

HHS COMMITTEE #1
February 6, 2014

MEMORANDUM

February 4, 2014

TO: Health and Human Service Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst *LME*

SUBJECT: **Update on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

At this session, the HHS Committee will receive an update on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). In Maryland, SNAP is known as the Food Supplement Program and it was previously known as Food Stamps. In November, Councilmember Riemer asked Committee Chair Leventhal to hold a session on SNAP to discuss the impacts of the reductions to SNAP recipients when stimulus funding levels were allowed to expire. At the time this memo is being prepared, the Senate is considering funding and requirements for the SNAP program as a part of a new Farm Bill which was previously approved by the House of Representatives.

The Committee will hear from three presenters regarding the SNAP program, impacts of the November reductions, and other changes being considered as a part of the Farm Bill.

- Brooke McCauley, Senior Manager, Maryland Hunger Solutions and staff at the Food and Research Action Center (FRAC)
- Nancy Roman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Capital Area Food Bank
- Jackie DeCarlo, Executive Director, Manna Food Center

Department of Health and Human Services Director Uma Ahluwalia will provide comments to the Committee regarding impacts known to date on County clients and residents.

As shown in the table on © 1, about 32,000 families (cases) receive SNAP benefits in Montgomery County. For a family of four the benefit is \$632 per month, a reduction of \$36 from the benefit prior to November 1, 2103.

Households must meet certain income requirements (gross income 130% of Federal Poverty Level and net income of less than 100% of Federal Poverty Level). Allowable deductions for net income include housing, utilities, and medical expenses (among other items). There are certain categorical eligibility rules that include families where all members are receiving Temporary Aide to Families with Children (TANF), Social Security Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or, in some states, other general assistance. Homeless people have the same rights for SNAP as people who are housed. Information from FRAC about the November reductions, eligibility, and the rights of homeless people are attached at © 3-7.

One of the categorical eligibility rules allows State to qualify households for SNAP if they receive a benefit from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). This practice has allowed states (including Maryland) to simplify the application process. The Farm Bill passed by the House and expected to be passed by the Senate would require that the minimum benefit from LIHEAP be at least \$20, otherwise the applicant will have to show evidence of heating and cooling costs. It is estimated that this could reduce SNAP benefits to about 850,000 household by about \$90 per month. (© 2 e-mail from FRAC)

The Farm Bill also has some provisions that are meant to improve the access to healthy food. It would require retailers to carry at least seven items in four categories (fruits and vegetables, grains, dairy, and meat) and to offer perishable items in two categories. The bill would allow non-profits to purchase and deliver food to homebound seniors and disabled individuals as long as they meet certain standards and do not deduct the deliver fee from the SNAP account. Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs) would be allowed to become authorized retailers and redeem SNAP benefits. The Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program would be reauthorized and Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Grants would be established to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables at the point of purchase.

While there are positive provisions in the Farm Bill, the Capital Area Food Bank and Manna will share with the Committee the growth in demand that they have seen since the November reductions and in response to growing food insecurity in the region. A fact sheet from Manna is attached at © 8-9. Ms. Roman and Ms. DeCarlo can provide the Committee with information on how increases to the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) may benefit their organizations and the clients they serve. A fact sheet on TEFAP is attached at © 11-12.

Montgomery County Income Supports Caseload Information

Program	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13
Temporary Cash Assistance	919	922	918	940	908	904
SNAP	31,866	30,940	31,867	32,158	32,377	31,994
Medical Assistance	50,537	50,708	50,544	50,787	51,113	51,059
Community Medical Assistance	37,604	37,791	37,708	37,925	38,279	38,207
Social Supplemental Income	12,933	12,917	12,836	12,862	12,834	12,852
Temporary Disability Assistance Program	432	436	424	418	407	396

SNAP Benefit Amount Changes

Household Size	New FY 2014 Benefit	Previous Benefit	Change effective 11/1/13
1	\$189	\$200	-\$11
2	\$347	\$367	-\$20
3	\$497	\$526	-\$29
4	\$632	\$668	-\$36
5	\$750	\$793	-\$43
6	\$900	\$952	-\$52
7	\$995	\$1052	-\$57
8	\$1137	\$1202	-\$65
Each additional	\$142	\$150	-\$8

