

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8256

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to streamline nutrition access for older adults and adults with disabilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2026

Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCANLON, and Ms. SIMON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to streamline nutrition access for older adults and adults with disabilities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Senior Hunger Preven-
5 tion Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING EFFICACY OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL NU-**
2 **TRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

3 (a) CERTIFICATION PERIOD.—Section 3(f) of the
4 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(f)) is
5 amended, in the second sentence, by striking “24” and
6 inserting “36”.

7 (b) STANDARD MEDICAL EXPENSE DEDUCTION.—
8 Section 5(e)(5) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
9 (7 U.S.C. 2014(e)(5)) is amended—

10 (1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “EX-

11 CESS MEDICAL” and inserting “MEDICAL”;

12 (2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “an excess
13 medical” and all that follows through the period at
14 the end and inserting “a standard medical deduction
15 or a medical expense deduction of actual costs for
16 the allowable medical expenses incurred by the elder-
17 ly or disabled member, exclusive of special diets.”;

18 (3) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “ex-

19 cess”; and

20 (4) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(D) STANDARD MEDICAL EXPENSE DE-

22 DUCTION AMOUNT.—

23 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-

24 vided in clause (ii), the standard medical

25 expense deduction shall be equal to—

1 “(I) for fiscal year 2027, \$155;
2 and

3 “(II) for each subsequent fiscal
4 year, the applicable amount for the
5 immediately preceding fiscal year, as
6 adjusted to reflect changes for the 12-
7 month period ending the preceding
8 June 30 in the Consumer Price Index
9 for All Urban Consumers: Medical
10 Care published by the Bureau of
11 Labor Statistics of the Department of
12 Labor.

13 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—For any fiscal
14 year, a State agency may establish a great-
15 er standard medical expense deduction
16 than the deduction described in clause (i)
17 if the greater deduction satisfies the appli-
18 cable cost-neutrality standards established
19 by the Secretary for that fiscal year.”.

20 (c) VALUE OF ALLOTMENT.—Section 8(a) of the
21 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2017(a)) is
22 amended, in the proviso, by striking “8 percent” and in-
23 serting “ $\frac{1}{3}$ ”.

1 **SEC. 3. STREAMLINING NUTRITION ACCESS FOR OLDER**
2 **ADULTS AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES.**

3 (a) DEFINITION OF ELDERLY AND DISABLED.—Sec-
4 tion 3(j)(2)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
5 (7 U.S.C. 2012(j)(2)(B)) is amended by inserting “(which
6 includes medical assistance provided to an individual de-
7 scribed in section 1902(e)(14)(D)(i)(III) of the Social Se-
8 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(14)(D)(i)(III)))” after
9 “(42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.)”.

10 (b) ELDERLY SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION PRO-
11 GRAM.—The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
12 2011 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing:

14 **“SEC. 31. ELDERLY SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION PROGRAM.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after
16 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall
17 establish a program, to be known as the ‘elderly simplified
18 application program’ (referred to in this section as
19 ‘ESAP’), under which a State, in carrying out the supple-
20 mental nutrition assistance program, may elect to imple-
21 ment a streamlined application and certification process
22 for households in which all adult members—

23 “(1) are elderly or disabled members; and

24 “(2) have no earned income.

25 “(b) CERTIFICATION PERIOD.—The certification pe-
26 riod for participants in ESAP shall be 36 months.

1 “(c) INCOME AND OTHER DATA VERIFICATION.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State agency deter-
3 mining the eligibility for an applicant household
4 under ESAP shall, notwithstanding section
5 11(e)(3)—

6 “(A) to the maximum extent practicable,
7 use data matching for income verification and
8 household size; and

9 “(B)(i) allow self-declaration by the appli-
10 cant of the information required under section
11 273.2(f) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations
12 (or a successor regulation); but

13 “(ii) verify, prior to certification of the
14 household, factors of eligibility provided by the
15 applicant that the State agency determines are
16 questionable.

