

## Selected Nutrition Policy Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress has passed several temporary modifications to nutrition assistance programs and added funding, while the U.S. Department of Agriculture has initiated other temporary changes under its own authority. The primary purpose and impact of all the changes is to help Americans obtain adequate and nutritious food and reduce food insecurity. However, several of the changes may also have an impact on various segments of the food industry. The chart below lists some of these possible impacts.

Program	Description	States & Territories Eligible (May 13, 2020)	Potential Food Industry Impact
Pandemic EBT	Children eligible for free, reduced-price lunches can have equivalent value loaded on EBT card if schools are closed	24	-Additional grocery purchasing power for SNAP households -Shifts demand from food service to retail
SNAP Emergency Allotments	SNAP recipients who previously received less than maximum benefit for their household size can get additional benefits to bring them up to the maximum	55	-Additional grocery purchasing power for SNAP households -Surveys show SNAP households' purchasing habits similar to non-SNAP
WIC Food Package Waivers	States can waive certain requirements for foods in WIC packages, e.g., fat levels, package sizes	47	-Some additional SKUs become eligible for WIC purchase
Child Nutrition Meal Pattern Waivers	When requested by schools, states may authorize changes in normal meal requirements	46	-May increase demand for foods served without heating (schools serving cold meals)
TEFAP Funds	Up to \$850 million additional for food banks	All	-Most funds will be used to purchase food
Farmers to Families Food Box Program	\$1.2 billion purchased for "truck-to-trunk" distribution through non-profits; potential additional \$1.8 billion	All	-Possible increased demand for dairy, pork, chicken, fresh fruits and vegetables -Some offset to collapsed food service demand

