - CSFP operates in all 50 states
- 80 Appropriations Request Forms submitted for FY'24

From:
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 1:04 PM
To: Frank Kubik
Subject: RE: CSFP FY23 Dear Colleague

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Please report any suspicious emails to The Focus: Hope IT Department immediately.

Thank you! I added him

From: Frank Kubik <KUBIKF@focushope.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 12:04 PM
To:
Subject: CSFP FY23 Dear Colleague

Hi

I have attached below a Dear Colleague letter from Representative Andy Levin in support of funding the Commodity Supplemental Food Program in FY23. Please consider having Congressman sign on to this letter. The state of New Hampshire has a monthly caseload of 3,372 low-income seniors on the program. The current signers are Adams, Alma; Allred, Colin; Auchincloss, Jake; Barragán, Nanette; Blunt Rochester, Lisa; Bonamici, Suzanne; Brown, Anthony; Brownley, Julia; Cárdenas, Tony; Carson, André; Casten, Sean; Castro, Joaquin; Chu, Judy; Cicilline, David; Cohen, Steve; Correa, J.; Courtney, Joe; Craig, Angie; Davids, Sharice; Davis, Danny; Dean, Madeleine; DeFazio, Peter; DeGette, Diana; DelBene, Suzan; Delgado, Antonio; Demings, Val; DeSaulnier, Mark; Deutch, Theodore; Dingell, Debbie; Doggett, Lloyd; Eshoo, Anna; Evans, Dwight; Fletcher, Lizzie; Foster, Bill; Gallego, Ruben; Garamendi, John; García, Jesús; García, Sylvia; Gomez, Jimmy; Gonzalez, Vicente; Green, Al; Hayes, Jahana; Jacobs, Sara; Jayapal, Pramila; Johnson, Eddie; Kahele, Kaiali'i; Keating, William; Khanna, Ro; Kildee, Daniel; Kuster, Ann; Lamb, Conor; Larsen, Rick; Larson, John; Levin, Andy; Lieu, Ted; Lowenthal, Alan; Lynch, Stephen; Maloney, Sean; McBath, Lucy; McGovern, James; McNerney, Jerry; Moore, Gwen; Morelle, Joseph; Moulton, Seth; Neal, Richard; Newman, Marie; Norton, Eleanor; Omar, Ilhan; Pallone, Frank; Panetta, Jimmy; Payne, Donald; Plaskett, Stacey; Porter, Katie; Pressley, Ayanna; Raskin, Jamie; Rice, Kathleen; Ruiz, Raul; Rush, Bobby; Sablan, Gregorio; Sánchez, Linda; Sarbanes, John; Schakowsky, Janice; Schrier, Kim; Scott, Robert; Sewell, Terri; Sires, Albio; Slotkin, Elissa; Smith, Adam; Soto, Darren; Spanberger, Abigail; Speier, Jackie; Stevens, Haley; Strickland, Marilyn; Takano, Mark; Titus, Dina; Trahan, Lori; Vargas, Juan; Veasey, Marc; Velázquez, Nydia; Welch, Peter; Williams, Nikema; Yarmuth, John

The deadline is today at 2:00pm. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.
Frank

Budget Process and Hearings

- ❖ The President is required to submit to Congress a proposed budget by the first Monday in February. This budget is a comprehensive examination of federal revenues and spending.
- ❖ Within six weeks of the President's budget submission, congressional committees are required to submit their "views and estimates" of spending and revenues within their respective jurisdictions to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.
- ❖ These views and estimates, along with information from other sources, including NCSFPA, are then used by each Appropriation Committee in drafting and reporting a concurrent resolution on the budget to its respective house.
- ❖ Other information is gathered by the Appropriation Committees in reports and hearing testimony, which NCSFPA provides each year.

Source

<https://budget.house.gov/sites/democrats.budget.house.gov/files/documents/crs%20budget%20overview.pdf>

Budget Process Timeline

February

President's budget request released in February. CSFP explanatory notes submitted for consideration.

March - May

House and Senate appropriations markups/sub committees and full committee activity

House and Senate Appropriations Committee hearings on budget

June - August

House and Senate floor action, passage, reconciliation, and passage begins

September

President's signature on final appropriations bill by September 30th

Legislative Visits

- Members of the Education Committee travel to DC for visits with congressional and committee staff (both Democrat and Republican) to discuss appropriations or the upcoming Farm Bill
 - 16 visits completed in March
 - 12 visits completed in May
 - Virtual meetings schedule as needed
 - Meetings were substantive and the Committee was well received



The “Farm Bill”



The “Farm Bill” is a package of legislation passed roughly once every five years that has a tremendous impact on farming livelihoods, how food is grown, and what kinds of foods are grown.



Covering programs ranging from crop insurance for farmers to healthy food access for low-income families and seniors, the farm bill sets the stage for our food and farm systems.



Every five years (or so), the farm bill expires and is updated. It goes through an extensive process where it is proposed, debated, and passed by Congress and is then signed into law by the President.



Each farm bill has a unique title, and the current farm bill is called the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. **It was enacted into law in December 2018 and expires in 2023.**



Source <https://sustainableagriculture.net/our-work/campaigns/fbcampaign/what-is-the-farm-bill/>

Farm Bill “Timeline” and Impact on CSFP

Given the nature of the Farm Bill, the “timeline” is not always exact as it moves from the last Farm Bill to the next about every five years.

The Farm Bill includes the reauthorization of CSFP, allowing the program to continue for the next five years. This is separate from the Budget process, which establishes funding.

It also provides an opportunity to make regulatory changes to the bill. The CSFP you know today is very different than it was twenty years ago. Farm Bills have incorporated changes such as:

- ❖ Removing Mothers, Infants, and Children from the program to focus on Seniors
- ❖ Making improvements to administrative funding structure
- ❖ Allowing a three-year certification process for participants

NCSFPA 2023 Farm Bill Recommendations



Reauthorize CSFP: The Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 reauthorizes programs every five years. It is critical that CSFP is reauthorized from 2023 through 2028



Extend the Cheese and Nonfat Dry Milk Provision: Maintain provision from the previous farm bill to continue providing these important, basic food items.



Establish Changes in the Determination of Income Eligibility: NCSFPA urges the following change in determination of income eligibility: Medicare payments are not considered income. Medicare payments are deducted before the senior received their benefits. They are not available to the senior but are included as income when determining CSFP eligibility.

How You Can Help



Awareness of CSFP is the most valuable asset in getting the support needed to keep the program running strong. Elected officials change from year to year. Established relationships end and new ones begin. The conversation never ends...



When your agency invites a local elected representative and/or senator to a CSFP distribution, they get to see the program in action. These visits show their support for seniors and gives them a chance to hear about CSFP from participants, staff, and volunteers. If you do plan a visit, send out a press release to get some media coverage for your program.



Visits are an opportunity to say “Please remember this visit when the CSFP Sign-On letter arrives at your office at the start of the year. Our participants would appreciate your support.” If you are limited on promoting the program, contact the NCSFPA Board and send us details on the visit and we can connect with your representative and/or senator on your behalf.

How You Can Help

- Submit Appropriations Request forms to your Congressional offices (spring '24)
- Contact your Senators and Representatives and ask them to sign onto the annual letter (spring '24)
- Share the Association's Farm Bill request with your elected officials
- Incorporate the Association's Farm Bill request into your organization's legislative priorities

Questions?

