



# Greater Chicago Food Depository

Public Policy and Advocacy: Farm Bill

June 27, 2018 | Online Webinar

## TODAY'S PRESENTER

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### **Anthony Alfano**

[aalfano@gcfd.org](mailto:aalfano@gcfd.org)

*Public Policy & Advocacy Associate Manager*

Greater Chicago Food Depository

## 1. State Policy Updates

- A. College Hunger
- B. Healthy Food Incentives Fund
- C. Hunger Relief Tax Check-Off

## 2. The Farm Bill

- A. Why It's Important
- B. Key Threats
- C. Process and Timeline
- D. House Version
- E. Senate Version

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: STATE POLICY

## STATE POLICY UPDATE: COLLEGE STUDENT HUNGER



**Legislation (SB 351):** This bill will ensure SNAP eligibility for low-income adults pursuing a “Perkins Pathway” career and technical education (CTE) certificate or degree at a community college.

**Potential Impact:** Over 40,000 students could become eligible for SNAP in Illinois.

**Last year** Governor Rauner issued an amendatory veto of the bill. Bill was reintroduced in veto session but came up 1-day short for a final reading.

**Current status:** The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) has proposed rule changes to implement this eligibility, and the Illinois Student Assistant Commission (ISAC) has indicated they are willing to notify students of eligibility.

**The bill passed both chambers and has been sent to Governor Rauner. If signed it will be law in Illinois and much more difficult to repeal or change.**

## STATE POLICY UPDATE: HUNGER RELIEF TAX CHECK-OFF



### Illinois Hunger Relief Tax Checkoff (SB 2868)

SB 2868 amends the Illinois Income Tax Act by creating a Hunger Relief Fund tax checkoff. This would allow Illinois state income tax filers to allocate all or a portion of their tax refund to provide an additional funding source for **Illinois' hunger relief efforts by supporting food banks.**

**The bill passed both chambers and has been sent to Governor Rauner.**



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# STATE POLICY UPDATE: HEALTHY FOOD INCENTIVES FUND



## Healthy Local Food Incentives Fund (HB 4568)

The law provides double-value coupon incentives to SNAP participants to access **fresh fruits & vegetables** at farmers markets.

The Fund (public act 099-0928) calls for a **\$500,000 state investment to support “Double Value Coupon Programs,”** creating affordable access to healthy food at farmers markets and other direct producer-to-consumer venues for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients.

**The bill passed both chambers and has been sent to Governor Rauner.**

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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: FEDERAL POLICY – THE FARM BILL



# THE FARM BILL



**The Farm Bill** is the principal agricultural and food policy tool of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Farm Bill is renewed every 5 years, with the current Farm Bill set to expire on September 30, 2018.

Includes provisions for commodity programs, trade, rural development, farm credits, conservation, agricultural research, food and nutrition programs, among others.

Title 1: Commodities

Title 2: Conservation

Title 3: Trade

**Title 4: Nutrition**

Title 5: Credit

Title 6: Rural Development

Title 7: Research, Extension, and  
Related Matters

Title 8: Forestry

Title 9: Energy

Title 10: Specialty Crops &  
Horticulture

Title 11: Crop Insurance

Title 12: Miscellaneous

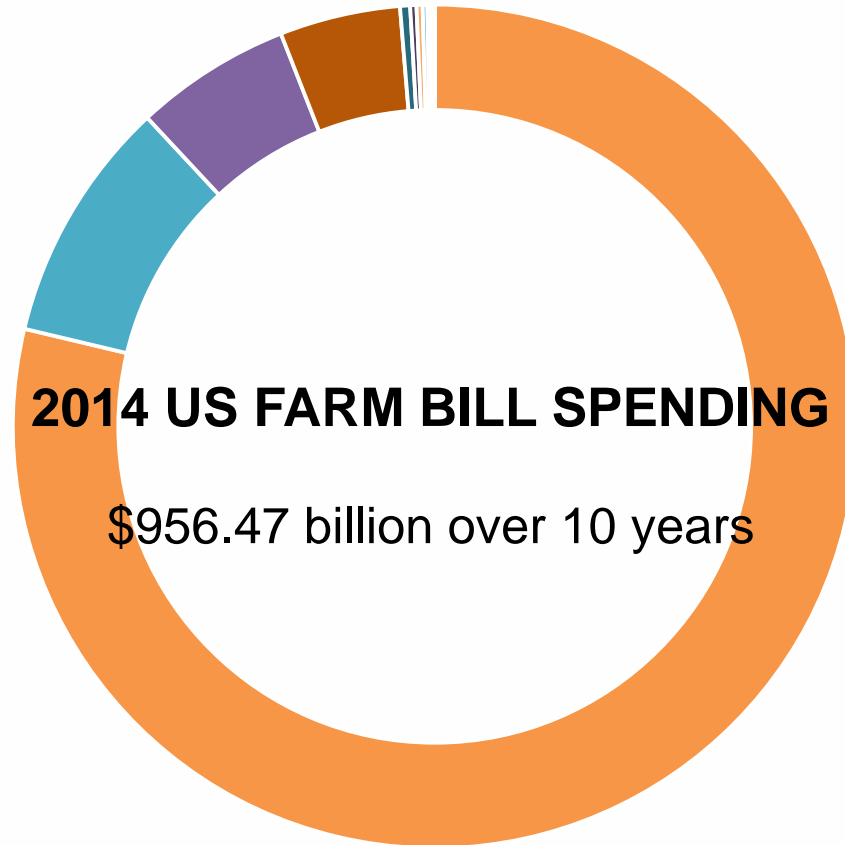
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# FEDERAL POLICY UPDATE: FARM BILL