17 “(2) ACCOUNTABILITY AND FRAUD PREVEN-
18 TION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), a State agen-
19 cy shall establish accountability and fraud protection
20 measures to deter fraud and ensure the integrity of
21 ESAP and the supplemental nutrition assistance
22 program.

23 “(d) INTERVIEWS.—Notwithstanding section
24 11(e)(6)(A), for recertification of a household under
25 ESAP, a State agency shall not require an interview un-

1 less requested by the household, which may be conducted
2 virtually.

3 “(e) GUIDANCE.—Prior to the establishment of
4 ESAP under subsection (a), the Administrator of the
5 Food and Nutrition Service shall develop guidance for
6 States, including by consulting with States, to carry out
7 ESAP, which shall include—

8 “(1) general implementation guidelines;

9 “(2) reporting requirements;

10 “(3) quality control requirements; and

11 “(4) best practices.”

12 (c) COMBINED APPLICATION PROGRAM.—The Food
13 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) (as
14 amended by subsection (b)) is amended by adding at the
15 end the following:

16 **“SEC. 32. COMBINED APPLICATION PROGRAM.**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after
18 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in
19 coordination with the Commissioner of Social Security,
20 shall establish a program, to be known as the ‘combined
21 application program’ (referred to in this section as ‘CAP’),
22 under which a State, in carrying out the supplemental nu-
23 trition assistance program, may elect to implement a
24 streamlined application process for households in which all
25 adult members are applicants for or recipients of benefits

1 under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401
2 et seq.) on the basis of a disability or supplemental secu-
3 rity income under title XVI of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1381
4 et seq.).

5 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of CAP are—

6 “(1) to reduce the need for households de-
7 scribed in subsection (a) to have in-person interviews
8 with State offices administering the supplemental
9 nutrition assistance program; and

10 “(2) to increase participation in the supple-
11 mental nutrition assistance program by simplifying
12 the application process for that program through in-
13 creased automation and simplified calculation of
14 benefits.

15 “(c) CAP MODELS.—The Secretary, in coordination
16 with the Commissioner of the Social Security Administra-
17 tion, shall offer, at a minimum, each of the following mod-
18 els for States to implement CAP:

19 “(1) STANDARD MODEL.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Under the standard
21 model, the Commissioner of the Social Security
22 Administration and the State agency admin-
23 istering the supplemental nutrition assistance
24 program shall coordinate—

1 “(i) to develop a simplified joint appli-
2 cation process for the supplemental nutri-
3 tion assistance program that uses stand-
4 ardized benefit amounts or standardized
5 shelter expenses, in accordance with this
6 paragraph; and

7 “(ii) to conduct outreach to adult
8 members receiving supplemental security
9 income under title XVI of the Social Secu-
10 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) that are
11 not receiving benefits under the supple-
12 mental nutrition assistance program.

13 “(B) STANDARDIZED BENEFIT
14 AMOUNTS.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the stand-
16 ardized model described in subparagraph
17 (A), applicants shall receive a standardized
18 or automated benefit level under the sup-
19 plemental nutrition assistance program
20 based on the shelter expenses and other in-
21 come of the applicants.

22 “(ii) MINIMUM STANDARDIZED BEN-
23 EFIT LEVELS.—At a minimum, there shall
24 be 2 standardized benefit levels under

1 clause (i), including, as determined by the
2 State—

3 “(I) a level for participants with
4 low shelter expenses; and

5 “(II) a level for participants with
6 high shelter expenses.

7 “(iii) COMPARABLE AMOUNT.—A
8 State shall ensure that the amount pro-
9 vided under a standardized benefit level
10 under clause (i) is comparable to an
11 amount that a participant would otherwise
12 receive under the supplemental nutrition
13 assistance program.

14 “(iv) REFERRAL.—A State shall refer
15 a household described in subsection (a) to
16 the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
17 gram instead of enrolling that household in
18 CAP if the standardized amount that the
19 household would receive under CAP would
20 be significantly less than the amount of
21 benefits that the household would receive
22 under the supplemental nutrition assist-
23 ance program.