McMillan, Linda

From: MJWilson=mdhungersolutions.org@mail.salsalabs.net on behalf of Michael J. Wilson, Maryland Hunger Solutions [MJWilson@mdhungersolutions.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 5:08 PM
To: McMillan, Linda
Subject: SNAP Cuts in Farm Bill Will Lead to Less Food for Vulnerable People

SNAP Cuts in Farm Bill Will Lead to Less Food for Vulnerable People

Contact: Sara McGovern, 202-640-1089, smcgovern@frac.org

Today, the Farm Bill will move from conference committee to the floor of the House and Senate will cut SNAP benefits to an estimated 850,000 households by an average of \$90/month. The vote in the House of Representatives is expected on Wednesday. Maryland Hunger Solutions is encouraging Members of Congress to vote "No" on the bill because of the pain this provision will cause for so many of the most vulnerable members of our society, making monthly food allotments fall even further short of what is needed.

"Every participant has already suffered a significant cut in benefits beginning last November 1st." said Michael J. Wilson, Director of Maryland Hunger Solutions. "Demand at emergency food providers has skyrocketed. Now the Farm Bill, if passed, will considerably worsen the already bad situation for our most vulnerable households."

SNAP is essential to the nutrition, health and well-being of 47 million Americans each month, including nearly 900,000 Maryland residents, more than half of who are seniors and children. The SNAP cuts in the conference bill amount to \$8.6 billion over 10 years. The bill has modest boosts in nutrition supports (e.g. for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), for "double bucks" farmers' market programs, for improved SNAP education and training programs, for Healthy Food Financing). These are small positive steps but are far from commensurate to the SNAP damage in the bill.

"We urge the Maryland Congressional delegation to oppose this unbalanced and harmful conference report." said Wilson. "It is bitterly ironic that this bill goes to the floor almost exactly a year after an expert Institute of Medicine committee found that SNAP benefits are already inadequate for most families to purchase an adequate, healthy diet; and it comes in the same month that researchers issued a new study showing that low-income people have increased hypoglycemia-related hospital admissions late in the month because they run out of food."

Maryland Hunger Solutions is joined in opposition to any SNAP cuts by 100 faith based leaders from around the state. These religious leaders recently joined Maryland Hunger Solutions in signing a letter urging the Maryland Congressional delegation to oppose cuts to SNAP.

We also ask you to stand with us as our partners against hunger by calling your Congressional representatives at (202) 224-3121 and urging them to vote no on the Farm Bill. We hope you will stand with us against SNAP cuts by calling, emailing or tweeting your Member of Congress today.

FRAC

Food Research and Action Center

About the November 1 SNAP/Food Stamp Benefit Reduction

On November 1, 2013, the SNAP/Food Stamp benefit boost created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ends. Federal law requires a decrease in monthly benefits for everyone getting benefits. The reduction takes effect on November 1, 2013.

The reduction is about 5.5 percent of the maximum allotment, so the amount of the decrease depends on the household size. For example:

Household Size Monthly Benefits Lost

- 1 person - \$11
- 2 people - \$20
- 3 people - \$29
- 4 people - \$36

People getting the minimum benefit will see only a decrease of \$1, from \$16 to \$15.

Anti-hunger advocates have created materials to help outreach workers communicate to clients how their benefits will change, and how reexamining their expenses for dependent care (and excess medical care if elderly) might result in higher deductions and higher SNAP allotments. See box on this page for links to materials.

Is there any way to increase SNAP benefits?

Make sure all allowable deductions are being claimed. The amount of deductions from income helps determine how large a SNAP benefit is, and often allowable deductions haven't all been counted by the SNAP agency. For example:

Medical Expenses: If someone in a SNAP

Resource materials:

Food Research and Action Center
Flyer (pdf)

D.C. Hunger Solutions
ARRA Benefit Decrease web page

Association of Arizona Food Banks
Flyer (pdf)

California Association of Food Banks
Resources and materials

Children's Alliance, Washington State
Flyer/Fact Sheet (pdf)

Feeding America San Diego
CalFresh cuts information

Hunger Free Vermont
Flyer (pdf); FAQ (pdf); Video

Hunger Solutions NY
Flyer (pdf); Policy update (pdf)

Legal Services in New Jersey
Flyer (pdf)

Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance
Materials

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Information and materials

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

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household is age 60 or older or has a disability, the Resources

SNAP benefit may go up if information about all

out-of-pocket medical costs, such as insurance

premiums, copayments, medical equipment, and transportation to and from providers is provided.