- Nutrition - \$756.43 billion
- Crop Insurance - \$89.83 billion
- Conservation - \$57.60 billion
- Commodity Programs - \$44.46 billion
- Trade - \$3.70 billion
- Misc. - \$2.30 billion
- Credit - \$2.24 billion
- Horticulture - \$1.76 billion
- Research and Extension - \$1.26 billion
- Energy - \$1.12 billion
- Rural Development - \$0.24 billion
- Forestry - \$0.01 billion

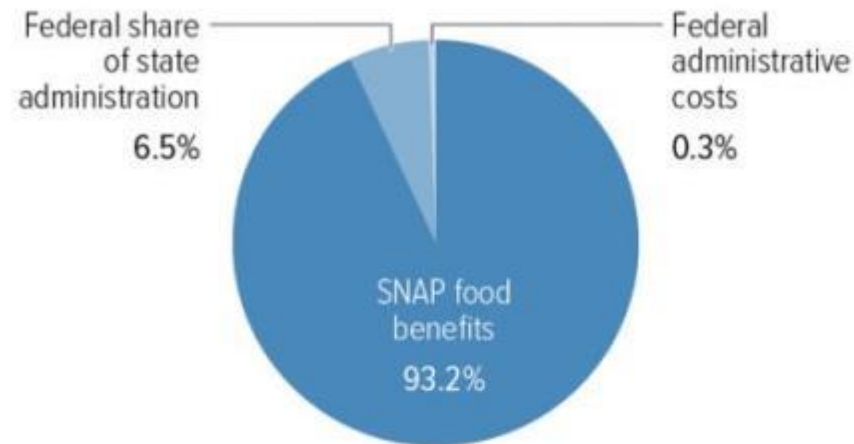


\*Note: numbers represented are over 10 years. Vast majority of the nutrition title is SNAP related spending

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## 93 Percent of Federal SNAP Spending Is for Food



Notes: Chart excludes spending on activities not directly related to SNAP but in the SNAP budget account, such as nutrition assistance in the U.S. territories, support for food banks, and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. The federal share of state administration includes state costs associated with SNAP operations – including eligibility determinations, benefit issuance, and quality control – as well as certain services for SNAP recipients such as employment and training and nutrition education. Federal administrative costs include the mandatory and discretionary federal costs of administering SNAP.