24 “(C) STANDARDIZED SHELTER EX-
25 PENSES.—In computing an excess shelter ex-

1 pense deduction under section 5(e)(6), a State
2 agency may use a standard utility allowance in
3 accordance with regulations promulgated by the
4 Secretary.

5 “(2) MODIFIED MODEL.—Under the modified
6 model, a State agency administering the supple-
7 mental nutrition assistance program shall—

8 “(A) conduct outreach to prospective par-
9 ticipants in the supplemental nutrition assist-
10 ance program using information from the Social
11 Security Administration to identify households
12 described in subsection (a) that are not partici-
13 pants in the supplemental nutrition assistance
14 program; and

15 “(B) send to those households simplified
16 application forms for the supplemental nutrition
17 assistance program.”.

18 **SEC. 4. ENROLLMENT AND OUTREACH PILOT PROGRAM**
19 **FOR OLDER ADULTS, KINSHIP FAMILIES, AND**
20 **ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES.**

21 The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011
22 et seq.) (as amended by section 3(c)) is amended by add-
23 ing at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 33. ENROLLMENT AND OUTREACH PILOT PROGRAM**
2 **FOR OLDER ADULTS, KINSHIP FAMILIES, AND**
3 **ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES.**

4 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 “(1) DISABILITY.—The term ‘disability’ has the
6 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Ameri-
7 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
8 12102).

9 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
10 tity’ means—

11 “(A) a State or local government agency;

12 “(B) an Indian tribe or Tribal organiza-
13 tion;

14 “(C) a nonprofit organization, including a
15 public or nonprofit provider of services;

16 “(D) a community-based organization; and

17 “(E) an educational provider.

18 “(3) KINSHIP FAMILY.—The term ‘kinship fam-
19 ily’ means a family in which a child resides with,
20 and is being raised by, a grandparent, another ex-
21 tended family member, or an adult with whom the
22 child has a close family-like relationship, such as a
23 godparent or a close family friend.

24 “(4) OLDER ADULT.—The term ‘older adult’
25 has the meaning given the term ‘older individual’ in

1 section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42
2 U.S.C. 3002).

3 “(5) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ‘pilot pro-
4 gram’ means the Enrollment and Outreach Pilot
5 Program for Older Adults, Kinship Families, and
6 Adults with Disabilities established under subsection
7 (b).

8 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days
9 after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
10 shall establish a pilot program, to be known as the ‘Enroll-
11 ment and Outreach Pilot Program for Older Adults, Kin-
12 ship Families, and Adults with Disabilities’, under which
13 the Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities—

14 “(1) to raise awareness among older adults,
15 kinship families, and adults with disabilities of the
16 availability, eligibility requirements, application pro-
17 cedures, and benefits of the supplemental nutrition
18 assistance program; and

19 “(2) to support older adults, kinship families,
20 and adults with disabilities in enrolling in the sup-
21 plemental nutrition assistance program.

22 “(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the pilot
23 program, the Secretary shall give priority to—

24 “(1) eligible entities that—

1 “(A) provide services to older adults or
2 adults with disabilities;

3 “(B) provide services to kinship families,
4 including kinship navigator programs;

5 “(C) have experience implementing pro-
6 grams that receive funding under the Older
7 Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et
8 seq.);

9 “(D) have experience implementing pro-
10 grams administered by the Food and Nutrition
11 Service; or

12 “(E) receive, plan to receive, or dem-
13 onstrate an ability to partner with a program
14 that receives, funding under—

15 “(i) the Older Americans Act of 1965
16 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.);

17 “(ii) the Americans with Disabilities
18 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.); or

19 “(iii) 1 or more nutrition programs
20 administered by the Secretary; and

21 “(2) projects that will—

22 “(A) serve communities with high rates of
23 food insecurity, malnutrition, or low food ac-
24 cess;

1 “(B) serve rural communities, indigenous
2 communities, or communities of color;

3 “(C) serve members of the lesbian, gay, bi-
4 sexual, transgender, and queer community;

5 “(D) serve adults with limited English pro-
6 ficiency;

7 “(E) serve veterans;

8 “(F) serve residents in federally subsidized
9 housing, including federally subsidized housing
10 units for older adults and adults with disabili-
11 ties;

12 “(G) serve residents living in housing serv-
13 ing kinship families; and

14 “(H) incorporate nutrition education ac-
15 tivities that promote healthy eating and active
16 lifestyles.

