

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6776

To amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 with respect to the use of cash-value benefits and coupons for purchases of fresh, nutritious, unprepared foods from community supported agricultural entities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 17, 2025

Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Mr. VAN DREW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 with respect to the use of cash-value benefits and coupons for purchases of fresh, nutritious, unprepared foods from community supported agricultural entities, 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 “Farmers to Families
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. USE OF CASH-VALUE BENEFITS AND COUPONS FOR**
2 **CERTAIN LOCAL FOODS.**

3 The Child Nutrition Act of 1966 is amended by in-
4 serting after section 17 (42 U.S.C. 1786) the following:

5 **“SEC. 18. USE OF CASH-VALUE BENEFITS AND COUPONS**
6 **FOR CERTAIN LOCAL FOODS.**

7 “(a) PURCHASES OF CERTAIN LOCAL FOODS.—Not
8 later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of
9 this section, the Secretary shall allow cash-value benefit
10 funds and coupon funds to be used by participants and
11 recipients to purchase fresh, local, nutritious, unprepared
12 foods, including pre-order boxes of such foods, from a cov-
13 ered agricultural entity.

14 “(b) SINGLE EBT ACCESS DEVICE FOR CASH-VALUE
15 BENEFITS AND COUPON FUNDS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
17 after the date of the enactment of this section, a
18 State agency—

19 “(A) shall provide cash-value benefit funds
20 and coupon funds through the electronic bene-
21 fits transfer system of such State established
22 pursuant to section 17(h)(12);

23 “(B) shall ensure such coupon funds can
24 be accessed through the electronic benefits
25 transfer access device provided to participants
26 pursuant to section 17(h)(12); and

“(C) may provide different payment mechanisms on such access device that separate the funds stored on such access device based on if the funds are cash-value benefit funds or coupon funds.

“(2) PROCESSING OF PAYMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State agency shall require a community supported agricultural entity to use a qualified payment device from the list established pursuant to subparagraph (B)(i) to accept payments from an electronic benefits transfer access device described in paragraph (1)(A).

“(B) QUALIFIED PAYMENT DEVICE.—

“(i) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue regulations establishing a list of payment devices that the Secretary determines to be qualified payment devices for the purposes of subparagraph (A).

“(ii) CRITERIA.—In issuing regulations under clause (i), the Secretary shall ensure that each payment device included on the list established pursuant to clause

(i) is a singular device that can accept and process, without requiring an additional device, payments from an electronic benefits transfer access device described in paragraph (1)(A), including payments from cash-value benefit funds and coupon funds stored on such card.

“(iii) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall review and update on a regular basis the regulations issued under clause (i).

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) CASH-VALUE BENEFIT.—The term ‘cash-value benefit’ has the meaning given the term ‘cash-value voucher’ in section 246.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

“(2) COVERED AGRICULTURAL ENTITY.—The term ‘covered agricultural entity’ means—

“(A) any food hub, farmers’ market, or other distributor that markets local food from farmers to consumers;

“(B) a community supported agriculture program (as such term is defined in section 249.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)); or

1 “(C) a farmer (as such term is defined in
 2 section 249.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regu-
 3 lations (or successor regulations)).

4 “(3) COUPON.—The term ‘coupon’ has the
 5 meaning given the term in section 17(m)(10).

6 “(4) PARTICIPANT.—The term ‘participant’
 7 means a participant in the supplemental nutrition
 8 program for women, infants, and children under sec-
 9 tion 17.

10 “(5) RECIPIENT.—The term ‘recipient’ has the
 11 meaning given the term in section 17(m)(10).

12 “(6) STATE AGENCY.—The term ‘State agency’
 13 means a State agency (as defined in subsection (b)
 14 of section 17) that administers a program pursuant
 15 to a grant under subsection (m) of such section.”.