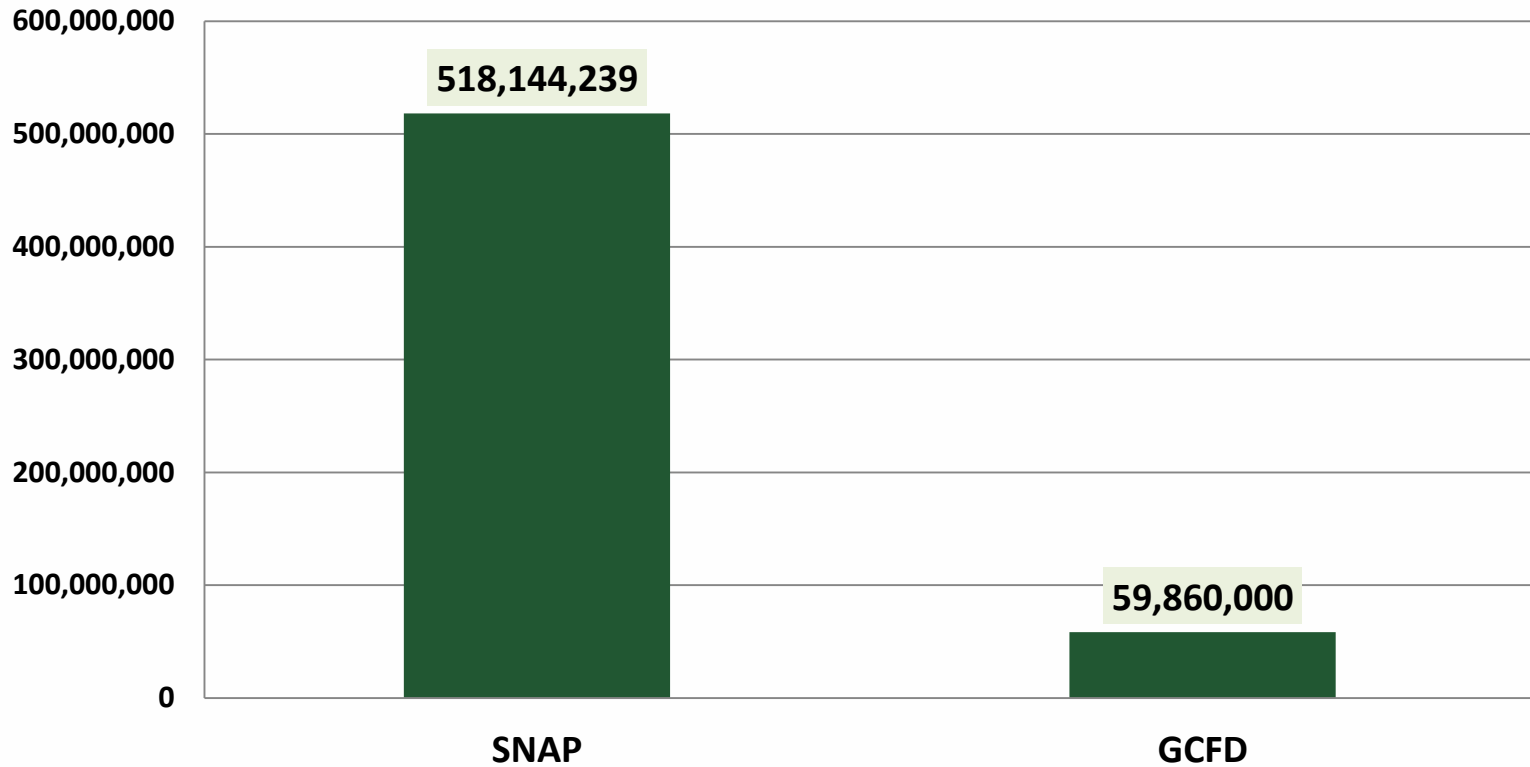
Source: Department of Agriculture, Fiscal Year 2016, obligations as reported in fiscal year 2018 "Explanatory Notes for Committee on Appropriations."

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# LARGE IMPACT OF FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS



Number of Meals Provided in Cook County in FY2017



- SNAP pumped about \$3 billion into the Illinois economy in 2016
- In a weak economy, every \$1 in SNAP generates \$1.70 in economic impact



# FEDERAL POLICY UPDATE: FARM BILL TIMELINE



1	<b>Hearings and listening sessions</b> in Washington, D.C., and across the country for Members of Congress to hear from the public.	<b>Complete</b>
2	The <b>House Agriculture Committee</b> passed their bill, and the Full House passed the bill on June 21, 2018, by a vote of 213-211.	<b>Passed in House</b>
3	The <b>Senate Agriculture Committee</b> also drafted and passed a bill, which expected take up amendments to the Farm Bill on June 27.	<b>Awaiting Senate Vote(s)</b>
4	A <b>conference committee</b> allows the House and Senate to come together on a compromise version of the bill.	Current law expires 9.30.18 but the last several Farm Bills have gone past deadline
5	<b>Final bill</b> passed by House and Senate.	
6	Signed into law (or vetoed) by the <b>President</b> .	

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

## THE **HOUSE** & **SENATE** FARM BILLS

On June 21, 2018, the U.S. House of Representatives passed their Farm Bill (H.R. 2) by a narrow vote of 213-211, following a previous failed vote on the bill.

This vote represents hurtful cuts and structural damage to SNAP, our nation's most effective anti-hunger program. More than 41 million Americans, and nearly 1.9 million Illinoisans depend on SNAP to access nutritious food.

### Key harmful provisions:

- Cuts benefits by over \$20 billion.
- Expands SNAP's existing work requirements, including for parents of children as young as 6, older workers, and those struggling to find adequate employment.
  - Those who can't comply would face harsh sanctions that would cost them their food assistance for 12 or up to 36 months.
- Makes it harder for states to obtain waivers from work-related requirements for areas with high unemployment.

