

**House Agriculture Appropriations FY 2018:** On July 12, 2017, the House Appropriations Committee voted out its Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Agriculture Appropriations Bill. Key food and nutrition provisions are summarized below.

### **SNAP**

- Total funding is \$73.6 billion in required mandatory spending, including \$3 billion to be placed in a reserve fund available through December 31, 2019. This is \$4.87 billion below last year's level and \$2.6 million below the president's budget, due to declining enrollment and a decrease in food costs.

### **Child Nutrition Programs**

- The bill provides \$24.28 billion in mandatory funding, \$1.5 billion above last year's level, including \$640 million for Summer Food Programs.
- The bill provides \$23 million to continue funding for a pilot program that provides additional funds through electronic benefits transfer cards to ensure children in underserved communities receive nutritious food during the summer.
- There will be \$25 million available to provide grants to State agencies for subgrants to local agencies and schools to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and help maintain or expand the School Breakfast Program. The president's budget had zeroed out those grants.
- The bill includes several provisions that would continue to stall improvements to school meals nutrition standards, such as allow schools to seek an exemption from the whole grain requirements, delay the implementation of the sodium reduction standards, and permit schools to serve low-fat flavored milk.

### **Lunch Shaming**

- The Subcommittee instructed the Secretary of Agriculture to issue recommended standards that districts may adopt to address the issue of shaming students for unpaid lunch fees. The standards must include protecting students from public embarrassment, requiring communication about unpaid school lunch fees be directed at the parent or guardian, and encouraging schools to take additional steps to work with families falling behind in their school lunch fees.

## **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**

- The bill provides \$6.15 billion in discretionary funding (annually appropriated), including \$60 million for breastfeeding peer counselors and \$13.6 million for infrastructure. Although this level of funding is \$200 million below FY 2017 levels, it is expected to support anticipated WIC caseloads.

## **Commodity Assistance and Farmers' Market Programs**

- The bill provides:
  - \$238 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)
  - \$289 million for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Commodities, plus \$59.4 million for TEFAP storage and transportation
  - \$18.5 million for the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)
  - \$21 million for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)

## **Congressional Hunger Center**

- The bill provides \$2 million for the Congressional Hunger Center.

## **International**

- The bill provides \$1.4 billion for "Food for Peace," P.L. 83-480, grants; and \$185 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. The president's budget had eliminated funding for both programs.

Overall, the panel allocated \$1.1 billion less for FY 2018 than it did in FY 2017 for the Agriculture Department, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). These cuts were directed principally to farm loans, rural development, agricultural research, and international food aid.

## **Additional Resources**

- [FY 2018 Agriculture Appropriations Committee Report](#)
- [Text of the Subcommittee Draft of the FY 2018 Agriculture Appropriations bill](#)
- [Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Nita Lowey's statement at subcommittee markup of 2018 Agriculture Appropriations bill](#)
- [Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Ranking Member Sanford Bishop's statement at subcommittee markup of 2018 Agriculture Appropriations bill](#)