

From: [National CSFP Association](#)
To: [Eads, Kim \(AGR\)](#)
Subject: Tell Congress: Seniors in Your State Are at Risk
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External Email

National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association



Tell Congress: Seniors in Your State Are at Risk

Congress is currently negotiating the federal budget—and the **proposed \$425 million** for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in Fiscal Year 2026 **is not enough to sustain current service levels.**

Right now, CSFP serves over 707,000 low-income seniors every month, with programs operating at nearly 100% capacity. With no room to absorb rising food costs, **insufficient funding will mean removing seniors who are already being served.**

These monthly food boxes are not a luxury—they are a lifeline.

That's why we need your voice in this moment. We've created a CSFP advocacy letter template that you can customize and send to your Members of Congress. To make your message even more impactful, we encourage you to **use the state-specific data below to show how insufficient funding would directly harm older adults in your community.**

Add information like:

- How many seniors you serve in your state
- What will happen to the seniors you serve if funding isn't adequate.

Your story matters. **Personalizing your message shows lawmakers the real, local impact of CSFP**—and how critical it is to protect and adequately fund

this program in FY 2026.

Thank you for standing up for seniors and making your voice heard.

With appreciation,

NCSFPA Education Committee

Find your elected officials here: <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>

State	2025 Final Caseload	Average Oct. '24 - May '25
Alabama	9240	9284
Alaska	2536	2665
Arizona	24712	25004
Arkansas	10623	10767
California	109047	110765
Colorado	13866	14035
Connecticut	2733	2742
Delaware	1265	1235
D.C.	5634	5699
Florida	9457	9712
Georgia	6393	6565
Hawaii	3172	3229
Idaho	2103	2150
Illinois	8612	8317
Indiana	4852	4889

Iowa	2764	2810
Kansas	4353	4434
Kentucky	30514	29934
Louisiana	34373	33138
Maine	5084	5155
Maryland	3363	2726
Massachusetts	2638	2655
Michigan	66802	65152
Minnesota	8759	9460
Mississippi	12776	13029
Missouri	19801	20080
Montana	4278	4354
Nebraska	5139	4716
Nevada	4902	4959
New Hampshire	2326	2294
New Jersey	4835	4842
New Mexico	9999	10053
New York	33722	31094
North Carolina	15325	15419
North Dakota	1493	1614
Ohio	29863	30303
Oklahoma	4541	4976
Oregon	2155	2195
Pennsylvania	38532	38026
Puerto Rico	4394	4418

Rhode Island	1999	2015
South Carolina	8771	8819
South Dakota	2264	2523
Tennessee	8122	7648
Texas	74535	75090
Utah	2736	2787
Vermont	1533	1617
Virginia	10482	10300
Washington	5372	5620
West Virginia	9827	10222
Wisconsin	12628	12551
Wyoming	206	176
Total	705451	704262
*Does not include ITOs		

The Honorable [Representative/Senator Full Name]
[U.S. House of Representatives / U.S. Senate]
[Office Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]

Dear [Representative/Senator Last Name],

As Congress continues to negotiate the federal budget, we urge you—as stewards of our nation’s food and nutrition programs—to prioritize the needs of low-income seniors by ensuring adequate funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in Fiscal Year 2026.

We deeply appreciate your longstanding support for CSFP. However, we are concerned that the current funding level of \$425 million, as passed by the Senate and approved by the House Appropriations Committee, will not be sufficient to maintain existing service levels. Due to continued inflation and rising food package costs, this amount will fall short of what is needed to sustain the program’s full caseload next year.

Nationwide, CSFP is serving nearly 100% of its authorized caseload—707,000

seniors each month. With no excess capacity, any funding shortfall will result in removing seniors who are already being served and who rely on this monthly box of nutritious food as a vital source of support.

These boxes are not a luxury; they are a lifeline.

In [Your State], CSFP currently serves approximately [insert number] seniors each month. Without increased funding, we will be forced to [insert local impact—e.g., reduce the number of seniors served, turn away those on waitlists, or scale back distribution sites].

While USDA has not yet released an updated cost estimate for FY 2026, our analysis shows that \$481 million will be required to maintain the current caseload. We respectfully urge you to work with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to obtain a revised funding estimate and to ensure that CSFP receives full funding at the level necessary to avoid service reductions.

Thank you again for your past support of this essential program. We hope we can count on your continued leadership to protect CSFP and ensure no senior loses access to the nutrition they need due to preventable funding gaps.

Sincerely,

[Your Name / Organization Name]

How to Advocate for CSFP in Your State

Awareness is one of the most powerful tools we have to protect and strengthen the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). With elected officials changing year to year, building and maintaining relationships is key to ensuring ongoing support. Advocacy is not a one-time action—it's an ongoing conversation.

Find your elected officials here:

<https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>

Invite Local Leaders to Visit Your Program

Hosting a CSFP distribution event is a great way to show local officials the real impact of the program. When legislators see the program in action and hear directly from seniors, staff, and volunteers, it helps build strong support for CSFP.

Tip: If you organize a visit, send out a press release to generate local media coverage and raise awareness in your community.

Align Your Advocacy

Consider incorporating the NCSFPA's federal requests into your organization's own legislative priorities. Speaking with a united voice helps amplify the message and strengthen our impact nationwide.

REMINDERS:

- Renew your membership today! <https://www.ncsfpa.org/membership/>

RESOURCES:

USDA key data report: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/overview/keydata-may2025>

NATIONAL COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM ASSOCIATION
www.ncsfpa.org/contact-us



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