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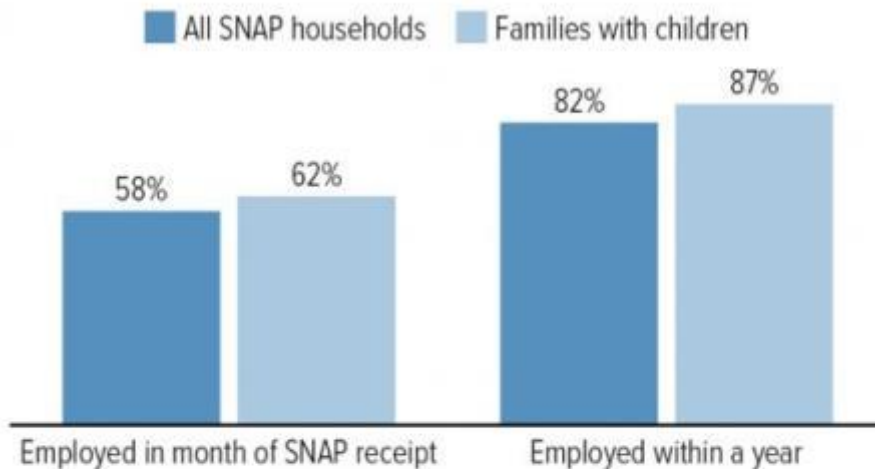
FARM BILL



**SNAP already supports work, additional work-requirements will only hurt.**

**SNAP Households with Working-Age Non-Disabled Adults Have High Work Rates**

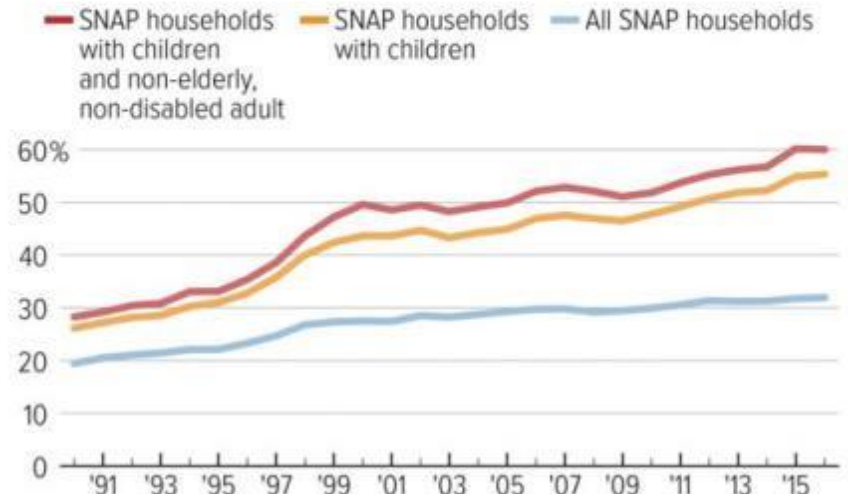
Work participation during the previous and following year for households that received SNAP in a typical month



Source: CBPP calculations based on 2004 Survey of Income and Program Participation Panel data.

**SNAP Work Rates Have Risen, Especially Among Households With Children and Adults Who Could Be Expected to Work**

Share of households with earnings



Source: CBPP tabulations of Agriculture Department household characteristics data

The Senate Agriculture Committee introduced a bipartisan Farm Bill titled the “Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018,” and the bill passed the committee on Wednesday, June 13th. The Full Senate is expected take up amendments to the Farm Bill **TODAY**, June 27, and a full vote June 27 or June 28.

**SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program):** The bill does not make any significant changes to SNAP eligibility. It implements the following changes that will largely make the program more accessible, streamlined, and will help support employment and training.

- Improves Access for Older Adults and People with Disabilities
- Streamlines SNAP Work and Employment Training Requirements and People with Disabilities
- Modernizing Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems
- Retailer Incentives Option
- Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI)
- Harvesting Health Pilot Project
- Pilot on Verifying Income and Interstate Data Matching
- Maintains Nutrition Education

**TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program):** The bill extends the appropriation authorization for TEFAP through 2023 and provides a temporary increase for purchasing commodities.

- In its current form, the Senate bill **reduces TEFAP funding** from the levels provided in the 2014 Farm Bill, which will inhibit the collective ability of food banks and partner organizations to meet the needs of those who are hungry in our communities.

**CSFP (Commodity Supplemental Food Program):** The appropriation for CSFP would be extended through 2023.

- States would also be required to establish a minimum 1-year certification period for CSFP participants who are 60 years old or older. States can also apply to establish a 3-year certification period, subject to USDA approval.

KEY TAKEAWAY:

THE **HOUSE** FARM BILL IS **BAD**

THE **SENATE** FARM BILL IS **GOOD**

## ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE!



### ACTION ALERT

Tell your Member of Congress –  
Don't increase hunger!

Sign-up to be a Champion Advocate!

<https://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/advocacy>

**SAVE THE DATE:** The 33rd Annual Hunger Walk takes place on **September 8, 2018.**



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Thank you