



March 12, 2021

Statement on the enactment of the American Rescue Plan of 2021

We at the Greater Chicago Food Depository are thrilled and hopeful for the relief that the American Rescue Plan will provide to the millions of Americans experiencing food insecurity.

For the past year, the coronavirus pandemic has shuttered businesses, disrupted livelihoods and thrust millions of families into economic hardship. Nationally, and here in Chicago, lower-income Black and Latino communities have been the hardest hit because of years of disinvestment and systemic racism.

At the Food Depository, we have joined Feeding America and food banks across the country in calling for comprehensive and sustained federal relief.

This plan is meaningful step. Notably, it extends the 15 percent increase to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. SNAP is the front-line defense against hunger in this country. Increased benefits help families to afford food while stimulating the economy.

The plan also:

- Increases funding for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, which provides nutrition assistance to vulnerable women and their children;
- Maintains and expands the Pandemic-EBT program, which has proven to be a lifeline for families with school-age children;
- Extends unemployment benefits through September 6, including the \$300 weekly supplemental benefit;
- Provides more than \$30 billion in housing and utility assistance;
- And expands the child tax credit to millions of more families, a move that is estimated to reduce child poverty by about 45 percent.

The bottom line: These measures will help millions of Americans consistently afford enough nutritious food for a healthy lifestyle. And for many of them, this relief cannot come soon enough.

We applaud the Biden administration and lawmakers in Congress for their efforts on this plan. And we call on them to set aside partisan differences and continue working together on a sustained response to the hunger crisis in America.

At the Greater Chicago Food Depository, we believe no one should go hungry.

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