

**Healthy Food and Communities Initiatives in the Farm Bill**  
January 2008

<b>Program</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Senate</b>
Community Food Projects	Authorizes \$30 million of discretionary funding annually for FY08-12. Sec. 4027.	Mandatory funding of \$10 million annually for FY08-12. Sec. 4801.
Geographic Preferences	Clarifies that the Secretary shall encourage institutions receiving funds under the National School Lunch Act and Child Nutrition Act to purchase locally produced foods to the maximum extent possible, including the use of geographic preference for the procurement of locally produced foods. Sec. 4304.	Same as house. Sec. 4902.
Healthy Food Enterprise Development	Authorized discretionary funding for feasibility grants and technical assistance to improve food access in Urban Underserved Communities. Sec 10405.	Reconfigured as a "Center" with pass-through grant authority contracted to a NGO, mandatory funds totaling \$7m over five years, allocated at \$1m annually in FY09, and \$2m annually in FY10-12. Sec. 1843.
Study and report on access to nutritious foods (Food deserts)	Sense of Congress regarding food deserts. Sec. 7504.	Requires USDA Secretary to carry out a study of, areas in the U.S. with limited access to affordable and nutritious foods, with particular focus on predominantly lower income neighborhoods and communities. (in Research Title, Sec. 7504).
Locally produced agricultural food products inclusion in Loan & Loan Guarantee Program	Priority in Rural Business and Industries Loan and Loan Guarantee program for local/regional processing & distribution. Sec. 6017.	More substantial language, with expanded purposes, including undeserved community definition and allowance of up to \$250,000 per project for use in urban areas. Sec. 6017.
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program	Expands the program to 35 schools in all states, plus additional schools in each state proportional to student population. <u>Funding</u> : \$70 million mandatory funding per year for fiscal years 2008-2012. Sec. 4303.	Provides \$225 million per year for expansion of the program. All 50 states, DC, and at least 100 schools on Indian Tribal Organizations would be entitled to participate. States select elementary schools to participate and would be required to ensure that each school chosen is a school in which not less than 50% of the students are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Sec. 4904.

EBT card use at Farmers' Markets	Under Farmers Market Promotion Program, not less than 10% of the funds shall be used to support the use of electronic benefit transfers (EBT) at farmer's markets. Sec. 10403.	Provides \$5 million in mandatory funding to promote the use of food stamp EBT cards at farmers markets. This program provides funding for federal grants to eligible entities to expand farmers' market access by providing equipment and necessary training and educating farmers and market operators about the process of and benefits of accepting EBT cards. Sec. 4210.
Farmers' Market Promotion Program (Title I)	Provides funding to support direct farmer-to-consumer marketing activities. Not less than 10% of the funds shall be used to support the use of electronic benefit transfers (EBT) at farmers' markets. Provides \$5 million in mandatory funds in FY08, FY09, and FY10, and \$10 million in FY11 and FY12. Sec. 10403.	Addresses farmer-to-consumer direct marketing and provides funding for \$5 million per year in FY08-11 and \$10 million in FY12. Sec. 1812.
Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program	\$15 million/year <i>mandatory</i> funding, with \$20-\$75million discretionary over the life of Farm Bill. Sec. 4401.	Expands funding for the Senior Farmers' Market Program by \$50 million or \$10 million annually, for the life of the bill. Sec. 4701.
DoD Fresh Program	Increases fruit and vegetable purchases in schools by increasing funding to the DOD Fresh Program. <u>Funding</u> : Directs Secretary to spend no less than \$50 million in 2008, 2009 and \$75 million in 2010-2012. (no-cost) Sec. 4301.	No similar provision.
Food Stamp Nutrition Education	Expresses the findings of Congress that food stamp nutrition education plays an essential role in improving dietary practices of low income families and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to support and encourage the most effective interventions including public health approaches as well as traditional education to implement FSNE. Sec. 4022.	Same as House. Sec. 4213.
Food Stamps	Raises monthly benefit to \$145 and indexes for inflation. Eliminates cap on dependent care deduction. Makes changes permanent law. Sec. 4101-4110.	Same changes as House, also raises asset limit from \$2,000 to \$3,500. Improvements end after 2012 and return to current law.
TEFAP	Increased funding to \$250 million annually. Sec. 4601.	Same as House.