17 “(d) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity re-
18 ceiving a grant under the pilot program shall use the grant
19 to carry out 1 or more of the following activities:

20 “(1) Application assistance, including—

21 “(A) eligibility prescreening;

22 “(B) assistance in completing an applica-
23 tion for the supplemental nutrition assistance
24 program;

1 “(C) assistance in obtaining application
2 verification documents;

3 “(D) medical expense deduction coun-
4 seling; and

5 “(E) translation of materials and bilingual
6 accommodation.

7 “(2) Tailored dissemination of information re-
8 lating to the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
9 gram, including through—

10 “(A) community-based outreach workshops
11 and events;

12 “(B) a toll-free hotline to provide informa-
13 tion about Federal, State, and local food re-
14 sources;

15 “(C) informational websites and other so-
16 cial media sites; and

17 “(D) printed or digital informational con-
18 tent.

19 “(3) Transportation, including—

20 “(A) transportation to or from a local of-
21 fice of the supplemental nutrition assistance
22 program; and

23 “(B) administration of vouchers or similar
24 items for the transportation described in sub-
25 paragraph (A).

1 “(4) Identification, implementation, analysis,
2 and dissemination of replicable and scalable models
3 for increasing enrollment in the supplemental nutri-
4 tion assistance program among older adults, kinship
5 families, and adults with disabilities.

6 “(e) GRANTS.—

7 “(1) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—A grant awarded
8 under the pilot program to an eligible entity for a
9 fiscal year shall be not less than \$50,000, but not
10 more than \$250,000.

11 “(2) DURATION.—An eligible entity may be
12 awarded a grant under the pilot program for not
13 more than 5 years.

14 “(f) EVALUATION.—Not later than 2 years after the
15 date of establishment of the pilot program, the Secretary
16 shall conduct an evaluation of the pilot program.

17 “(g) FUNDING.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts
19 otherwise available, there is appropriated, out of any
20 funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
21 \$12,250,000, to remain available until expended, to
22 carry out the pilot program, of which not more than
23 \$250,000 shall be used to carry out the evaluation
24 under subsection (f).

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the supple-
2 mental nutrition assistance program, the Secretary
3 shall—

4 “(A) notify retail food stores participating
5 in the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
6 gram of existing opportunities through which
7 the retail food stores can deliver food to pro-
8 gram participants, including by—

9 “(i) allowing an EBT card to be
10 swiped on delivery of food to the home
11 (with a mobile device); and

12 “(ii) preparing food for pick-up;

13 “(B) authorize public-private partnerships
14 between the Department of Agriculture, retail
15 food stores participating in the supplemental
16 nutrition assistance program, and community-
17 based organizations to provide free or low-cost
18 food delivery, including through the use of pri-
19 vate funds;

20 “(C) in the case of a covered retail food
21 store, use funds made available under subpara-
22 graph (E) of paragraph (3) to provide, in ac-
23 cordance with that paragraph, free grocery de-
24 livery for program participants who are older
25 adults or adults with disabilities (as those terms

1 are defined in section 33(a)) who are unable to
2 shop for food or lack safe and accessible trans-
3 portation options to the covered retail food
4 store; and

5 “(D) require each State to submit to the
6 Secretary a State plan that describes how the
7 State will—

8 “(i) work with retail food stores par-
9 ticipating in the supplemental nutrition as-
10 sistance program and other community-
11 based partners to establish a process for
12 food delivery for program participants;

13 “(ii) administer the reimbursements
14 described in paragraph (3), including tim-
15 ing, eligibility, and distribution processes;
16 and

17 “(iii) ensure that retail food stores
18 participating in the supplemental nutrition
19 assistance program that are reimbursed for
20 delivery costs under paragraph (3) adhere
21 to the requirements described in subpara-
22 graph (B) of that paragraph.

