

## Building a Healthy, Equitable, and Sustainable Food System via the Farm Bill

This year, Bread held 29 regional Farm Bill listening sessions with 730 grassroots advocates and more than 100 additional meetings with stakeholders, including Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous farmers and food system leaders, Historically Black College and Universities, U.S. Department of Agriculture officials, and local food system leaders (including recipients of U.S. Department of Agriculture grants), to learn what they are planning to advocate for in the 2023 farm bill and to build and strengthen relationships. Bread staff also met with Congressional offices in leadership positions on Senate and House Agriculture committees and subcommittees to introduce Bread's farm bill policy team to them and gain insight on what Senate and House members can be expected to prioritize in the farm bill. These meetings and consultations have informed and built ownership for the specific list of farm bill policies below.

### An Effective Food System



#### Nutrition:

**Strengthen nutrition security in the United States by increasing access to healthy food:**

- Protect Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) from cuts or harmful changes to the Thrifty Food Plan.
- Increase support for produce-specific SNAP benefits in Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP).
- Ensure more retailers are authorized for online SNAP and capable of processing nutrition incentives.
- Retain and expand the GusNIP Produce Prescription grant program.
- Support capacity building for potential GusNIP grantees.
- Eliminate GusNIP match requirement.
- Increase support for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Incentive Program (SFMNP).
- Add fresh produce in the Commodity Supplemental Food Assistance Program (CSFP).
- Increase support for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Farm to FoodBank program and remove the state match requirement.
- Increase TEFAP infrastructure support to food banks for refrigeration and distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables.

**Enhance global maternal and child nutrition through U.S. food aid initiatives:**

- Increase prioritization of nutrition within the McGovern-Dole Food for Education program, including more support for local school gardens and local and regional procurement of food.
- Increase the nutritional quality of food aid in Food for Peace programs and ensure improved nutrition is one of the key outcomes that is tracked of the initiative.

**Reauthorize and ensure robust funding for priority international accounts in the Farm Bill including:**

- Food for Peace Title II
- McGovern-Dole Food for Education
- Local and Regional Procurement

**Equity:**

**Expand access to SNAP among marginalized populations:**

- Eliminate SNAP work requirements for qualifying college students.
- Eliminate the five-year ban on lawfully present immigrants in SNAP.
- Eliminate SNAP ban for people who have completed their sentences for nonviolent drug crimes.
- Eliminate the three-month time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) in SNAP.
- Replace Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) with SNAP in Puerto Rico and other US territories.
- Pre-approve all individuals in disaster-affected areas for Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP).

**Support equitable opportunities for all food producers:**

- Improve access to farmland, credit, markets, and technical assistance to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers.
- Designate the Equity Commission as a permanent body for ongoing promotion of racial and gender equity within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Support self-governance and food sovereignty for Tribal Nations:**

- Allow Tribal governments to administer SNAP and other federal nutrition programs on reservations.
- Allow people living in tribal areas to participate in SNAP and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) simultaneously.
- Expand the FDPIR 638 Demonstration Project and secure mandatory funding for it.

**Ensure that food aid reaches people in crisis as quickly and efficiently as possible:**

- Increase flexibility of Food for Peace funding to increase efficiency and reach as many people as possible.
- Increase the proportion of resources and attention in food aid programs going to marginalized populations, including women and other groups disproportionately experiencing poverty.

**Reauthorize and ensure robust funding for priority international accounts in the Farm Bill including:**

- Increasing the amount of Food for Peace funding that can be used for local procurement of foods, food vouchers, and cash assistance
- Local and Regional Procurement
- Farmer-to-Farmer
- The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET)

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**Sustainability:**

**Address the threat to food security posed by the climate crisis:**

- Increase funding for agricultural research, including a focus on building resilience to climate change, through funding for the Agricultural Research Service, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the Forest Service, the Economic Research Service, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This should emphasize collaboration with local researchers, especially women.
- Ensure robust funding for conservation programming that U.S. farmers need to adapt to climate change, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program.
- Advance policies and funding for programs to enhance adaptation measures for small holder farmers in lower-income countries and communities and help reduce the negative impacts of climate change on food systems.

**Increase support for post-harvest food recovery:**

- Expand grant funding and tax incentives to promote food recovery and donation.
- Initiate an education and awareness program for farmers on the benefits and protections for gleaning.
- Increase funding for the Community Food Projects grant program and earmark a portion of funding for food recovery projects.
- Establish regional supply chain coordinators within the U.S. Department of Agriculture to partner with food producers, distributors, and food recovery organizations; act as regional points of contact to facilitate food recovery; and understand and develop the capacity needed for ongoing food recovery.