Updated HEROES Act Bill Summary

Resource – Bill Summary

The Feeding America Government Relations Team is providing a legislative summary of the Updated HEROES Act.

Updated HEROES Act Bill Summary of Nutrition and Other Provisions

*Updated 9-29-20*

The updated HEROES Act was released on September 28, 2020. The text of the bill as introduced in the House is [here](#). A section-by-section summary of the bill as introduced is [here](#).

**Nutrition Provisions**

**SNAP:**

- Temporarily increases SNAP benefits by 15 percent from November 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.
- Temporarily increases the nutrition assistance block grants for Puerto Rico and American Samoa by 15 percent from November 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.
- Temporarily increases the SNAP minimum benefit from $16 to $30.
- Suspends time limits and work requirement sanctions through September 30, 2021.
- Temporarily prevents students from losing SNAP eligibility due to work study or job loss during the pandemic.
- Allocates $300 million in SNAP administrative funds for FY2021 and FY2022.
- Excludes Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) from being considered as income for SNAP.
- Temporarily allows SNAP benefits to be used to purchase hot foods from authorized SNAP retailers until the end of the public health emergency.
- USDA may allow SNAP-Ed staff to support meal distribution activities for commodity or child nutrition programs until 30 days after the end of the public health emergency.
- Requires that USDA publish on its website within 10 days of receipt/issuance of any state agency request to participate in SNAP online, modify statutory or regulatory requirements, and any denials of those requests.
- Allows USDA to ease current in-person rules to more safely and efficiently serve seniors in the Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program.
• Provides $10 billion in additional appropriations to help ensure SNAP has enough funding to handle increased caseload and related costs due to the pandemic.

**TEFAP:**

• Provides $450 million for TEFAP food purchases available through September 30, 2021.

**Child Nutrition and WIC:**

• Provides funds to school food authorities to support financial challenges due to lost revenue from lower than expected meal service.
• Extends USDA’s authority to allow nationwide waivers for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
• Temporarily increases the fruit and vegetable cash-value benefit in WIC.
• Provides $400 million in additional appropriations to help ensure WIC has enough funding to handle increased caseload and related costs due to the pandemic.

**Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR):**

• Waives the non-federal cost share requirement for funds provided in the CARES Act.
• Allows participation for Tribal member households already participating in SNAP who cannot access approved SNAP retailer stores to access FDPIR.

**Older Americans Nutrition Programs:**

• Provides $500 million for Older Americans Act senior nutrition programs including home-delivered and congregate meals
• Provides $44 million for Older Americans Act health promotion and disease prevention services.

**Other Provisions**

• Provides $100 million to Ryan White HIV/AIDS clinics to support increased staffing and equipment needs, additional home-delivered meals, and transportation.
• Provides new housing assistance to avert spikes in evictions and safely house those who are homeless.
• Provides another round of stimulus payments.