16 **SEC. 3. FARMERS’ MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WIC**
 17 **PARTICIPANTS.**

18 (a) INCLUSION OF COVERED AGRICULTURAL ENTI-
 19 TIES.—Section 17(m)(1) of the Child Nutrition Act of
 20 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(m)(1)) is amended—

21 (1) by striking “foods at farmers’ markets and
 22 (at the option of a State) roadside stands, as defined
 23 in the State plans submitted under this subsection”
 24 and inserting “foods, at—”; and

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

1 “(A) farmers’ markets, as defined in the State
2 plans submitted under this subsection;

3 “(B) roadside stands, as defined in the State
4 plans submitted under this subsection; and

5 “(C) in accordance with section 18(a), covered
6 agricultural entities (as such term is defined in sec-
7 tion 18(c)).’”.

8 (b) AUTOMATIC STREAMLINE OF BENEFITS.—Sec-
9 tion 17(m)(5) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
10 U.S.C. 1786(m)(5)) is amended by adding at the end the
11 following:

12 “(H) That each farmer (as such term is
13 defined in section 249.2 of title 7, Code of Fed-
14 eral Regulations (or successor regulations)) is
15 automatically authorized as a covered agricul-
16 tural entity (as such term is defined in section
17 18(c)) for purposes of this subsection.”.

18 **SEC. 4. WIC ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**

19 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
20 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall include
21 on a publicly available website of the Department of Agri-
22 culture—

23 (1) a single application portal for producers to
24 be—

1 (A) authorized as a farmer for purposes of
2 section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of
3 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(m)) to sell fresh, local,
4 nutritious, unprepared foods to an individual
5 described in paragraph (5)(A) of such section
6 17(m); and

7 (B) in accordance with section
8 17(m)(5)(H) of such Act, authorized as a cov-
9 ered agricultural entity under section 18 of
10 such Act, as added by this Act, to sell fresh,
11 local, nutritious, unprepared foods to an indi-
12 vidual described in paragraph (5)(A) of such
13 section 17(m);

14 (2) guidance for—

15 (A) State WIC offices administering WIC;

16 (B) farmers; and

17 (C) farmers' markets; and

18 (3) best practices for State agencies and local
19 agencies carrying out—

20 (A) a farmers' market nutrition program
21 for WIC participants pursuant to a grant under
22 section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of
23 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(m)); and

24 (B) the requirements under section 18 of
25 such Act, as added by this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER FOR FARMERS'**
2 **MARKET OPERATORS AND FARMERS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 18 months
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
5 of Agriculture shall—

6 (1) establish a Technical Assistance Center for
7 farmers' market operators and farmers (in this sec-
8 tion referred to as the “Center”); and

9 (2) to the extent practicable, consult on the de-
10 sign and scope of the Center with farmers, farmers'
11 market managers, State agencies, and community
12 organizations with experience in implementation of
13 Federal nutrition benefits.

14 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—

15 (1) SELECTION PROCESS.—To carry out the ac-
16 tivities of the Center under subsection (c), the Sec-
17 retary shall seek to enter into a cooperative agree-
18 ment, on a competitive basis, with an eligible entity.

19 (2) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking to
20 enter into a cooperative agreement shall submit to
21 the Secretary an application at such time, in such
22 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
23 retary may require.

24 (3) PANEL REVIEW.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18
2 months after the date of the enactment of this
3 Act, the Secretary shall establish a panel—

4 (i) to review applications submitted to
5 the Secretary under paragraph (2); and

6 (ii) to make recommendations to the
7 Secretary with respect to selecting an eligi-
8 ble entity under paragraph (1) in accord-
9 ance with subparagraph (C).

10 (B) MEMBERS.—The panel established
11 under subparagraph (A) shall include at least—

12 (i) 1 member with experience as a
13 farmers' market manager; and

14 (ii) 1 member with experience pro-
15 viding technical assistance to farmers re-
16 garding accepting Federal nutrition bene-
17 fits.

18 (C) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The panel es-
19 tablished under subparagraph (A) shall only
20 recommend eligible entities to the Secretary
21 with respect to selecting an eligible entity under
22 paragraph (1) that the panel has determined to
23 possess expertise in providing training and tech-
24 nical assistance to farmers' markets and farm-
25 ers regarding Federal nutrition programs.