Child Care Expenses: If a recipient pays for child or adult day care in order to work, look for work, or attend school, the SNAP benefit may go up if they show the SNAP agency all their out-of-pocket costs, including fees, co-pays, afterschool care, and transportation.

What Other Help Might Be Available?

School Meals and Other Resources: A recipient, or someone in a recipient's household, may qualify for free or reduced price school meals, afterschool meals, WIC, emergency food assistance, or home delivered meals.

Food Research and Action Center

1200 18th Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202 986-2200, Fax: 202 986-2525

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SNAP/Food Stamp Eligibility

Eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps) is based on financial and non-financial factors. The application process includes completing and filing an application form, being interviewed, and verifying facts crucial to determining eligibility. With certain exceptions, a household that meets the eligibility requirements is qualified to receive benefits. Legal immigrants who are children or disabled can now get SNAP benefits, as can legal immigrants who have legally resided in the United States for at least 5 years. Other legal immigrants and any undocumented immigrants are ineligible for SNAP benefits. Also, many able-bodied, childless, unemployed adults have time limits on their receipt of SNAP benefits.

A household is defined as a person or a group of people living together, but not necessarily related, who purchase and prepare food together. Households, except those with elderly or disabled members, must have gross incomes below 130 percent of the poverty line. All households must have net incomes below 100 percent of poverty to be eligible. Most households may have up to \$2,000 in countable resources (e.g., checking/savings account, cash, stocks/bonds). Households with at least one member who is age 60 or older or a member living with a disability may have up to \$3,250 in resources.

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Expanding Access to SNAP/Food Stamps Maps

Eliminating the Asset Test (pdf) - Map of states that have eliminated or raised the asset test by adopting broad-based categorical eligibility for SNAP/Food Stamps.

Raising the Gross Income Test (pdf) - Map of states that have eliminated or raised the asset test by adopting broad-based categorical eligibility for SNAP/Food Stamps.

SNAP Eligibility Standards (pdf)



Homeless Persons' Rights under the SNAP/Food Stamp Program

Homeless persons have all the same rights under the SNAP/Food Stamp Program as persons who are housed. They also have some additional rights due to the fact that they are homeless. In addition, certain provisions in SNAP/Food Stamp law that apply to all persons often particularly affect homeless people.

When is someone considered homeless?

You are considered "homeless" under the SNAP/Food Stamp Program if you:

- (1) have no fixed, regular place you sleep at night or;
- (2) the place you sleep at night is one of the following:
 - a shelter (which includes a welfare hotel or congregate shelter)
 - a half-way house
 - the home of someone else if you are there less than 90 days
 - a place where people do not usually sleep such as a doorway, a lobby, a bus station, a hallway, or a subway. 7 CFR 271.2 (definition of "homeless individual")

Homeless persons are eligible for SNAP/Food Stamps even if they live on the streets and do not have a mailing address. Homeless people cannot be denied SNAP/Food Stamps simply because they lack a permanent address. 7 CFR 273.3(a).

Homeless people are also eligible for SNAP/Food Stamps even if they live in a homeless shelter which provides them with meals. Homeless people cannot be denied SNAP/Food Stamps only because they are living in a homeless shelter which serves meals.

You do not need a place to cook or store food to receive SNAP/Food Stamps. 7 CFR 273.3(a). You cannot be denied SNAP/Food Stamps solely because you lack a kitchen or other cooking facility.

Where can homeless people use SNAP/Food Stamps?

Homeless persons have the option of using their SNAP/Food Stamps at places other than the grocery store or farmers market. Homeless persons can pay for meals at some soup kitchens and homeless shelters with SNAP/Food Stamps. 7 CFR 278.2(b). These soup kitchens and shelters must be authorized by FNS to accept SNAP/Food Stamps. They cannot force you to use your SNAP/Food Stamps to pay for food at the shelter. They can only request that you voluntarily use your SNAP/Food Stamps to pay for meals and cannot ask you to pay more than the average cost of meals at the shelter. 7 CFR 278.2(b). In addition, if the soup kitchen or homeless shelter gives other clients the option of eating free or making a monetary donation, you must be given the option of eating free, making a monetary donation, or using your SNAP/Food Stamps to pay

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for the food. 7 CFR 278.2(b).

