



Child Nutrition Reauthorization: Improving Child Nutrition Integrity and Access Act of 2016

The **Improving Child Nutrition Integrity and Access Act of 2016** was passed out of the Senate Agriculture Committee with unanimous, bi-partisan support. This legislation would streamline, strengthen, and add flexibility to the child nutrition programs, helping to alleviate childhood hunger in Montana. We urge the Senate to make Child Nutrition a priority by passing this legislation as soon as possible.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP): Allows States to utilize different program models to meet local needs.

- **Summer EBT option:** Provides low-income families with an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card with funds to purchase foods at retail stores.
 - Targeted to rural, high need areas where the traditional site model is not feasible.
 - As of 2015, Montana had 17 counties with no SFSP sites, and 13 counties with only one site. These underserved areas are among the most rural communities in our state.
 - Through an extensive demonstration project and evaluation, the USDA found that the Summer EBT model reduced child hunger by more than 30% and improved nutritional intake.
- **Offsite Consumption Option:** Waives the congregate program requirement when operating summer meals in select rural, high poverty areas.
 - Transportation is a significant barrier to participating in SFSP in Montana. Allowing offsite consumption would increase flexibility at the site level to reduce the number of trips a family needs to make to the Summer Food site.
 - The USDA also tested and evaluated non-congregate programs as part of an extensive demonstration project. Community providers reported a reduction in transportation and operational barriers.
- **Streamlines administration:** Allows non-school sponsors the option to operate the Summer Food Service Program year round, rather than switching to the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meal Program during the school year. This change will reduce duplicative paperwork and confusing administrative rules.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP):

- Many parents work long hours, meaning children may be in care for over eight hours. Currently CACFP sites can only provide two meals and a snack, regardless of how long a child is in care. This bill would allow the option of an additional snack for children in care for nine or more hours a day.
- Simplifies eligibility for proprietary child care centers by extending the length of certification periods, reducing the number of programs who repeatedly come on and off the program.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):

- As a child ages out of WIC at age five, there may be a gap in nutrition if that child is not yet in school. This bill provides states the option to increase the age of WIC eligibility for those children not yet in full day kindergarten to age six.
- Provides states the option to certify infants for two year eligibility periods, reducing paperwork and helping families stay connected to the program.

Supports Local Food:

- Provides \$10 million per year (up from \$5 million per year) in Farm to School grants.
- Reauthorizes the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

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