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NTFB VOICE Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS

In Brief -

- Federal Policy Priorities Released
- What's happening in Agriculture - Ukraine/Russia
- President's USDA Budget Released

Federal Policy Priorities Released

Together with Feeding America and FRAC, the North Texas Food Bank has published their federal policy agenda for the next year.

In brief, we will seek to

- Increase the annual funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Improve SNAP access (particularly for eligible college students) and an increased benefit structure
- Protecting the funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP, the Senior Box program)
- Improve the programs housed within the Child Nutrition Reauthorization such as the National School Lunch Program and the SNAP for Women's Infant and Children Program (WIC).

Please take a moment and review our [priorities here](#) on our NTFB Advocacy Webpage.

Agriculture and Russia/Ukraine

At North Texas Food Bank, and really, all over the world, all are tuning in to see how the Ukraine/Russia crisis is going to impact the global food supply.

[From the NY Post:](#)

The price of agricultural commodities has fluctuated sharply as tensions around the Black Sea threaten to disrupt global shipments of wheat, corn and vegetable oil. Disruptions and rising prices for those commodities — as well as the cost of fuel and fertilizer, important inputs for farmers — could further buffet global food markets and threaten social stability, analysts said.

Typically, when there is the threat of crop shortage due to instability in an area, the solution is to go plant more food. However, there is an additional complication. Russia is the world leading exporter of fertilizer for crop growth. Farmers across the world are limiting their use of fertilizer, leading to less quantity and less nutritious crops, with a global impact over the next two years. Further, some countries are going around sanctions to ensure their country is fed.

[The Daily has a podcast on the complications that is worth a listen to. Find it here.](#)

Agriculture Budget

The President has released his budget for FY23. As a reminder the Federal Budget must be passed each year, and the first step in the process is for the President to issue his version.

The President's Budget is more symbolic and not "the budget", however, it gives insight into what the President would like to see come out of Congress.

In his version, the President has increased the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) budget by 9%, focused on rural broadband expansion and conservation assistance.

Regarding feeding programs, from the President's statement:

Prioritize consistent access to safe, nutritious food for all Americans. USDA's core nutrition programs are the most far-reaching, powerful tools available to ensure that all Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, or background, have access to healthy, affordable food.

The Budget proposes \$111 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a budget level that supports 43.5 million Americans per month.

It maintains funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) at \$6 billion. In 2023, an average of 6.4 million low-income women, infants and children are expected to participate in the program each month.

The budget also proposes to continue the provision of enhanced Cash Value Benefits (CVBs) through 2023 to ensure that all participating women and children have access to the scientific-based recommended level of fruits and vegetables thereby improving health outcomes as well as program retention.

During the budgeting process, anti-hunger advocates will have the opportunity to share their experience on how to improve and increase funding for nutrition programs. Please be on the look out for advocacy opportunities to let your members of Congress know what's important to you and your community.

Questions or Comments?

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