Homeless persons may use their SNAP/Food Stamps at certain restaurants. Restaurants can contract with the state to serve meals to homeless persons at reduced prices in exchange for SNAP/Food Stamps. 7 CFR 271.2 (definition of "eligible foods") If you are homeless and would like to be able to use your SNAP/Food Stamps to purchase meals at restaurants, you should tell your SNAP/Food Stamp caseworker. You will be given a specially-marked ID card which will allow you to buy meals at restaurants. 7 CFR 274.10(a)(4)(iii).

How can homeless people verify their identity and residence?

The SNAP/Food Stamp caseworker is required to verify your identity. 7 CFR 273.2(f). There are many ways, however, that you may verify your identity. A photo ID is only one way. You should not be denied SNAP/Food Stamps simply because you do not have a photo ID. To prove who you are, you can use such things as a work or school ID, an ID for health benefits, an ID from another social services program such as TANF, wage stubs, a birth certificate, or a voter registration card. The SNAP/Food Stamp caseworker can also verify your identity by calling a "collateral contact" who can confirm you who are. Shelter workers and employers are examples of possible collateral contacts. If you have no paper documentation of who you are, you should ask the SNAP/Food Stamp caseworker to call a collateral contact. 7 CFR 273.2(f)(1)(C) (vii).

Homeless households are not required to verify where they live. If you are living in a shelter, however, it may be helpful to bring a letter to the SNAP/Food Stamp office which is written by a shelter employee and says that you are living in the shelter.

What happens if a homeless person spends money on shelter?

Homeless people may spend money on shelter by doing such things as paying to stay with a friend, or paying to stay in a motel. If you can document those shelter costs, you may be able to deduct them from your gross income for purposes of determining net monthly income. If you are homeless and have spent money on shelter, but have no receipts or other documentation to prove how much you spent, you still may be able to receive a deduction in some states. Certain states have chosen to use what is called the "homeless shelter deduction" which allows people who are homeless, but who have spent money on shelter, to deduct a flat \$143 from their gross income. Even if your state uses the homeless shelter deduction, you may not receive the deduction if you have extremely low shelter costs. If you can get more SNAP/Food Stamp benefits by using the regular shelter deduction instead of the homeless shelter deduction, you should use the regular deduction. If your state does not use the homeless shelter deduction, you may want to advocate that your state elect to use it.

Do homeless people get any special help with receiving their benefits?

SNAP/Food Stamp offices are required to establish procedures that serve homeless persons. 7 CFR 273.2(a). If you are homeless, the SNAP/Food Stamp office is required to give you assistance in receiving your SNAP/Food Stamp benefits. 7 CFR 274.2(a). For example, the SNAP/Food Stamp office may assist you by helping you to find an authorized representative or mailing your benefits to a shelter that you are staying at. The SNAP/Food Stamp office cannot make you fill out report forms each month if you are homeless. 7 CFR 273.21(b)(1)(ii).

What are the rights of homeless youth?

If you are a young person who is living in a shelter or entirely alone, you should be able to apply for SNAP/Food Stamps on your own. Your parent's income should not be used in calculating whether you are eligible for SNAP/Food Stamps. If you are living in a shelter, you may want to bring a letter written by a caseworker at the shelter which says that you are living there.

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fighting hunger and feeding hope in montgomery county

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CFC# 23028 United Way# 8846

FACT SHEET

What we do.

What we do is simple and essential. Manna Food Center fights hunger in Montgomery County by collecting and distributing approximately 4 million pounds of food annually to needy individuals and families.

- *Food for Families Distribution:* Manna provides a three to five-day supply of perishable and nonperishable food to each household at one of eighteen distribution points in the County.
- *Karen Goldberg Smart Sacks:* Manna gives food to hungry elementary school children through Manna's innovative Goldberg Smart Sacks program. Hungry elementary school students receive a backpack full of kid-friendly food on Fridays so they have food to eat over the weekend when there are no school meals to fill empty stomachs. There are currently 56 participating Smart Sacks schools serving more than 2,100 children.
- *Agency Food Distribution:* Manna provides food to Montgomery County homeless shelters, soup kitchens, group homes, and low-income housing areas so they can focus on providing their core services that will help people reach their highest degree of self-sufficient living.

