



COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

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Dear Representative XXXX,

As we approach the conclusion of the continuing resolution on January 19th, 2024, we express our concern about the uncertain FY'24 funding levels for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). We ask that you support for the Senate-proposed \$390 million to secure the program's vital assistance for seniors.

CSFP, a federal nutrition program, aids seniors aged 60 and older with low incomes by providing monthly food packages. These packages, filled with essential nutrients, help seniors maintain good health and manage conditions associated with food insecurity and nutrient deficiencies.

What's at Stake:

- In 2021, 1 in 14 U.S. seniors faced food insecurity.
- CSFP prevents seniors from having to make impossible choices between food, medical care, and basic needs.
- The USDA sources CSFP foods from U.S. growers, supporting American agriculture.

Our ask:

1. Reauthorize CSFP.
2. Exempt Medicare payments from gross income calculations for CSFP eligibility.
3. Reduce administrative burden and increase efficiency by streamlining reporting requirements.

Fast Facts:

- Some seniors, especially Black or Hispanic, living with grandchildren, having lower incomes, or disabilities, experience higher rates of food insecurity.
- In 2021, 10.3% of individuals aged 65 and older had incomes below the federal poverty level.
- In FY 2022, CSFP served around 631,000 seniors with incomes at or below 130% of the federal poverty level.

Unlike SNAP, CSFP is discretionary, dependent on annual funding determinations, leading to waitlists and limited access for eligible seniors.

Your advocacy and support in addressing these critical issues are pivotal. We appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to the well-being of our seniors. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
XXXXX



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Member: Association of Arizona Food Banks