23 “(2) STATE PLANS.—Not later than 10 days
24 after the date on which the Secretary receives a

1 State plan under paragraph (1)(D), the Secretary
2 shall—

3 “(A) approve or deny the State plan; and

4 “(B) make publicly available on the
5 website of the Department of Agriculture—

6 “(i) the State plan;

7 “(ii) the determination made under
8 subparagraph (A) with respect to that
9 plan; and

10 “(iii) any guidance issued to the State
11 with respect to that plan.

12 “(3) REIMBURSEMENT OF COVERED RETAIL
13 FOOD STORES.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
15 other provision of law (including sections
16 274.7(f) and 278.2(b) of title 7, Code of Fed-
17 eral Regulations (or successor regulations), and
18 any other regulations), subject to the avail-
19 ability of funds, a State agency shall reimburse
20 a covered retail food store for the cost of food
21 delivery to participants described in paragraph
22 (1)(C) if—

23 “(i) the covered retail food store
24 meets the requirements under subpara-
25 graph (B); and

1 “(ii) the majority of the number of
2 food items delivered by the covered retail
3 food store are eligible for redemption using
4 benefits under the supplemental nutrition
5 assistance program, regardless of whether
6 the delivery includes nonfood items, subject
7 to the condition that those nonfood items
8 are of de minimis value.

9 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—A covered retail
10 food store may receive reimbursement for the
11 cost of food delivery to participants described in
12 paragraph (1)(C) if the following requirements
13 are met:

14 “(i) Food delivery is performed by
15 employees of the covered retail food store
16 or employees of an entity contracted by the
17 covered retail food store to perform deliv-
18 eries.

19 “(ii) Before any employee described in
20 clause (i) begins making food deliveries,
21 that employee receives employer-provided
22 health and safety training that reflects the
23 most recent guidelines of the Centers for
24 Disease Control and Prevention.

1 “(iii) All employees described in
2 clause (i) performing deliveries are paid at
3 a rate that is not less than the greater
4 of—

5 “(I) the minimum wage rate es-
6 tablished under section 6(a)(1) of the
7 Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938
8 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)); and

9 “(II) the minimum wage rate es-
10 tablished by the applicable State or lo-
11 cality in which the employee works.

12 “(iv) The covered retail food store
13 meets the size standard determined by the
14 Small Business Administration for a super-
15 market or other grocery retailer or a con-
16 venience retailer under section 121.201 of
17 title 13, Code of Federal Regulations (or a
18 successor regulation).

19 “(v) The covered retail food store does
20 not—

21 “(I) charge the supplemental nu-
22 trition assistance program participant
23 for delivery costs for which the cov-
24 ered retail food store will be reim-
25 bursed;

1 “(II) require minimum purchase
2 thresholds in order to provide free de-
3 livery;

4 “(III) restrict delivery times to
5 least-favorable windows for supple-
6 mental nutrition assistance program
7 participants; or

8 “(IV) charge surge pricing.

9 “(C) REIMBURSABLE COSTS.—Reimburs-
10 able costs under subparagraph (A) include costs
11 associated with purchasing point-of-sale devices
12 or receiving technical assistance relating to
13 point-of-sale devices.

14 “(D) MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT PER DE-
15 LIVERY.—The maximum amount of reimburse-
16 ment under subparagraph (A) for a food deliv-
17 ery fee shall be \$10 per delivery, which may be
18 adjusted by the Secretary for inflation.

19 “(E) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
20 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
21 to the Secretary \$500,000,000 for fiscal year
22 2027, and each fiscal year thereafter, to remain
23 available until expended, to cover the cost of
24 food delivery described in paragraph (1)(C), to

1 be distributed among States to fund reimburse-
2 ments by States under subparagraph (A).

