



The Farm Bill

Implications for Dietitians, Low-Income Consumers, and Farmers

PRESENTER

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Learning Objectives

Learning Codes: 1080, 4040, 4080

Performance Indicators: 3.3.2, 3.3.5, 12.1.1

1. State two benefits of the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI)/Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive program.
2. List three benefits of the Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) for consumers and communities.
3. Advocate for programs in the 2018 Farm Bill that can improve food access, reduce food insecurity, decrease health care costs, and stimulate local economies.

Presentation Overview

- I. Introduction to the 2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334)
- II. Nutrition Programs Reauthorized in the 2018 Farm Bill
 - *SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program]*
 - *Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program*
 - *Healthy Food Financing Initiative [HFFI]*
 - *Community Food Projects*
 - *Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program [SFMNP]*
- III. Implications/Take Home Message & Key Resources

2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334)

Title IV, Nutrition, Subtitle A

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Provides low-income households electronic benefits redeemable for SNAP-eligible foods at SNAP retailers. Benefit amounts vary by household size and benefit calculation rules.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Why Does It Matter?

“The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly “food stamps”) is the largest nutrition assistance program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). SNAP serves as the first line of the nation’s public policy defense against hunger and undernutrition as well as an effective anti-poverty initiative. SNAP has a critical role, not just in reducing food insecurity, but in improving the health of the nation, especially among the most vulnerable Americans.”



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Points of Contention

“Some advocates for SNAP reform are taking a “carrot” approach, calling for an increase in programs that double the purchasing power of recipients to buy fresh produce in farmers markets or stores. Others argue for a “stick” approach such as restricting the use of benefits for sugar-sweetened beverages. The anti-hunger community has largely rebuffed any attempts to limit the free choice of recipients as an assault on personal dignity.”

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Points of Contention

“Improving diets for SNAP recipients, however, could improve not only their health and well-being, but also their economic status. While it remains to be seen whether restrictions could improve diet and health, the potential to boost productivity and reduce healthcare costs by investing in chronic disease prevention warrants serious consideration.”

Source: Imhoff D (with Christina Badaracco). *THE FARM BILL: A CITIZEN'S GUIDE*. Washington DC: Island Press; 2019, p. 47. Available at: <https://islandpress.org/books/farm-bill>.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Leading with Nutrition: Leveraging Federal Programs for Better Health



Specific Recommendations:

1. Prioritizing nutrition in SNAP
2. Strengthening the SNAP-Education Program
3. Aligning SNAP and Medicaid
4. Coordinating federal and state agencies and programs

Sources: Bipartisan Policy Center, Leading with Nutrition: Leveraging Federal Programs for Better Health. Recommendations from the BPC SNAP Task Force. Washington DC, (March 2018). Available at: <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/library/leading-with-nutrition-leveraging-federal-programs-for-better-health/>

Bipartisan Policy Center, 2018 Farm Bill Strengthens SNAP-Education, Lacks Focus on Diet Quality [statement], (December 12, 2018). Available at: <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/press-release/2018-farm-bill-strengthens-snap-education-lacks-focus-on-diet-quality/>

2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334)
Title IV, Nutrition, Subtitle C, Sec. 4205

Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program

Provides competitive grants for projects that increase low-income consumers' purchase of fruits and vegetables by providing incentives at SNAP points of purchase or (added by 2018 farm bill) providing produce prescriptions to SNAP/Medicaid participants.



Source: Congressional Research Service, 2018 Farm Bill Primer: SNAP and Nutrition Title Programs, (January 30, 2019). Available at: <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/IF11087.pdf>

Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (formerly FINI Program)

- FINI enhances SNAP by increasing buying power for fruits and vegetables.
- Included in the 2018 Farm Bill as an entitlement program, an improvement over the 2014 Farm Bill.
- One study of stakeholders and FINI grantees emphasized overwhelming positive impacts of the FINI grants including:
 - 1) *Farmers experienced an increase in sales of produce and expansion of their customer base;*
 - 2) *Grocery store owners saw an increase in sales of produce and were able to expand their offering of locally sourced produce; and*
 - 3) *Consumers utilizing FINI incentives reported improvements in their diet (i.e. increased fruit and vegetable intake), food security and better health.*

2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334)
Title IV, Nutrition, Subtitle C, Sec. 4204
Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI)

Reauthorizes the HFFI and expands edible projects beyond retail to include healthy food enterprises such as food hubs, mobile markets, direct to consumer markets, or food business incubators.

Expands access to healthy food for low-income communities and communities of color.

The new bill expands HFFI investments beyond retail to food enterprises, building on the existing program that seeks to bring healthy food and jobs to communities nationwide.

Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) (cont'd)

In addition to the existing program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), HFFI has been supported at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The HFFI has supported nearly 1,000 grocery and other healthy food retail projects in more than 35 states across the country, revitalizing economies, creating jobs, and improving health.