Here are a few phenomenal statistics about what Manna accomplished in FY 2013:

- Households Served via Food For Families Distribution: 11,490
- Individuals Served via Food For Families Distribution: 36,080
- Packages of food distributed through Food For Families program: 42,988
- Smart Sacks Distributed to Elementary School Children: 76,153
- Pounds of Food Donated by Grocery Stores and Wholesalers: 2,335,033
- Pounds of Food Donated by Community Members: 532,125
- Pounds of Fresh Produce Donated to Manna from local Farms and Farmers Markets: 217,438
- Total Pounds of Food Distributed: 4,012,483
- Number of Volunteer Hours Given by the Community: 64,626

We serve more than 3,600 households each month and more than 2,100 elementary school children each week during the school year.

Many of our clients come to us in crisis and require emergency food. Others find themselves consistently unable to put food on the table because of low-income jobs and the high cost of housing and health care. Clients are referred to Manna from 360 different partners across the county including churches, social service organizations, schools, employee assistance programs, hospitals, and more.

It takes an income of \$74,000 to support a family of four in Montgomery County today. Steep increases in the cost of basic necessities such as housing, groceries, gasoline, and health care have put tremendous pressure on poor families in Montgomery County. Manna has seen the impact of these unfortunate trends and is helping an increasing number of adults and children each year.

Nearly one-half of all the people we feed are children, which is not surprising when you realize that 33.3% of all MCPS benefit from free or reduced price meals. This means that more than **1 of every 3 students in Montgomery County are at risk for hunger.**

Where does Manna get its food and funding?

Manna depends on the generosity of individuals and organizations to sustain its essential operations. Manna also fills its shelves through donations from local grocery stores, community food drives, and state and federal emergency food grant



fighting hunger and feeding hope in montgomery county

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programs. Manna is funded by state and local government as well as by United Way and workplace campaigns, corporate gifts, donations from faith-based and community organizations, foundation grants, and individual contributions.

Is Manna Food Center well managed?

Yes. We are one of the most efficient organizations in Montgomery County. \$0.94 of every dollar goes directly to feed the hungry. Manna is able to turn a \$1 donation into \$3--\$5 worth of food. Manna accomplishes this by operating with a small but efficient staff of fifteen employees and by relying on the help of hundreds of generous volunteers.

How can you help?

Manna needs both food and funds to feed our hungry neighbors. You can organize a food drive or make a financial contribution. You could also volunteer to sort food and pack boxes at our warehouse. Your company could become a Goldberg Smart Sacks partner organization. You can start a Manna Garden to grow healthy vegetables for families in need.

Manna Food Distribution Locations and Hours of Operations

Clients must have a referral every time they pick up food at Manna Food Center.

To refer a client, call 301-424-1130 or email referral@mannafood.org

Manna Food Center Main Warehouse

9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Monday through Friday, 12 noon to 3:30 pm
Second Saturday of Every Month: 11:30-1:30
(Office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm)

Manna's Satellite Locations:

St. Camillus Church, 1600 St. Camillus Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20903 - Mondays 2- 4 pm

Catholic Community Services, 12247 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton MD 20902 - Tuesday 4-7 pm

Long Branch Center, 8700 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901 - Wednesday 4-7 pm East County Regional

Family Services Agency, 630 E. Diamond Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877 - Thursdays, 5-7 pm

Salvation Army, 20021 Aircraft Drive, Germantown, MD 20874 - Thursday 2-4 pm Services Center, 3300 Briggs

Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904 - Fridays, 2-4 pm

Manna's Apartment Program:

Manna also distributes food to low-income apartment complexes including: Emory Grove Village, Forest Oak Towers, Franklin Apartments, Hampshire Village, Homecrest House, Jean Smith Center at Washington Square, Londonderry Towers, Oak Grove, Paddington Square, Rockville Town Center, Seneca Heights Apartments, Seneca Ridge, Shady Grove Apartments, Tanglewood Apartments, Town Center Olney, Towne Center Place, Victory Forest, Victory Towers and Willows Apartments.