3 “(4) REPORT.—Not later than April 30, 2028,
4 and April 30 of each year thereafter, the Secretary
5 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
6 tion, and Forestry and the Special Committee on
7 Aging of the Senate, and the Committee on Agri-
8 culture of the House of Representatives, a report
9 that describes, for the period covered by the report,
10 as applicable—

11 “(A) the number of supplemental nutrition
12 assistance program participants using food de-
13 livery services, including the percentage of those
14 participants that are older adults and adults
15 with disabilities (as those terms are defined in
16 section 33(a));

17 “(B) the covered retail food stores that
18 were reimbursed under paragraph (3), including
19 the amount of each reimbursement;

20 “(C) any complications or difficulties expe-
21 rienced by States in administering reimburse-
22 ments under paragraph (3); and

23 “(D) recommendations or best practices to
24 assist States in implementing food delivery pro-
25 grams.”.

1 **SEC. 6. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM.**

2 (a) FUNDS.—Section 4 of the Agriculture and Con-
3 sumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public
4 Law 93–86) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by
6 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(d) FUNDS.—In addition to amounts otherwise
9 available, there is appropriated, out of any funds in the
10 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to carry out the pro-
11 gram under this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal
12 years 2027 through 2031.”.

13 (b) ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES.—Section 5 of the
14 Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7
15 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–86) is amended—

16 (1) by striking “2023” each place it appears
17 and inserting “2031”;

18 (2) in subsection (g)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “to low-
20 income persons aged 60 and older.” and insert-
21 ing the following: “to—

22 “(A) low-income persons aged 60 and
23 older; and

24 “(B) low-income adults with disabilities (as
25 defined in section 3 of the Americans with Dis-
26 abilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102)).”;

1 (B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
2 paragraph (3);

3 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
4 following:

5 “(2) INCOME ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of
6 paragraph (1), a low-income individual described in
7 subparagraph (A) or (B) of that paragraph shall
8 have a gross income level that is less than 185 per-
9 cent of the Federal poverty line.”; and

10 (D) in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3)
11 (as so redesignated), in the matter preceding
12 clause (i), by striking “of—” and all that fol-
13 lows through the period at the end of clause (ii)
14 and inserting “of 36 months.”; and

15 (3) in subsection (i), in the matter preceding
16 paragraph (1)—

17 (A) by inserting “or low-income adults
18 with disabilities described in subsection
19 (g)(1)(B)” after “elderly persons”; and

20 (B) by striking “to each elderly participant
21 in, or applicant for, the commodity supple-
22 mental food program for the elderly” and in-
23 serting “to each participant in, or applicant for,
24 such a program”.

1 **SEC. 7. SENIORS FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4402 of the Farm Secu-
3 rity and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007)
4 is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) by striking “Of the funds” and insert-
7 ing the following:

8 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds”;

9 (B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by
10 inserting “(referred to in this section as the
11 ‘Secretary’)” after “Agriculture”; and

12 (C) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
14 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
15 retary to carry out and expand the seniors farmers’
16 market nutrition program—

17 “(A) not less than \$60,000,000 for fiscal
18 year 2027;

19 “(B) not less than \$70,000,000 for fiscal
20 year 2028; and

21 “(C) not less than \$100,000,000 for each
22 of fiscal years 2029 through 2031.”;

23 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “and
24 adults with disabilities (as defined in section 3 of the
25 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
26 12102))” before the semicolon at the end;

1 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) through (f)
2 as subsections (f) through (i), respectively; and

3 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(c) BENEFIT AMOUNTS.—Under the seniors farm-
6 ers’ market nutrition program—

7 “(1) the minimum individual benefit shall be
8 \$35; and

9 “(2) the maximum individual benefit shall be
10 \$80.

11 “(d) CERTIFICATION PERIOD.—The certification pe-
12 riod for participants in the seniors farmers’ market nutri-
13 tion program shall be 36 months.

14 “(e) MODERNIZATION GRANTS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
16 after the date of enactment of the Senior Hunger
17 Prevention Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish
18 a grant program under which the Secretary shall
19 award grants to State agencies, including Tribal or-
20 ganizations (as defined in section 3 of the Food and
21 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012)) and terri-
22 tories, that administer the senior farmers’ market
23 nutrition program to modernize program operations,
24 including—

1 “(A) by transitioning from paper-based
2 coupons to an electronic transaction technology,
3 such as a web-based service or installable soft-
4 ware; and

5 “(B) by increasing benefit use at farmers’
6 markets.

