

House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Funding Levels and Provisions for FY 2020

On June 25, the House passed its FY 2020 agriculture appropriations bill as part of a five-bill spending package ([H.R. 3055](#)). On September 19, the Senate Agriculture Committee approved its FY 2020 agriculture appropriations bill, [S. 2522](#). A comparison of the House and Senate agriculture appropriations bills are outlined in the table below. The agriculture appropriations bill is one of 12 appropriations (spending) bills that Congress must pass by September 30 of each fiscal year to keep government programs funded. Programs are currently operating on a [short-term continuing resolution](#) (CR) until November 21, giving the two chambers more time to work out differences in their bills.

Program(s)/Topics	House FY 2020 Agriculture Appropriations Bill	Senate FY 2020 Agriculture Appropriations Bill	Comparison to Enacted FY 2019 Appropriations
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	<p>\$71.1 billion in mandatory spending, including \$5 billion in reserve to cover any unexpected costs.</p> <p>Directs USDA to research and report ways states can best serve people transitioning out of incarceration, including through pre-release applications for SNAP and employment and training program, with particular attention to states that ameliorate the federal lifetime bar on SNAP for those with felony drug convictions.</p> <p>Directs USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to make college student SNAP eligibility information on its website easier to understand and more accessible; directs FNS to collect and disseminate information about existing SNAP flexibilities and approaches state SNAP agencies are taking to help eligible college students access SNAP benefits; and encourages USDA to work with the Department of Education to share the best practices with higher education institutions.</p> <p>Requires further rulemaking prior to</p>	<p>\$69.2 billion in mandatory spending, including \$3 billion in reserve to cover any unexpected costs.</p> <p>Directs USDA Secretary to include the impact on children, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and rural and poor communities in its regulatory impact analysis of recent proposed SNAP rules.</p> <p>Directs USDA to provide a report on its current outreach efforts to colleges and their students on potential SNAP eligibility. Also indicates USDA should coordinate with the Department of Education to improve SNAP outreach to eligible college students and then report on its efforts.</p> <p>Implementing provisions in enacted 2018 Farm Bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages USDA to pursue the most cost-effective and transparent means of providing state agencies access to accurate commercial data. • Provides \$5 million for the nationwide implementation of the 	<p>\$73.5 billion was provided in FY 2019, including \$3 billion in a contingency reserve. The decrease in overall funding for FY 2020 is due to declining enrollment.</p>

	<p>USDA implementation of changes in definitions of “variety” and “staple food” for SNAP authorized retailer purposes.</p> <p>Directs USDA to report on steps it will take to better coordinate nutrition education, utilize experts from the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion in the Dietary Guidelines development, and track program effectiveness across five main nutrition education programs.</p>	<p>National Accuracy Clearinghouse, an interstate data-matching system to prevent dual SNAP participation in multiple states.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages USDA to engage partners that have extensive experience working with state social service programs in implementing the National Accuracy Clearinghouse. Also encourages USDA to establish an interagency working group with the Department of Health and Human Services to explore expanding the scope of the data matching program to prevent duplication and improve program integrity across all of the means-tested programs that assist low-income families. <p>Directs FNS to provide an update on the implementation of controls to address issues related to data discrepancies across its administration systems, as well as data demonstrating whether the controls have reduced error rates.</p> <p>Encourages USDA to work closely with states failing to meet the required deadlines for processing SNAP applications to remedy program deficiency and “be aggressive in combating any falsification of SNAP implementation data.”</p> <p>Directs the Government Accountability Office to review the current process used by states to implement and verify product nutrition standards for</p>	
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Child Nutrition programs, mandatory funding	<p>\$24 billion in mandatory funding, including \$552 million for Summer Food Programs</p> <p>Directs USDA to publish data on the compliance of school food authorities on the nutritional requirements under the law, including total number of school food authorities in each state, the number of school food authorities in compliance with the requirements, and the percentage of school food authorities in compliance with the requirements by state.</p> <p>Of the \$16.5 million made available for Team Nutrition, the bill provides \$1 million for technical assistance to help schools to meet the sodium-reduction targets and requests a report on the use of the fund. Also requests information on USDA's plans to update the sodium-reduction targets consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommendations on sodium. Strongly encourages USDA to work with industry and other stakeholders to ensure that there are a wide variety of lower-sodium options on the market from which schools can procure.</p> <p>Encourages USDA, in collaboration with U.S. Department of Education, to develop best practices to ensure school</p>	<p>\$23.6 billion in mandatory funding</p> <p>(Budget estimate for 2020: \$23.9 billion)</p> <p>Directs USDA Secretary to provide additional guidance to school meal program operators to address the ongoing issue of shaming school children for unpaid school lunch fees, including identifying approaches that protect children from public embarrassment; encouraging all communications about unpaid school lunch fees be directed to the parent or guardian, not the child; and encouraging schools to take additional steps to ensure that all students who qualify for free and reduced meals are efficiently enrolled to receive them.</p> <p>Of the \$485 million appropriated for Child Nutrition Programs Entitlement Commodities, directs \$20 million to be proportionally offered to states based on the number of breakfasts served in the prior school year.</p> <p>Informs USDA that it is supportive of allowing Summer Food Service sponsors that serve areas with limited access to sites to develop and implement innovative methods to deliver or otherwise make available</p>	\$23.1 billion enacted in FY 2019

