



Field & Fork Network supports legislation to strengthen fruit and vegetable incentives in the 2023 Farm Bill

Statement of K. Cooper Rohan, Policy Manager

The Farm Bill is a package of legislation passed roughly every 5 years that dictates federal nutrition and agriculture spending. Field & Fork Network Inc. supports three proposed bills to be included in the next iteration of the Farm Bill:

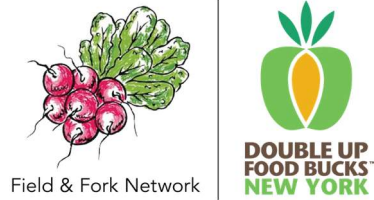
[The GusNIP Improvement Act¹](#): This bill, introduced by Senator Hirono (D-HI), updates the GusNIP program structure to help existing grantees continue to grow participation and total dollars spent, while giving new grantees more opportunity to establish and grow small to mid-size programs. The bill seeks to **increase GusNIP funding to \$150 million/year and reduce the federal matching requirement from 50% to 10% for grantees.**

[The GusNIP Expansion Act of 2023²](#): This bipartisan bill from Rick Crawford (R-AR) and Dan Kildee (D-MI) seeks to improve and expand the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, namely by **reducing the current federal matching requirement from 50% to 20%** and by creating a new tier within the program that **allows successful programs to scale statewide.**

[The Opt for Health with SNAP \(OH SNAP\) Act³](#): This bicameral legislation from Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE) would **scale-up GusNIP funding to \$3.5 billion over 5 years** and further **completely eliminate the federal matching requirement for grantees.**

These 3 marker bills will help to expand the impact and reach of already proven and successful nutrition incentive and produce prescription programs across the country, including here in NYS. According to the Year 3 Impact Report from the Nutrition Incentive Hub, individuals enrolled in nutrition incentive and produce prescription programs funded by the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program consume more fruits and vegetables per day compared to the average adult.⁴ It is a well-known fact that increased fruit and vegetable intake is associated with better health outcomes, including a decreased risk of cardiovascular diseases.⁵

By increasing funding and removing barriers for organizations to implement and scale these proven and effective programs, these bills would cause a ripple effect of increased health outcomes, decreased healthcare costs, and increased quality of life for the most vulnerable Americans. Field & Fork Network Inc. applauds our federal leadership who introduced these bills and thanks them for their commitment to improving the health and economic well-being of our nation. We urge Congress to include The GusNIP Improvement Act, The GusNIP Expansion Act, and The Opt for Health with SNAP Act in the 2023 Farm Bill.



References

- ¹ https://fruitvegincentives.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/GusNIP-Improvement-Act_One-Pager.pdf
- ² <https://fruitvegincentives.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/One-Pager-The-GusNIP-Expansion-Act-of-2023.pdf>
- ³ <https://www.booker.senate.gov/news/press/booker-blunt-rochester-introduce-bicameral-legislation-to-scale-up-successful-nutrition-incentive-for-fruits-and-veggies-nationwide>
- ⁴ <https://nutritionincentivehub.org/media/2uwlf3ch/gusnip-y3-impact-findings-report.pdf>
- ⁵ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7019743/#:~:text=Fruit%20and%20vegetables%20are%20beneficial,g%20is%20needed%20%5B19%5D>.

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