For information on HFFI at the USDA, visit: www.investinginfood.com

Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) (cont'd)

“This provision is a powerful step towards ensuring that the 106 million people in the United States at or near poverty - one in every three - can live in healthy communities of opportunity with access to healthy food.”

Michael McAfee, President and CEO of PolicyLink

Source: Congress Passes Farm Bill with Broad Bipartisan Support, Reauthorizes Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) To Scale Access to Healthy Food in Underserved Communities Across the U.S., Statement from Policy Link, Reinvestment Fund, and The Food Trust, (December 13, 2018). Available at: <http://healthyfoodaccess.org/farm-bill>

Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI)

Healthy Food Access Portal:

<http://www.healthyfoodaccess.org/take-action-now/policy-efforts-impacts>

- Federal, state, and local initiatives
- Interactive search tool (find money & policy efforts by state)

El Paso, Texas Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI)

- Public-private partnership aiming to increase access to healthy food for residents by encouraging development and expansion of healthy food retail and related infrastructure.
- First ever county-level HFFI program in the United States.



Sources: El Paso is 1st county in US to create Healthy Food Financing Initiative: David Stout. (December 12, 2018). *El Paso Times*. Available at: <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/opinion/2018/12/12/el-paso-1st-county-create-healthy-food-financing-initiative-stout/2295034002/>

El Paso del Norte Institute for Healthy Living at UTEP, County of El Paso Creates First County-Led Healthy Food Financing Initiative, (December 20, 2018). Available at: <http://pdnihl.org/2018/12>

El Paso, Texas Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI)

- Through funding from Paso del Norte Healthy Foundation's Healthy Eating Active Living Initiative, the Institute of Healthy Living (IHL) convened with multiple partners to address healthy food access and provide additional programs, including nutrition education, cooking classes, health screenings, and increased access to federal funding through SNAP.



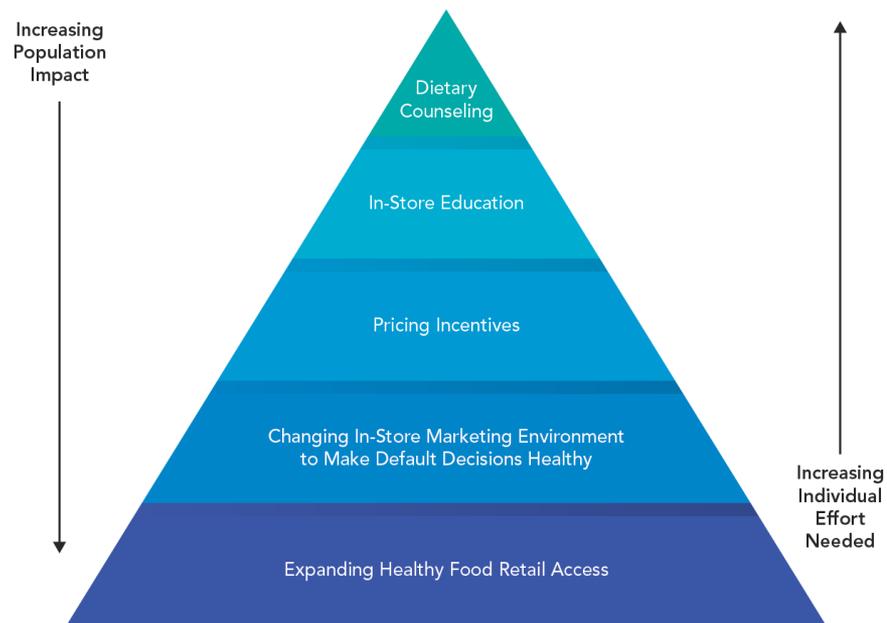
Sources: El Paso is 1st county in US to create own Healthy Food Financing Initiative: David Stout. *El Paso Times*, (December 12, 2018). Available at: <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/opinion/2018/12/12/el-paso-1st-county-create-healthy-food-financing-initiative-stout/2295034002/>

El Paso del Norte Institute for Healthy Living at UTEP, County of El Paso Creates First County-Led Healthy Food Financing Initiative, (December 20, 2018). Available at: <http://pdnihl.org/2018/12>

Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI)