	<p>schedules provide students adequate time to eat healthy school meals. Directs USDA FNS to include all territories, including those that receive block grants, in any studies it does on the Child Nutrition Programs.</p> <p>Urges USDA to consider implementing flexibilities in allowing schools to utilize leftover, compliant foods in a more efficient manner to address the issue of food waste.</p> <p>Encourages USDA Secretary to continue evaluating how strained, high protein yogurt is credited based on the best available science and requests a briefing from USDA to better understand food crediting in the Child Nutrition programs, particularly how decisions are made regarding products containing high protein.</p> <p>Urges any in-person trainings for school food service personnel to be held during normal working hours and in the event such a training is scheduled outside working hours, all efforts should be made to inform food service personnel of the necessity of the training.</p>	<p>foods to eligible children and youth outside of congregate sites and requests that USDA submit a report on the extent to which this is implemented.</p> <p>Directs the Secretary to update the system of crediting high-protein yogurt to accurately reflect scientifically demonstrated higher protein content in strained yogurt.</p> <p>Directs USDA to review its nutrition standards with regard to water and revise them, if appropriate, or allow schools to request waivers from the current water standards – particularly around naturally flavored water options that are free of any sweeteners.</p>	
<p>Child nutrition programs, discretionary* funding</p>	<p>\$35 million for school meals equipment grants, \$50 million for the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) for Children Demonstration, and \$10 million for school breakfast expansion grants. (This is the first time since 2012 that the school breakfast expansion grants program has been funded.)</p> <p>Provides increased funding for Summer</p>	<p>\$30 million for school meals equipment grants and \$28 million for Summer EBT Demonstration.</p> <p>Directs USDA Secretary to fund Summer EBT program in fiscal year 2020 in the same manner, <i>including the same states and tribal organizations, as was funded in fiscal year 2018.</i></p>	<p>\$30 million was provided for equipment grants and \$28 million was provided for Summer EBT in FY 2019.</p>

	<p>EBT to serve more children and directs USDA to expand the Summer EBT program into new areas <i>while also continuing to serve areas that have received such funding in prior years</i>. Also encourages USDA Secretary to prioritize Summer EBT projects through the SNAP model versus WIC.</p>		
<p>Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)</p>	<p>\$6 billion in discretionary funding, including \$90 million for breastfeeding peer counselors and \$14 million for infrastructure. The House bill rescinds \$800 million of unobligated WIC funding.</p> <p>Directs USDA FNS to continue making all policy documents related to WIC publicly available within one week of their release to WIC state administrators.</p> <p>Urges USDA FNS to reach out to stakeholders and requests a briefing on how the proposed realignment of state WIC agencies within FNS regional offices is proceeding and how state and Indian Tribal Organizations' concerns are being addressed.</p> <p>Directs USDA FNS to review the work of state agencies who have received bonus awards for their successful efforts in promoting and supporting breastfeeding among WIC participants to look for commonalities and trends and then develop a report summarizing these best practices—including a summary of the factors that prevent or impede breastfeeding and recommendations on how they can be addressed.</p>	<p>\$6 billion in discretionary funding, including \$80 million for breastfeeding support initiatives and \$14 million for infrastructure. The Senate bill rescinds \$800 million of unobligated WIC funding.</p> <p>Directs FNS to continue posting to a publicly accessible website any policy document related to the WIC program within one week of its release to WIC state administrators. Such documents include, but are not limited to: instructions, memoranda, guidance, and response feedback</p> <p>Directs USDA FNS to make all information pertaining to state rebate bid solicitations available on a public website within one week of the announcements in an effort to promote competition and ensure transparency within the WIC bid process.</p> <p>Strongly encourages USDA to prioritize the health and cultural benefits of fish consumption as regulations are revised to implement the National Academies of Science (NAS) recommendations and to increase the amount of healthful fish above the amounts recommended by NAS. (NAS reviewed the WIC food packages and made recommendations</p>	<p>\$6.075 billion was appropriated for WIC in FY 2019, including \$60 million for breastfeeding peer counselors and \$19 million for infrastructure.</p> <p>Due to large carryover balances and declining enrollment, the proposed FY 2020 level and rescission is anticipated to have no impact on program participation.</p>

