



FISCAL YEAR 2024 BILL SUMMARY

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

The fiscal year 2024 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies funding bill provides discretionary funding of \$26.3 billion – approximately the same amount as the comparable level for fiscal year 2023. The bill includes a total of \$211 billion for discretionary and mandatory programs.

The legislation:

- Fully funds the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) at the administration’s requested level of \$7.03 billion, an increase of more than \$1 billion.
- Reverses the Republican effort to drastically cut the fruit and vegetable benefits in the WIC program.
- Fully funds participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Drops the Republican proposal to limit women’s access to mifepristone.
- Does not include numerous other harmful, discriminatory Republican riders and cuts that would have increased costs for farmers.
- Includes new, bipartisan language to address concerns about hostile foreign countries and entities buying United States agricultural land.

Bill Summary

Food and Nutrition Programs – The bill contains discretionary and mandatory funding for the food and nutrition programs within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). This includes funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), child nutrition programs, and commodity assistance programs.

- **WIC** – The bill provides the required funding level of \$7.03 billion in discretionary funding for WIC, an increase of \$1.3 billion above the 2023 level, to ensure the program is fully funded, and it increases funding for fruits and vegetables in the WIC Food Package to meet the President’s request. In fiscal year 2023, WIC served nearly 6.6 million women, infants, and children.
- **SNAP** – The bill provides \$119 billion in mandatory funding for SNAP, which served more than 42 million people in 2023. This fully funds participation.

- **Child nutrition programs** – The bill provides \$33 billion in funding for the child nutrition programs, fully funding them. It includes \$10 million for school breakfast equipment grants and \$5 million for the Farm to School program.
- **Commodity Assistance Programs** – The bill provides \$389 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, \$10 million for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program and \$80 million for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

International Food Assistance Programs – The bill includes \$2.2 billion for international food aid and promoting U.S. agricultural exports overseas. This includes \$1.69 billion for Food for Peace grants and \$240 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – FDA receives a total of \$3.5 billion in discretionary funding, equal to the 2023 level. Total funding for FDA, including revenue from appropriated user fees, is \$6.7 billion. The bill requires FDA to set aside \$7 million for the Modernization of Cosmetics Regulation Act and \$1.5 million for reducing animal testing through alternative methods. It also requires FDA to maintain funding for emerging food-related chemical and toxicological issues, work to combat ALS (“Lou Gehrig’s Disease”), address drug and device shortages, and continue to conduct unannounced inspections of drug manufacturing facilities in India and China. The bill also appropriates \$50 million to accelerate medical product development as authorized in the 21st Century Cures Act.

Rural Development

Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act – The bill maintains the 2023 level (\$3 million) for the PAWS Act, which provides short-term shelter and housing assistance, such as expenses incurred for the temporary shelter, housing, boarding, or fostering of the pets of domestic violence victims.

Rental Assistance – The bill fully funds rental assistance to help nearly 300,000 very low and low-income persons live in safe rural apartments and maintains the 2023 level for rural housing vouchers.

“De-coupling” Rental Assistance – It initiates a pilot to “de-couple” rental assistance from section 515 loans, to preserve affordable rural rental properties.

Staffing – maintains the 2023 funding level for salaries and expenses of Rural Development staff.

Marketing Programs – The bill provides \$223 million, \$15 million below the 2023 level, to facilitate the movement of agriculture products and open market opportunities, including a \$2.5 million increase for the enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act, \$12 million to support dairy business innovation initiatives, and \$5 million for the Micro-Grants for Food Security Program.

Agricultural Research – The bill provides \$3.8 billion, equal to the 2023 level, for agriculture research programs, including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The bill also maintains important research investments in U.S. land-grant colleges and universities, including funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. While reductions were made in some research and education programs, the bill fully maintains the 2023 levels for all 1890, 1994, and Hispanic serving institution programs.

Farm Programs – Funding for Farm Service Agency salaries and expenses is flat at the 2023 level of \$1.5 billion. The funding in the bill for farm loan programs is equal to the administration’s request, including \$61 million to resolve ownership and succession of farmland issues, also known as heirs' property issues.

Animal and Plant Health – The bill includes \$1.2 billion, \$10 million below the fiscal year 2023 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 the spotted lanternfly, highly pathogenic avian influenza, and chronic wasting disease, and assist producers in complying with the electronic animal identification requirement.

Conservation Programs – The bill provides \$915 million to help farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners conserve and protect their land, including \$7 million for the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program. The bill also provides \$35 million for water and flood prevention projects.

Food Safety and Inspection Service – The bill includes \$1.2 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.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) – The bill maintains the fiscal year 2023 enacted level of \$365 million for the CFTC to ensure resilient U.S. derivatives markets.

Stable derivatives markets help American farmers and producers manage supply chain, market risk, and other problems caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and global severe weather events.

Harmful Republican Policy Language Dropped

Democrats successfully eliminated extreme policies proposed by House Republicans, including language that would have:

- Reversed the FDA decision to allow mifepristone to be dispensed in certified pharmacies to patients with a prescription from a certified prescriber, instead of only in hospitals, clinics, and medical offices.
- Tied USDA's hands in assisting farmers through the Commodity Credit Corporation.
- Limited the FDA's authority over cigarettes and cigars.
- Meddled with the science-based foods for WIC participants.
- Cut assistance to rural electric co-ops and eliminated Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grants under the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Cut assistance to at-risk Farm Service Agency (FSA) borrowers that was provided in the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Created a license for people and organizations to discriminate against LGBTQI+ people.
- Prohibited the use of funds for diversity, equity, and inclusion training or implementation.
- The Republican proposal for a "SNAP Choice" pilot program that would have limited food choices for people on SNAP.
- Eliminated protections for small meat and poultry producers against large companies.