7 “(2) GRANT AMOUNT.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a
9 grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall not
10 exceed \$350,000.

11 “(B) SUPPLIES.—Not more than \$25,000
12 may be used to carry out subparagraph (F) of
13 paragraph (3).

14 “(3) ELIGIBLE EXPENSES.—An entity receiving
15 a grant under paragraph (1) may use the grant
16 for—

17 “(A) costs associated with the procurement
18 of electronic transaction technology;

19 “(B) planning costs, including personnel
20 costs, relating to electronic transaction tech-
21 nology procurement and implementation;

22 “(C) costs associated with evaluating the
23 impact of transitioning from coupon-based oper-
24 ations to an electronic transaction technology;

1 “(D) training, outreach, and promotional
2 material costs, including the costs associated
3 with translating materials;

4 “(E) maintenance and operation of elec-
5 tronic transaction technology procured using
6 the grant during the period of performance of
7 the grant;

8 “(F) the purchase of supplies needed to
9 perform electronic transactions onsite; and

10 “(G) additional costs associated with mod-
11 ernizing program operations, as determined ap-
12 propriate by the Secretary.

13 “(4) REPORTS.—Each entity that receives a
14 grant under paragraph (1) shall submit to the Sec-
15 retary and the Administrator of the Food and Nutri-
16 tion Service quarterly performance progress reports
17 on the use of the grant.

18 “(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
19 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
20 retary to carry out this subsection \$15,000,000 for
21 fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.”.

22 (b) INCOME GUIDELINES.—The Secretary of Agri-
23 culture shall revise section 249.6(a)(3) of title 7, Code of
24 Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), to ensure

1 that income eligibility under that section is at or below
2 200 percent of the poverty income guidelines.

3 **SEC. 8. INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR FARMERS' MAR-**
4 **KETS; LOCAL PROCUREMENT PILOT PRO-**
5 **GRAM.**

6 The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of
7 2002 is amended by inserting after section 4402 (7 U.S.C.
8 3007) the following:

9 **"SEC. 4403. INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR FARMERS'**
10 **MARKETS; LOCAL PROCUREMENT PILOT**
11 **PROGRAM.**

12 "(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 "(1) DISABILITY.—The term 'disability' has the
14 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Ameri-
15 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
16 12102).

17 "(2) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The term 'fi-
18 nancial assistance' means—

19 "(A) a loan;

20 "(B) a loan guarantee; and

21 "(C) a grant.

22 "(3) OLDER ADULT.—The term 'older adult'
23 has the meaning given the term 'older individual' in
24 section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42
25 U.S.C. 3002).

1 “(4) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means
2 the program established under subsection (b)(2).

3 “(5) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
4 the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 “(b) INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR FARMERS’
6 MARKETS.—

7 “(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In
8 this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means an
9 entity that—

10 “(A) is—

11 “(i) an agricultural cooperative or
12 other agricultural business entity or a pro-
13 ducer network or association, including a
14 community-supported agriculture network
15 or association;

16 “(ii) a local or Tribal government;

17 “(iii) a nonprofit corporation;

18 “(iv) a public benefit corporation;

19 “(v) an economic development cor-
20 poration;

21 “(vi) a regional farmers’ market au-
22 thority;

23 “(vii) a food council; or

24 “(viii) any other entity as determined
25 by the Secretary; and

1 “(B) can demonstrate financial need, as
2 determined by the Secretary.

3 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180
4 days after the date of enactment of the Senior Hun-
5 ger Prevention Act of 2026, the Secretary shall es-
6 tablish a program under which the Secretary shall
7 provide financial assistance to eligible entities for—

8 “(A) the establishment of new farmers’
9 markets;

10 “(B) the improvement or rehabilitation of
11 existing farmers’ markets, including by adding
12 or improving payment technologies used in
13 those farmers’ markets; and

14 “(C) the expansion of community sup-
15 ported agriculture to serve older adults and
16 adults with disabilities.

