



Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

The fiscal year 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies funding bill provides discretionary funding of \$25.5 billion – an increase of \$737 million, 3 percent – above fiscal year 2022. In total, the bill includes \$242 billion for discretionary programs funded annually and mandatory programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The legislation:

- Tackles hunger and nutrition insecurity by expanding access to fruits and vegetables to 6.2 million women, infants, and children through WIC and ensuring that 43.5 million people in SNAP-eligible families get the necessary benefits. The bill also invests in the health of America's kids through Child Nutrition programs, like school meals - which are now the healthiest source of food consumed in the United States.
- Grows opportunity and lifts rural communities by increasing funding for rural broadband, connecting more communities to the internet through a program that got more than 200,000 people connected to the 21st-century economy last year.
- Rebuilds our public health and consumer safety infrastructure with increased funding to address maternal and infant nutrition, including resources for the 'Closer to Zero' initiative to reduce exposure to toxic elements in babies' and young children's food, emerging food-related chemical and toxicological issues, drug safety oversight, as well as providing additional resources for in-person inspections in large foreign drug manufacturing countries, and drug and device supply chain monitoring and surveillance. The bill also invests in our public health infrastructure by modernizing FDA's data infrastructure to ensure better safety and security of the food and medical supply chain.
- Provides essential investments to ensure equitable participation in USDA programs. The bill provides increases for extension, research, and capacity grants at 1890 land grants, 1994 land grants, and Hispanic serving institutions to help strengthen the pipeline for the future of agriculture. It also provides funding to improve outreach and program access to historically underserved communities.

Bill Summary:

Rural Development and Infrastructure – The bill provides nearly \$4 billion for rural development programs. These programs help create an environment for economic growth by providing business and housing opportunities and building sustainable rural infrastructure for the modern economy.

- **Rural Broadband** – The legislation invests over \$455 million for the expansion of broadband service to provide economic development opportunities and improved education and healthcare services, including an additional \$348 million for the ReConnect program. This is in addition to the \$2 billion provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. These significant investments in broadband reflect a commitment to enabling Americans in rural communities to access digital tools necessary to improve health, educational, and economic outcomes. Since 2019, more than 200,000 rural residents have gained access to broadband through these programs.
- **Critical Infrastructure** – The legislation includes responsible infrastructure investments to help the country's rural areas access essential utilities. This includes \$1.47 billion for rural water and waste program loans, and over \$500 million in water and waste grants for clean and reliable drinking water systems and sanitary waste disposal systems, which will provide safe drinking water to millions of rural residents. An additional \$8.2 billion in loan authority is provided for rural electric and telephone infrastructure loans.
- **Rural Housing Loans and Rental Assistance** – The bill provides a total of \$30 billion in loan authority for the Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program. The bill includes \$1.25 billion in direct single family housing loans, meeting the estimated need for these loans, which provide home loan assistance to low-income rural families, many of whom would have few loan options for purchasing a home because of their geographical location. In addition, a total of \$1.49 billion is provided for rental assistance and rental vouchers for affordable rental housing for low-income families and the elderly in rural communities to renew all existing rental assistance contracts. In fiscal year 2020, Rural Development housing programs provided affordable housing to 138,331 rural homeowners and over 250,000 rental units.
- **Business and Industry Loan Program** – The bill includes \$1.8 billion for the Business and Industry loan program, a 45% increase over fiscal year 2022. This will enable additional lending opportunities to business and non-profits in rural areas.

Food and Nutrition Programs – The bill contains discretionary funding, as well as mandatory funding required by law, for food and nutrition programs within the Department of Agriculture. This includes funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and child nutrition programs.