For more information, to make a donation, or to volunteer contact 301-424-1130 or info@mannafood.org; to hold a food drive, email fooddrive@mannafood.org for more information and a healthy food drive wish list.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program

1. What is The Emergency Food Assistance Program?

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a Federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income Americans, including elderly people, by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost.

Through TEFAP, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) purchases USDA Foods, including processing and packaging, and makes it available to State Distributing Agencies. The amount of food each State receives out of the total amount of food provided is based on the number of unemployed persons and the number of people with incomes below the poverty level in the State. States provide the food to local agencies that they have selected, usually food banks, which in turn distribute the food to local organizations, such as soup kitchens and food pantries that directly serve the public. States also provide the food to other types of local organizations, such as community action agencies, which distribute the foods directly to low-income households.

These local organizations distribute USDA Foods to eligible recipients for household consumption, or use them to prepare and serve meals in a congregate setting.

Under TEFAP, States also receive administrative funds to support the storage and distribution of USDA Foods. These funds must, in part, be passed down to local agencies.

TEFAP is administered at the Federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an agency of the USDA.

2. Who is eligible to get food?

(a) Public or private nonprofit organizations that provide food and nutrition assistance to low-income Americans through the distribution of food for home use or the preparation of meals to be served in a congregate setting may receive food as local agencies. They must meet the following criteria:

- Organizations that distribute food for home use must determine household eligibility by applying income standards set by the State.
- Organizations that provide prepared meals must demonstrate that they serve predominately low-income persons.

(b) Households that meet State eligibility criteria may receive food for home use. States set income standards, which may, at the State's discretion, be met through participation in other existing Federal, State, or local food, health, or welfare programs for which eligibility is based on income. States can adjust eligibility criteria to ensure that assistance is provided only to those households most in need.

Recipients of prepared meals are considered to be low-income and are not subject to a means test.

3. What foods are available through TEFAP?

The types of foods USDA purchases for TEFAP vary depending on the preferences of States and agricultural market conditions. Nearly 90 products are available for 2013, including:

- canned fruits
- canned vegetables
- fruit juice
- dried egg
- mixmeat/poultry/fish
- dried beans
- pasta products
- milk
- rice/grits/cereal
- soups



For a complete list of foods available through TEFAP in FY 2013, visit the Food Distribution website at:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/foods/foods_available.htm

4. What other food and nutrition assistance can TEFAP recipients get?

TEFAP households may be eligible for other FNS programs, including:

- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#)
- [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#)
- [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#)
- [Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations \(FDPIR\)](#)
- [Commodity Supplemental Food Program \(CSFP\)](#)

5. Are homeless people eligible for TEFAP food?

Yes. Homeless people can benefit from TEFAP through organizations like soup kitchens which provide prepared meals, or food pantries which distribute foods to individuals.

Homeless people do not have to complete an application to receive prepared meals served in a congregate setting. However, they must meet State eligibility requirements to receive TEFAP food that is not served in prepared meals.

6. When and why did TEFAP start?

TEFAP was first authorized in 1981 to distribute surplus foods to households. It was formally named The Emergency Food Assistance Program under the 1990 Farm Bill.

The program was designed to help reduce Federal food inventories and storage costs while assisting low-income persons.

Stocks of some foods held in surplus had been depleted by 1988. Therefore, the Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 authorized funds to be appropriated for the purchase of USDA Foods specifically for TEFAP. Foods acquired with appropriated funds are in addition to any surplus foods donated to TEFAP by USDA.

7. How much does the program cost?

In FY 2013, Congress appropriated \$311.34 million for TEFAP through the normal appropriations process - \$265.75 million to purchase food and \$45.59 million for administrative support for State and local agencies.

In addition to USDA Foods purchased with appropriated funds, TEFAP receives surplus USDA Foods. In FY 2012, \$304.2 million of such foods were made available to TEFAP.

8. Who should I contact for more information about TEFAP?

Since this program is administered at the State level, we suggest that you contact your [State Distributing Agency](#) for more information about TEFAP. A list of State contacts may be found on the Food Distribution website at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/contacts/sdacontacts.htm>.

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If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.