17 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible entity that
18 receives financial assistance under the program shall
19 be required—

20 “(A) to host farmers’ markets or related
21 activities at locations accessible—

22 “(i) by public transportation;

23 “(ii) by paratransit; or

1 “(iii) through transportation services
2 provided under the Older Americans Act of
3 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.); and

4 “(B) to reserve not less than 50 percent of
5 the floor area of an applicable farmers’ market
6 for the sale of products that are produced lo-
7 cally, as determined by the Secretary, by—

8 “(i) farmers, ranchers, or aquaculture,
9 mariculture, or fisheries operators; or

10 “(ii) associations of farmers, ranchers,
11 or aquaculture, mariculture, or fisheries
12 operators.

13 “(4) COST SHARING.—The non-Federal share
14 of a grant provided under the program shall be 20
15 percent of the amount of the grant, which may com-
16 prise transportation costs, volunteer contributions,
17 and in-kind staffing.

18 “(5) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Com-
19 modity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use
20 to carry out the program \$50,000,000 for each of
21 fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

22 “(c) LOCAL PROCUREMENT PILOT PROGRAM.—

23 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

24 “(A) AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER.—The
25 term ‘agricultural producer’ includes—

1 “(i) an agricultural cooperative;

2 “(ii) a person engaged in farming,
3 ranching, or aquaculture;

4 “(iii) a person engaged in the packing
5 of a food product; and

6 “(iv) a person engaged in the minimal
7 processing of a food product, as deter-
8 mined by the Secretary.

9 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
10 ble entity’ means an entity that—

11 “(i)(I) coordinates enrollment in, and
12 distribution of, benefits under the seniors
13 farmers’ market nutrition program; or

14 “(II) demonstrates an ability to part-
15 ner with an entity that coordinates enroll-
16 ment in and distribution of benefits under
17 the seniors farmers’ market nutrition pro-
18 gram; and

19 “(ii) is—

20 “(I) a public or nonprofit pro-
21 vider of nutrition services or support
22 to older adults or adults with disabil-
23 ities, including—

24 “(aa) an Aging and Dis-
25 ability Resource Center (as de-

1 fined in section 102 of the Older
2 Americans Act of 1965 (42
3 U.S.C. 3002));

4 “(bb) an area agency on
5 aging (as defined in that section);

6 “(cc) a State health insur-
7 ance program;

8 “(dd) a State unit on aging;

9 “(ee) a center for inde-
10 pendent living;

11 “(ff) a community health
12 center;

13 “(gg) a multipurpose senior
14 center; and

15 “(hh) federally subsidized
16 housing, including federally sub-
17 sidized housing units for older
18 adults and adults with disabil-
19 ities; or

20 “(II) a local, State, or national
21 parks and recreation department.

22 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180
23 days after the date of enactment of the Senior Hun-
24 ger Prevention Act of 2026, the Secretary shall es-
25 tablish a pilot program under which the Secretary

1 shall award grants to eligible entities to contract
2 with agricultural producers that will grow produce to
3 support the local procurement and contracting of
4 produce for eligible entities.

5 “(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under
6 paragraph (2), the Secretary shall give priority to an
7 eligible entity that will use the grant funds to benefit
8 underserved communities, including communities
9 that are located in areas of concentrated poverty
10 with limited access to fresh locally or regionally
11 grown food.

12 “(4) METHODS.—Under a contract described in
13 paragraph (2), an agricultural producer may grow
14 produce through traditional or controlled environ-
15 mental agriculture farming.

16 “(5) EVALUATION.—Not later than 2 years
17 after the date of establishment of the pilot program
18 under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall conduct an
19 evaluation of the pilot program.

20 “(6) FUNDING.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds of the
22 Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
23 shall use to carry out this subsection \$350,000
24 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

1 “(B) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of the
2 amounts made available under subparagraph
3 (A) for a fiscal year, not more than 5 percent
4 may be used for administrative costs.

5 “(C) EVALUATION.—In addition to
6 amounts made available under subparagraph
7 (A), there is appropriated to the Secretary, out
8 of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise ap-
9 propriated, \$25,000 to carry out paragraph
10 (5).”.

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