

116TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 6384

To provide community-based nonprofit feeding and anti-hunger groups with funding to partner with small and mid-sized restaurants to expand meal access and delivery for low-income and vulnerable populations during a pandemic or public health emergency.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 24, 2020

Ms. Velázquez introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To provide community-based nonprofit feeding and anti-hunger groups with funding to partner with small and midsized restaurants to expand meal access and delivery for low-income and vulnerable populations during a pandemic or public health emergency.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Community Meals
- 5 Fund".

1 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

2	(1) VULNERABLE POPULATION.—The term
3	"vulnerable population" means any person who is a
4	member of the target population, is a low income in-
5	dividual, or receives a means-tested benefit as de-
6	fined under this Act.
7	(2) Grab-and-go meal.—The term "grab-and-
8	go meals" refers to pre-packaged, ready to eat food
9	that has been prepared and cooked no greater than
10	8 hours prior to being sealed or enclosed in a con-
11	tainer.
12	(3) Target Population.—The term "target
13	population" includes an individual who (or family
14	that)—
15	(A) earns an income below 200 percent of
16	the Federal poverty line;
17	(B) suffers from food insecurity;
18	(C) is homeless;
19	(D) receives (or recently received) assist-
20	ance under a State program funded under part
21	A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42
22	U.S.C. et seq.), relating to temporary assistance
23	to needy families; or
24	(E) is eligible for benefits under any nutri-
25	tion assistance or anti-poverty program.

- (4) Community-based nonprofit feeding AND ANTI-HUNGER GROUP.—The term "communitybased nonprofit feeding and anti-hunger group" means an anti-hunger organization, food bank, food pantry, soup kitchen, food rescue group, or commu-nity food security organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.
 - (5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.
 - (6) Low-income individual" means, with respect to any calendar year, any individual who lives in a household that has a gross income that does not exceed 300 percent of the poverty line, as defined in section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)).
 - (7) Homeless.—The term "homeless" has the meaning given such term in subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Act and the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition in section 103 of subtitle I of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- 24 (8) Crisis Housing.—The term "crisis hous-25 ing" means a supervised publicly or privately oper-

- ated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing).
 - (9) Means-tested benefit" means a mandatory spending program of the Federal Government for which, as determined by the Secretary, eligibility for the program's benefits, or the amount of such benefits, is determined on the basis of income or resources of the individual or family seeking the benefit.
- (10) DEPENDENT.—The term "dependent" has the meaning given such term in section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, except that the term also includes an individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States if such individual would otherwise be considered a dependent pursuant to such section if such individual were a citizen or national of the United States.
- (11) DISASTER DECLARATION.—The term "disaster declaration" means the instance a Governor requests a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

- 1 (12) Temporary community need.—The
 2 term "temporary community need" means prepared
 3 meals during the time period under which a disaster
 4 declaration is provided. Such community need shall
 5 terminate 30 days after the termination of such dec6 laration.
- 7 (13) Pandemic.—The term "pandemic" means 8 a communicable disease for which the Federal Gov-9 ernment has issued a travel alert or travel warning.

10 SEC. 3. COMMUNITY MEALS FUND.

- 11 (a) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant 12 to address temporary community needs under this section, 13 a community-based nonprofit feeding and anti-hunger group shall submit to the Secretary an application that 14 15 contains a description of how the applicant proposes to use the grant funds to implement the components of the 16 17 temporary grant program listed in subsection (b). The application shall be submitted in such form, at such time, 18 19 and containing such other information as the Secretary 20 may require.
- 21 (b) Community Meals Grant Program Compo-22 Nents.—An application for a grant under this section 23 shall contain an assurance that the applicant will expand 24 the capacity of community-based nonprofit feeding and 25 anti-hunger groups and schools to meet the needs of chil-

1	dren, families, and vulnerable populations in a pandemic
2	by—
3	(1) contracting with small and mid-sized busi-
4	ness restaurants or small and mid-sized food con-
5	tractors that are small business concerns as defined
6	in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
7	632) for—
8	(A) preparing, cooking, and storing grab-
9	and-go meals;
10	(B) serving meals to vulnerable popu-
11	lations or make them available for pick up, or
12	distributed in high poverty areas designated by
13	State and local agencies;
14	(C) bolstering food security for children,
15	dependents, families, and the elderly in rural
16	and hard to reach communities;
17	(D) bolstering food security for depend-
18	ents, target populations, and families in crisis
19	housing; and
20	(E) improving the nutrition of vulnerable
21	populations.
22	(c) Criteria.—In evaluating an application of a
23	community-based nonprofit feeding and anti-hunger group
24	to receive a grant, the Secretary shall consider criteria as
25	the Secretary determines appropriate.

1	(d) Grant Administration.—
2	(1) Amount.—A grant awarded under this sec-
3	tion may not exceed \$500,000.
4	(2) Renewals.—
5	(A) In General.—The Secretary may
6	renew a grant awarded under this section with
7	respect to an eligible entity if the entity—
8	(i) submits to the Secretary an appli-
9	cation for renewal at such time, in such
10	manner, and containing such information
11	as the Secretary may require; and
12	(ii) demonstrates in such application
13	that—
14	(I) grant, contract, or cooperative
15	agreement funds made available to the
16	entity were used in a manner required
17	under the most recently approved ap-
18	plication of the entity under this sec-
19	tion; and
20	(II) the entity has made progress
21	in achieving the objectives of the ini-
22	tial application approved for the entity
23	under this section.

- 1 (B) DURATION.—A grant shall be eligible
- 2 for renewal so long as a disaster declaration is
- active on the date of the renewal application.
- 4 (e) Supplement, Not Supplant, Require-
- 5 MENT.—A grant, contract, or cooperative agreement made
- 6 under this Act shall be expended to supplement, and not
- 7 supplant, the expenditures of the eligible entity involved
- 8 and the value of in-kind contributions.

9 SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

- 10 (a) In General.—There is authorized to be appro-
- 11 priated to carry out this section \$20,000,000 during the
- 12 1-year period beginning on May 1, 2020.
- 13 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Funds authorized to be appro-
- 14 priated under subsection (a) shall remain available until
- 15 expended.

16 SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

- Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit a com-
- 18 munity-based nonprofit feeding and anti-hunger group
- 19 from receiving a grant under this Act for any vulnerable
- 20 population otherwise served by such group with other Fed-
- 21 eral funds.

22 SEC. 6. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

- 23 (a) Grantee Report to Congress.—Not later
- 24 than 90 days after the end of the fiscal year for which
- 25 a grantee receives a grant under this Act, such grantee

- 1 shall submit to the Secretary a report that contains an
- 2 evaluation of the results of the activities, including finan-
- 3 cial expenditures, made during such fiscal year to carry
- 4 out the program for which such grant is received.
- 5 (b) Annual Reports to Congress.—Not later
- 6 than January 1 following the end of fiscal year for which
- 7 funds are appropriated to carry out this Act, the Secretary
- 8 shall submit to Congress a report describing the progress
- 9 of the programs carried out with grants made for such
- 10 fiscal year.

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