1 (4) PRIORITY.—In selecting an eligible entity
2 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give pri-
3 ority to an eligible entity that—

4 (A) has experience engaging with Federal
5 nutrition programs administered by the Depart-
6 ment, such as FMNP, WIC, or other nutrition
7 incentive programs; and

8 (B) has a history of effectively serving
9 small and mid-sized farms, local agriculture,
10 and underserved communities.

11 (5) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For purposes
12 of this subsection, the term “eligible entity”
13 means—

14 (A) a nonprofit organization;

15 (B) an institution of higher education;

16 (C) a cooperative extension service;

17 (D) a regional food system network; or

18 (E) any other entity with demonstrated ca-
19 pacity to carry out the activities described in
20 subsection (c), as determined by the Secretary.

21 (c) ACTIVITIES.—The Center shall provide services
22 related to the programs under section 17 of the Child Nu-
23 trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(m)) and section 18
24 of such Act, as added by this Act, including—

1 (1) assisting farmers and farmers' market oper-
2 ators with understanding and complying with eligi-
3 bility, application, and authorization requirements—

4 (A) under the supplemental nutrition as-
5 sistance program established under the Food
6 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
7 seq.);

8 (B) under the FMNP;

9 (C) under the SFMNP; and

10 (D) for accepting cash-value benefits;

11 (2) providing training to farmers' market man-
12 agers and local farm vendors on how to accept elec-
13 tronic benefits transfer payments from recipients
14 and participants of such programs, including guid-
15 ance on the use of qualified payment devices author-
16 ized by the Secretary under section 18(b)(2)(B) of
17 such Act, as added by this Act;

18 (3) creating, maintaining, and distributing re-
19 sources and best practices for the acceptance and
20 administration of nutrition benefits in farmers' mar-
21 ket settings;

22 (4) sharing implementation information with
23 State agencies, local agencies, stakeholders and
24 other technical assistance providers in a timely man-
25 ner; and

1 (5) collecting and analyzing information on re-
2 lated program outcomes.

3 (d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-
5 after, the Center shall submit to the Secretary and rel-
6 evant congressional committees a report that—

7 (1) summarizes the activities of the Center, in-
8 cluding the information collected pursuant to sub-
9 section (c)(5); and

10 (2) makes recommendations on how to encour-
11 age farmers and farmers’ markets to engage with
12 programs under section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition
13 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(m)) and section 18 of
14 such Act, as added by this Act.

15 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act:

17 (1) CASH-VALUE BENEFIT.—The term “cash-
18 value benefit” has the meaning given the term
19 “cash-value voucher” in section 246.2 of title 7,
20 Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regula-
21 tions).

22 (2) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE.—The
23 term “cooperative extension service” has the mean-
24 ing given such term in section 1404 of the Food and
25 Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).

1 (3) COVERED AGRICULTURAL ENTITY.—The
2 term “covered agricultural entity” has the meaning
3 given the term in section 18 of the Child Nutrition
4 Act of 1966, as added by this Act.

5 (4) FARMER.—The term “farmer” has the
6 meaning given the term in section 249.2 of title 7,
7 Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regula-
8 tions).

9 (5) FMNP.—The term “FMNP” means the
10 farmers’ market nutrition program for WIC partici-
11 pants under section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition
12 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(m)).

13 (6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
14 term “institution of higher education” has the
15 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-
16 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

17 (7) SFMNP.—The term “SFMNP” means the
18 senior farmers’ market nutrition program under sec-
19 tion 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
20 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007).

21 (8) WIC.—The term “WIC” means the special
22 supplemental nutrition program for women, infants,
23 and children under section 17 of the Child Nutrition
24 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786).

1 (9) WIC TERMS.—The terms “State agency”
2 and “local agency” have the meanings given the
3 terms, respectively, in section 17 of the Child Nutri-
4 tion Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786).

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