	Encourages USDA to continue its education and outreach efforts through WIC to provide pregnant women with the information they need to prevent Zika.	for updating packages to reflect current science and cultural factors.) The Committee also strongly encourages USDA to allow states to prioritize fish over legumes and peanut butter to respond to the cultural preferences of WIC participants in states like Alaska.	
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	\$3.8 billion in mandatory funding	\$3.8 billion in mandatory funding	Consistent with FY 2019 Appropriations
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)	\$245 million in discretionary funding	\$245 million in discretionary funding	\$222.9 million was provided for CSFP in FY 2019.
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	\$320.8 million in mandatory funding for TEFAP commodities, plus \$79.6 million in discretionary funding for administrative funding (storage and transportation) Bill also permits states to use up to 15 percent of the funds provided for purchasing TEFAP commodities to help with the costs of storing, transporting, and distributing commodities.	\$322.3 million in mandatory funding for TEFAP commodities, plus \$79.6 million in discretionary funding for administrative funding (storage and transportation). Grants USDA Secretary authority to transfer up to an additional 10 percent from TEFAP commodities for admin and urges the Secretary to use this authority.	\$294.5 million in mandatory funding was provided for commodities in FY 2019. Admin funding is consistent with FY 2019 levels.
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	\$153 million (included in the total funding level for SNAP) The bill also provides \$3 million for the 638 Tribal Self Governance Demonstration Program for Tribal Organizations as described in the 2018 Farm Bill. Additionally, encourages USDA Secretary to review Department-wide nutrition programs, with the full participation of Indian tribes and tribal organizations, to consider ways in which more Native foods can be incorporated into these programs where possible and the possibility of	\$153 million (included in the total funding level for SNAP) Directs USDA to provide a report detailing its plans to include a greater variety of traditional foods as regular components of FDPIR food baskets; its plans to identify additional Native American and Alaska Native producers of traditional foods; and its plans to purchase additional traditional foods from a greater number of indigenous producers and businesses.	\$153 million was provided in FY 2019.

	allowing tribes to provide input into federal nutrition guidance that reflects unique Indian tribal needs.		
WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)	\$18.5 million in discretionary funding	\$18.5 million in discretionary funding	Consistent with FY 2019 Appropriations
Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)	<p>\$20.6 million in mandatory funding</p> <p>Encourages USDA to improve eligible participants' awareness of SFMNP through education and outreach.</p> <p>Directs USDA to research and report to Congress on backlog of states requesting SFMNP funding.</p>	\$20.6 million in mandatory funding	Consistent with FY 2019 Appropriations
<p>Puerto Rico's Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)**</p> <p><i>** NAP is Puerto Rico's block granted version of SNAP</i></p>	<p>\$1.96 billion (included in the total funding level for SNAP)</p> <p>Directs USDA Secretary to post to the department website information regarding monthly enrollment, issuance data, and Puerto Rico's Plan of Operations for NAP. Directs USDA Secretary, acting through the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, to measure the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan in Puerto Rico. Provides USDA with \$7 million to develop a report to Congress updating prior research on the feasibility of implementing SNAP in Puerto Rico and to support a preliminary planning process for implementation.</p>	\$1.96 billion (included in the total funding level for SNAP)	\$1.97 billion was provided in FY 2019 through H.J.Res.31, with an additional \$600 million in disaster relief funding provided to NAP through H.R. 2157.
Cross-government Coordination on Nutrition; Nutrition Program Efficiency	Calls on USDA to lead a "whole government approach" and report on agencies' responsibilities and coordination	Encourages USDA Secretary to "focus process and technology improvement grants within FNS to expand public-private partnerships to increase food security in a cost-efficient and accountable manner."	N/A
Congressional Hunger Center Fellows	\$2 million	\$2 million	Consistent with FY 2019 Appropriations

Program			
Farm to School Project Grants		Permits USDA Secretary to allow maximum grant amounts to increase to \$250,000. Directs USDA Secretary to use at least \$150,000 of grant funds provided to coordinate with established entities, such as regional Farm to School institutes, for the creation and dissemination of information on farm to school program development and to provide practitioner education and training, and ongoing school year coaching and technical assistance.	
“Food for Peace”, P.L. 83-480 grants (international)	\$1.85 billion	\$1.7 billion	\$1.5 billion was provided in FY 2019
McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (international)	\$235 million	\$210.3 million	\$210.3 million was provided in FY 2019
Funding for USDA’s relocation of Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)	Language included to prohibit the use of funds to relocate ERS and NIFA outside the National Capital Region.	Includes \$25 million for ERS and NIFA to move from the National Capital Region to Kansas City.	N/A

* Discretionary funding is subject to annual appropriations

Resources:

- House FY 2020 agriculture appropriations:
 - House-passed bill:
 - [H.R. 3055](#) - Commerce, Justice, Science, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020
 - House Appropriations Committee resources:
 - [Committee summary](#) of agriculture appropriations bill
 - [H.R. 3164](#) - Making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

- [H. Rept. 116-107](#) (Report to accompany H.R. 3164)
- [Rules Committee Print 116-18: Text of H.R. 3055](#) - Commerce, Justice, Science, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020
- Senate FY 2020 agriculture appropriations:
 - [Committee summary](#) of agriculture appropriations bill (majority)
 - [Committee summary](#) agriculture appropriations bill (minority)
 - [S. 2522](#) - Making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.
 - [S. Rept. 116-110](#) (Report to accompany S. 2522)
- Enacted FY 2019 appropriations bill report (to accompany H.J.Res.31): [H. Rept. 116-9](#)

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