Evaluation

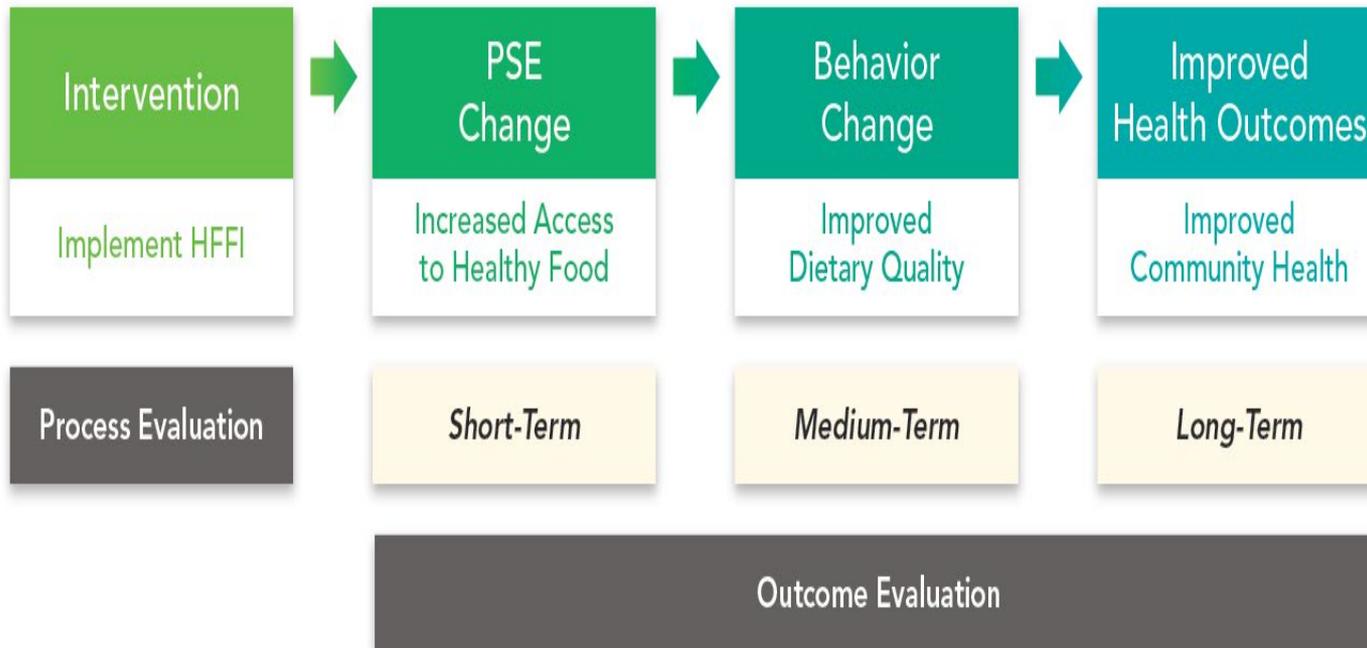
FOOD ACCESS IMPACT PYRAMID



Source: The Food Trust, Philadelphia, PA. Evaluating HFFI, (undated). Available at: <http://thefoodtrust.org/what-we-do/administrative/hffi-impacts/evaluating-hffi>

Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI)

Evaluation



Sources: The Food Trust, Philadelphia, PA. Evaluating HFFI, (undated). Available at: <http://thefoodtrust.org/what-we-do/administrative/hffi-impacts/evaluating-hffi>; Health Trust. What Is Policy, Systems and Environmental (PSE) Change? (2012). Available at: http://healthtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/2012-12-28-Policy_Systems_and_Environmental_Change.pdf

2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334)

Title IV, Nutrition, Subtitle A, Sec. 4017

Community Food Projects

Provides grants to nonprofit organizations for programs that improve access to locally produced food for low-income households.

2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334)

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Title IV, Nutrition, Subtitle A, Sec. 4017

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)

Provides vouchers/coupons to low-income seniors to purchase fresh produce at farmers' markets and other direct-to-consumer venues.



Implications & Take Home Message:

- Registered dietitian nutritionists are well positioned to be leaders in ensuring that nutrition programs within the Farm Bill (e.g., SNAP, Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, HFFI), are well funded, designed, implemented, and evaluated.
- The Farm Bill is a “Food Bill.”
- One of the biggest challenges is offering a basic nutritional safety net that meets Dietary Guidelines for Americans, jointly produced by the USDA and US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and at the same time involves the nation’s farmers in that food system.

Key Resources

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Congressional Research Service. 2018 Farm Bill Primer: What Is the Farm Bill? (March 8, 2019). Available at:
<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11126>

Union of Concerned Scientists. The Farm Bill (last revised January 9, 2019). Available at:
https://www.ucsusa.org/food_and_agriculture/solutions/strengthen-healthy-farm-policy/the-farm-bill.html

Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation (Blog), Harvard Law School. Farm Bill Passes House and Senate, (December 13, 2018). Available at:
<https://www.chlpi.org/farm-bill-passes-house-senate/>

Au LE, Ehrens K, Burda N, Zumbrun E. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Priorities in the 2018 Farm Bill (from the Academy). *J Acad Nutr Diet*. 2018;118(4):767-770. Available at: [https://jandonline.org/article/S2212-2672\(18\)30153-9/abstract](https://jandonline.org/article/S2212-2672(18)30153-9/abstract)

Key Resources

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USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Community Food Projects (CFP) Competitive Grants Program (posted date, April 22, 2019). Available at: <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/community-food-projects-cfp-competitive-grants-program>

USDA, Food and Nutrition Service. Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (last published December 4, 2018). Available at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfmnp/overview>; Congressional Research Service, 2018 Farm Bill Primer: SNAP and Nutrition Title Programs, (January 30, 2019). Available at: <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/IF11087.pdf>

THANK YOU!