



IAC POLICY BRIEF

Food and Agriculture Programs and funding Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020 and FY2021 Appropriations
January 15, 2020

On December 21, 2020, Congress passed omnibus legislation providing full appropriations funding for the federal government for the 2021 fiscal year and a COVID-19 relief package with over \$900 billion in funding in response to the continuing pandemic. The relief package includes \$26 billion to support agriculture producers and food programs and an extension of time for tribes and states to spend the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund until December 31, 2021. Below is a summary of some of the agriculture and food COVID-19 relief provisions and FY2021 appropriations:

COVID-19 Relief for Agriculture and Nutrition

- Total of \$26 billion for food and agriculture, with \$13 billion for producers relief and \$13 billion for nutrition programs.
- Over \$11 billion in support for ag and food producers:
 - Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) payments for the 2020 crop year, including supplemental payments to cattle producers;
 - Up to \$3 billion in payments to livestock and poultry producers for depopulation caused by a lack of access to processing due to COVID-19 impacts;
 - Support for crops losses due to lack of processing access;
 - \$1.5 billion for the purchase of food and agricultural products, which includes seafood, and ability to provide small loans and grants to small and mid-sized distributors and processors;
 - Allowing crop insurance indemnities, noninsured crop disaster assistance payments, and Wildfire and Hurricanes Indemnity Program Plus payments to be taken into account for determining the amount of eligible sales, and may allow producers to select 2018 or 2019 sales;
 - \$200 million for timber harvesting; and
 - A review of the needs of ag and food producers and processors to improve COVID-19 food purchasing.
- Increase of SNAP benefits by 15 percent for 6 months starting January 2021.
- \$300 million in Fisheries assistance including Great Lakes; \$30 million for tribal fisheries
- \$100 million for the Speciality Crops Block Grants program
- \$100 million for the Local Agriculture Market Program
- \$75 million for the Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach
- \$75 million for the Gus Nutrition Incentives Program
- \$13 million for Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- \$7 million for Native nutrition services under the Older Americans Act
- \$20 million for research on nutrition gaps

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Additional COVID-19 Relief Provisions

- Extension of deadline to spend CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund for tribes, states, and local governments to December 31, 2021
- \$284 billion for the SBA Paycheck Protection Program
- \$12 billion for Community Financial Development Institutions

FY2021 Appropriations Bill Highlights

- \$163 million in FY2021 regular appropriations for FDPIR
- \$3 million for the FDPIR 638 pilot project to be expended by the end of Sept. 2022
- Specific directive on tribal producer access and traditional foods in FDPIR
 - “The agreement encourages FNS, in collaboration with AMS, to provide information to the FDPIR community on how tribal vendors can sell foods to USDA for use in food distribution programs. The Secretary is directed to notify the Committees of the Department's efforts to engage tribes in the demonstration program and tribal participation in fiscal year 2020. The agreement further directs the Department to provide a report detailing its plans to increase the amount and variety of traditional foods included in FDPIR food baskets; its plans to identify additional Native American and Alaska Native producers of traditional foods, including wild salmon, caribou, reindeer, elk, and other foods; and its plans to purchase additional traditional foods from a greater number of indigenous producers and businesses.”
- \$3.2 million for the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program
- \$1 million budget for the USDA Office of Tribal Relations

Links

- [Full Text of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021](#)
- [House Agriculture Committee Summary of Relief Provisions](#)
- [FY2021 Ag Appropriations Congressional Directives](#)

