



Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Agriculture Appropriations Priorities

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- Keep school meal nutrition standards aligned with evidence-based nutrition guidance to support children’s health and nutrition security.
 - Do not include riders that would provide a carve-out for certain products to be exempt from nutrition standards. School meal standards should be crafted by scientists, not special interests.
 - Increase funding for Team Nutrition by \$7 million, for a total of \$25 million, to provide technical assistance to schools on serving minimally processed foods with less added sugars and sodium. Team Nutrition was flat-funded at \$18 million in the FY27 President’s Budget and in the FY27 House bill.
 - Provide an additional \$25 million, for a total of \$35 million, for School Kitchen Equipment Grants so programs have the equipment they need to serve more vegetables and fruits and fewer processed foods high in added sugars and sodium. School Kitchen Equipment Grants were cut in half from current funding of \$10 million to \$5 million in the FY27 President’s Budget and in the FY27 House bill.
- Keep the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) strong so children and pregnant and post-partum people can access the nutritious foods they need to thrive.
 - Fully fund WIC for every current and projected participant. Insufficient funding could place participants on waitlists for the first time in about three decades. WIC was cut from \$8.2 billion to \$8 billion in the FY27 President’s Budget and in the FY27 House bill.
 - Do not weaken WIC’s food package. WIC’s science-based food package provides nutritious foods crucial for each participant’s stage of life.
 - Protect WIC’s fruit and vegetable benefit, which has led to a measurable increase in intake for WIC-enrolled toddlers. This was cut in both the FY27 President’s Budget and in the FY27 House bill.
 - Include the Modern WIC Act (H.R.1464)/21st Century WIC Act (S.3842) in the final FY27 package. These bills modernize WIC physical presence requirements by permitting virtual certifications and health screenings without compromising program integrity, as well as allowing virtual issuance of benefits.
- Keep the benefit level and access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) strong. SNAP plays a vital role in addressing health and hunger among families with low incomes, who are often at greater risk for diet-related chronic disease, including cardiovascular disease and diabetes.
 - Reverse the recent Congressionally imposed restrictions on Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) increases to ensure SNAP benefits keep pace with the cost of healthy diets.

Current SNAP benefits are inadequate for SNAP participants to afford healthier foods. Ideally, Congress would instead change statute for SNAP to be aligned with the Low-Cost Food Plan (LCFP).

- Do not include any riders that would restrict access or eligibility to SNAP. The majority of SNAP benefits go to households with children, older adults, or those with disabilities.
- Include \$5 million in authorized funding for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP). GusNIP has been successful in increasing participants' vegetable and fruit consumption and improving dietary habits that reduce the risk of chronic disease.
- Provide \$25 million in additional funding to continue and evaluate SNAP Electronic Healthy Incentive Projects (eHIP). eHIP is used to test administering nutrition incentives through state SNAP EBT systems. The three funded pilots expire next year and have not been evaluated; additional eHIP funding will allow USDA to assess these pilots and modernize incentive delivery.
- Require reinstatement of USDA's annual Household Food Security Report and design metrics within the Report to evaluate nutrition security.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- Prevent any efforts to interfere or stop FDA's development of a mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labeling system. Front-of-pack nutrition labeling is an important step to make nutrition information clearer and more accessible, empowering consumers to make informed choices.
- Prevent any efforts to weaken the definition of 'healthy' or hinder the development of the healthy icon. The updated definition should give consumers more confidence when they see a 'healthy' claim while grocery shopping and could motivate food manufacturers to develop healthier products that qualify to use the 'healthy' claim.
- Provide \$1 million for FDA to evaluate the Phase I sodium reduction targets. Measuring compliance is a time-intensive process requiring more funding to purchase multiple data sets as well as staff time for data cleaning, analysis, and report writing.
- Support efforts and urge FDA to finalize the Phase II sodium reduction targets. Approximately seventy percent of sodium consumed in this country is added to food before consumers purchase it, making it difficult for consumers to control their sodium intake. The FDA sodium targets can help lower the high level of salt in the food supply.
- Direct FDA to issue a regulation to update menu labeling requirements to include added sugars, not just total sugars.