

2023 Anti-Hunger Policy Conference

Virtual Lobby Day Materials

Introduction


The 2023 Anti-Hunger Policy Conference (AHPC) falls during a prime window for anti-hunger advocates to push for investments in programs we know are key to ensuring no one in the U.S. goes hungry. This is especially important amid the expiration of pandemic-era food assistance, attacks on anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs during debt ceiling deliberations, and a perfect storm of other conditions.

The final day of AHPC is lobby day. Below are options and resources for remote participants to actively engage and participate in AHPC lobby day virtually. There are three ways you can participate virtually:


- 1. Post on social media:** Use our sample social media language below to post about the importance of strengthening and protecting key nutrition programs in the 2023 Farm Bill and throughout the debt ceiling process.
- 2. Write an LTE:** Customize the template Letter to the Editor (LTE) below to submit to your state or local news outlets.
- 3. Request an in-district or virtual meeting:** Our template meeting materials will help you request and host a meeting with your members of Congress during AHPC lobby day.

Template Social Media Posts

Farm Bill

 Federal programs like #SNAP and #TEFAP help feed families & individuals in every congressional district across the U.S. Congress can help change the face of hunger in this country by strengthening and protecting #SNAP and increasing #TEFAP funding in the #FarmBill. #HungerPC23


The 2023 #FarmBill is a chance to change the face of hunger in this country. Congress must:


 Protect and strengthen SNAP

 Increase TEFAP funding

#HungerPC2

SNAP

 The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the cornerstone of the nation's nutrition and food security safety net. It's critical for our lawmakers to protect and strengthen SNAP in the #FarmBill! #SNAPMatters #HungerPC23

 SNAP is the nation's largest and most effective federal food program. When more families face challenges putting food on the table, SNAP responds quickly and effectively to meet the need. #SNAPMatters! Congress must protect and strengthen SNAP in the #FarmBill and in #debtceiling deliberations!! #HungerPC23

#SNAPMatters! SNAP relieves pressure on overwhelmed emergency food providers like food banks & pantries that could not BEGIN to meet the need for food assistance if SNAP eligibility or benefits were reduced. Congress must protect and strengthen SNAP in the #FarmBill and in #debtceiling deliberations!! #HungerPC23

👨👩👧👦 Households receiving SNAP benefits have very low incomes, and > 41% of participants are in working families. SNAP helps people with low wages afford food and continue to work. #SNAPMatters! Congress must protect and strengthen SNAP in the #FarmBill and in #debtceiling deliberations!! #HungerPC23

TEFAP

🚚 TEFAP helps move nutritious @USDA foods from farmers to food banks and other emergency food providers to families facing hunger. Congress must increase TEFAP funding in the #FarmBill! #HungerPC23

🚚 Through TEFAP, the @USDA purchases healthy foods from U.S. growers and producers. Food-distributing organizations then partner with states to get these foods to people facing hunger. Congress must increase TEFAP funding in the #FarmBill! #HungerPC23

🚚 TEFAP moves food from farms to food banks to families in need. The program helps ensure no crops, milk or other farm-produced goods go to waste. Congress must increase TEFAP funding in the #FarmBill to help people facing hunger and the agricultural economy! #HungerPC23

2023 AHPC LTE Template

[DATE OF ARTICLE YOU'RE REPLYING TO]

Re: [HEADLINE OF ARTICLE YOU'RE REPLYING TO]

[BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ARTICLE AND A BRIEF STATEMENT OF YOUR POSITION]

Our neighbors facing hunger are weathering a perfect storm of conditions: from high food prices, to the end of pandemic-era food support, neighbors are finding it harder to afford enough to eat. To help stave off a hunger crisis, Congress must strengthen and protect our federal nutrition programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Congress must not hold nutrition programs or other anti-poverty programs hostage to lifting the debt ceiling.

SNAP is the nation's largest, most effective federal food program. Last year, SNAP grocery benefits helped approximately 40 million people put food on the table. TEFAP moves food from farms to community organizations to individuals needing food support. Both programs work together daily to help feed households across [STATE] and beyond. Their combined impact can be maximized if [MEMBERS OF CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION] support strengthening them in the 2023 Farm Bill, our nation's cornerstone legislation for food and farming.

[NAME]

[CITY, STATE]

[ROLE]

In-District/ Virtual Meeting Materials

Dear **[MEMBER OF CONGRESS]**,

I am writing on behalf of **[FOOD BANK]** to extend an invitation to **[IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL MEETING]** during the week of **[DATE]** to discuss strengthening federal nutrition programs, particularly through the 2023 Farm Bill.

With the 2023 Farm Bill, we can make meaningful investments in programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). By doing so, we can help ensure the 34 million people—including more than 9 million children—facing hunger in the U.S. have access to the food we all need to thrive.

We hope you can join us to discuss how we can work together to address hunger in our community and nationwide. We will contact your office to follow up on scheduling. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to **[NAME]** at **[PHONE]** or **[EMAIL]**.

Thank you for your continued service to **[STATE/CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT]** and attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Congressional Meeting Best Practices

For all meetings:

- ✓ Develop a run of show and identify which meeting participants will speak about which topics. Particularly for virtual meetings, we recommend identifying no more than 3 speakers in order to avoid confusion and cross-talk.
- ✓ Use the AHPC leave-behind materials to inform your talking points ahead of your meeting.
- ✓ Follow up with the office afterward to thank them for their time and share the AHPC lobby day leave-behinds.

For virtual meetings:

- ✓ Use the virtual meeting tool that will best meet your needs: How many people will present during your virtual meeting? Will you need to record your meeting or share your screen? Before your virtual meeting, consider what your needs are and find a tool that will accommodate them.
- ✓ Prep, prep, and prep some more: From testing your virtual meeting technology before the start of your meeting (e.g., ensuring you have a stable internet connection, ensuring your audio and video work, making sure all participants have downloaded and are comfortable using your meeting tool) to ensuring your virtual meeting takes account of participants that may be in different time zones, address any potential problems to have a smooth experience.

- ✓ Before the action, think about your lights and camera: Prior to any virtual meeting, make sure you are in a quiet place, you are set up in an area with adequate lighting, your camera is clear and focused on you, and your background setting (or video background) is not distracting.
- ✓ In-person meeting etiquette still applies: During your virtual meetings, avoid engaging in other tasks (e.g., checking your phone), mute your line when others are speaking, and practice the same etiquette you'd use if your meeting were in-person.