

POLICY BRIEF

Farm Bill Reauthorization

About Feeding Change

Overview

Feeding Change is a team of food-system experts within the Milken Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank, who activate social and financial capital, engage policymakers and industry leaders, and convene key stakeholders **to catalyze a more nutritious, sustainable, resilient, and equitable food system**. Sitting at the intersection of finance and health, Feeding Change is uniquely positioned within the Milken Institute to provide expertise on how to leverage the Farm Bill to drive food systems transformation and achieve better health outcomes. Improving health outcomes will help reduce the prevalence and severity of chronic health conditions, which drive the greatest portion of health-care costs.

Feeding Change worked with key stakeholders to inform the policy priorities in this document. These stakeholders include members from the Feeding Change Food Is Medicine (FIM) Task Force (an advisory group of nonprofit and academic FIM experts) and a Business Council of food systems leaders. These members represent over 50 companies and organizations across the insurance, health system, food retail, academic, nonprofit, technology, investment, agriculture, and food processing and manufacturing sectors. [View a full list of FIM Task Force members and advisors.](#)

Key Farm Bill Policy Priorities

The Milken Institute Feeding Change program, with input from our FIM Task Force and partners, has identified these Farm Bill 2023 policy priorities to achieve our vision of a nutritious, sustainable, resilient, and equitable food system:

- 1. Advance nutrition security by expanding access to food through SNAP.**
- 2. Promote provisions that support Food Is Medicine, such as nutrition incentives and fruit and vegetable production.**
- 3. Increase healthy food production and processing to support nutritional diversity, access, and resiliency within local and regional food systems.**
- 4. Support climate-smart agricultural production and conservation to strengthen local, regional, and national resiliency across the food supply chain.**

Recommendations

- 1. Advance nutrition security by expanding access to food through SNAP.**
 - a. Building on the success of the pilot phase, codify Online Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). (*Title IV—Nutrition*)
 - b. Revise participating retailer eligibility requirements, provide transparency in the approval process, and expand access to technical support. This should include a range of retailers, including direct-to-consumer producers, online-only, and third-party sellers, to increase consumer choice and access, particularly in urban

and rural communities with historical retail disinvestment, while increasing SNAP's impact as an economic driver. *(Title IV–Nutrition)*

- c. Reduce barriers to SNAP recertification (e.g., allow telemedicine appointments, institutionalize pandemic waiver provisions that expand access without increasing fraud or misuse, etc.) to ensure that all who are eligible can maximize participation. *(Title IV–Nutrition)*
- d. Support and advocate for continuing SNAP outreach and education, particularly to historically marginalized populations, as a complement to the revision proposed in point (b). *(Title IV–Nutrition)*

2. Promote provisions that support Food Is Medicine, such as nutrition incentives and fruit and vegetable production.

- a. Protect existing funding for Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP), specifically the SNAP fruit and vegetable incentive program and produce prescriptions. *(Title XII–Miscellaneous)*
- b. Allocate funding for technology infrastructure to support improved enrollment, renewals, product eligibility for redemption, payment processing, and other functions to scale GusNIP to a broader population. *(Title XII–Miscellaneous)*
- c. Incentivize and support local and regional procurement of fresh fruits and vegetables through the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, The Emergency Food Assistance Program, and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to support national nutrition goals while also investing in increased production of fruits and vegetables. *(Title IV–Nutrition)*
- d. Continue the Healthy Food Financing Initiative to increase access to foods, particularly fruits and vegetables, through the expansion of small and local food retail establishments and farmers markets. *(Title IV–Nutrition)*

3. Increase healthy food production and processing to support nutritional diversity, access, and resiliency within local and regional food systems.

- a. Protect funding for programs that increase the production of and access to fruits and vegetables within local and regional food systems (e.g., Local Agriculture Market Program, grantmaking through the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production). *(Title X–Horticulture)*
- b. Reauthorize funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grants to increase the number of fruit and vegetable producers, particularly small farms and those from underserved communities. *(Title X–Horticulture)*
- c. Expand access to farm credit and crop insurance for specialty crops, specifically fruits and vegetables. *(Title XI–Crop Insurance)*
- d. Expand access to capital and credit, technical assistance, land, and insurance for producers who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color to increase the availability, affordability, cultural appropriateness, and diversity of nutritious food. *(Title XII–Miscellaneous)*

4. Support climate-smart agricultural production and conservation to strengthen local, regional, and national resiliency across the food supply chain.

- a. Expand eligibility and remove constraints (e.g., entities and Adjusted Gross Income) for Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program funding to maximize funds and continued success for these programs. *(Title II–Conservation)*
- b. Reauthorize the Urban, Indoor, and Emerging Agricultural Production, Research, Education, and Extension Initiative to encourage the development of new agricultural technologies, leveraging public-private partnerships. *(Title VII–Research)*
- c. Codify the COVID-inspired Food Supply Chain Guarantee Loan program to support continued investment in a resilient food supply chain. *(Title TBD)*