- **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** – The bill provides \$6 billion in discretionary funding for WIC and maintains the increase of fruits and vegetables in the WIC Food Package. In fiscal year 2023, WIC will serve an estimated 6.2 million women, infants, and children.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** – The bill provides \$153.8 billion in required mandatory spending for SNAP, including \$3 billion for the SNAP reserve fund, which will serve more than 43 million people. This fully funds participation, as well as the SNAP enhanced allotments authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.
- **Child nutrition programs** – The bill provides \$28.5 billion in funding for child nutrition programs. This is an increase of \$1.66 billion above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. As kids return to the classroom, this funding will support more than 5.2 billion school lunches and snacks. In addition, the bill provides \$40 million for the Summer EBT program, \$30 million for school kitchen equipment grants, and \$3 million for school breakfast expansion grants.

International Food Assistance Programs – The bill includes \$2.2 billion for international food aid and to promote U.S. agricultural exports overseas. This includes \$1.75 billion for Food for Peace grants and \$243 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program, in addition to emergency funds provided in the Ukraine supplemental. In 2022, these programs, which work to reduce famine and increase food security overseas, provided food assistance across six continents.

Marketing Programs – The bill provides \$237 million, \$11 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and \$4.7 million above the request, to facilitate the movement of agriculture products and open market opportunities. This includes \$22.8 million for the National Organic Program to protect the integrity of the USDA Organic label and \$30.2 million for the oversight and enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act. The bill also provides \$20.4 million in discretionary funds to the Agricultural Marketing Service and Rural Development for the Local Agriculture Market Program to continue supporting local food and value-added agriculture. In addition, the bill provides \$25 million to support dairy business innovation initiatives.

Agricultural Research – The bill provides \$3.45 billion – \$175 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level – for agriculture research programs, including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). This funding will support research at all ARS facilities to help mitigate and stop devastating livestock and crop diseases, improve food safety and water quality, increase production, and combat antimicrobial resistance. This funding also includes important research investments in U.S. land-grant colleges and universities, including a significant increase for the 1890 and 1994 institutions, and for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's premier competitive research program.

Farm Programs – The bill provides \$1.92 billion for farm programs, which is \$55 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. This includes \$61 million to resolve ownership and succession of farmland issues, also known as heirs' property issues. This funding will continue support for various farm, conservation, and emergency loan programs, and help American farmers and ranchers. It will also meet estimates of demand for farm loan programs.

Animal and Plant Health – The bill includes \$1.174 billion – \$61 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level – for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. This funding will support programs to help control or eradicate plant and animal pests and diseases that can be crippling to U.S. producers. The funding level provides increases that will help address harmful pests and diseases such as cotton pests, spotted lanternfly, and chronic wasting disease, and enhance antimicrobial resistance efforts and animal disease testing capacity. The bill also provides \$125 million in emergency funds for the Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Services Program to continue activities at the U.S. borders and ports of entry to intercept any foreign agricultural pests and diseases that could affect U.S. agriculture, trade and commerce.

Conservation Programs – The bill provides \$1.034 billion to help farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners conserve and protect their land. This includes \$77 million for infrastructure for watershed and flood prevention and watershed rehabilitation projects, \$8.5 million for the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program, and \$7 million for the Healthy Forests Reserve Program.

Food Safety and Inspection Service – The bill includes \$1.158 billion for food safety and inspection programs. These mandatory inspection activities help ensure the safety and productivity of the country's meat and poultry industry, and keep safe, healthy food on American tables. The funding provided will maintain more than 8,700 frontline inspection personnel for meat, poultry, and egg products at more than 6,500 facilities across the country.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – FDA receives a total of \$3.5 billion in discretionary funding in the bill, an increase of \$226 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Total funding for FDA, including revenue from user fees, is \$6.6 billion. Within this total, the Committee provides targeted increases to address the opioid crisis, medical supply chain issues, cybersecurity of medical devices, and increasing and strengthening in person inspections of foreign drug manufacturers. It also includes a \$41 million increase to better avoid or more quickly respond to food outbreaks, improve the animal food inspection system, and address heavy metals in baby food. The bill also appropriates \$50 million to accelerate medical product development as authorized in the 21st Century Cures Act.