

The GusNIP Expansion Act of 2023

Congressman Rick Crawford (R-AR) and Congressman Dan Kildee (D-MI) invite you to cosponsor the *GusNIP Expansion Act of 2023*. This legislation will improve and expand the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP), which awards funding to nonprofit organizations and government agencies for projects that provide incentives to income-eligible consumers to increase their purchase of fruits and vegetables.

Background: GusNIP was first established as a pilot program in the 2014 Farm Bill and later expanded in the 2018 Farm Bill. Since 2019, the program has provided over \$270 million in funding to 197 projects across the U.S. GusNIP expands the purchasing power of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, empowering families with SNAP to improve their diet and explore food as medicine, while supporting local farmers and economies.

The GusNIP program currently operates two primary programs:

1. The Nutrition Incentive Program: Funds projects to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by providing incentives at the point of purchase for SNAP beneficiaries.
2. The Produce Prescription (PRx) Program: Funds projects to reduce health care usage and costs by increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables.

A recent [evaluation](#) by GusNIP's National Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers Program found the Nutrition Incentive Program and PRx positively impact fruit and vegetable consumption. For Nutrition Incentive Programs specifically, participation was associated with higher fruit and vegetable intake, increased produce sales, and reduced food insecurity for beneficiaries, while every \$1 invested generated up to \$3 in economic return.

The GusNIP Expansion Act: To expand this successful program, this legislation would:

- Reduce the federal matching requirement under the Nutrition Incentive Program from 50% to 20% to reduce barriers to participation;
- Create a new tier of cooperative agreements under the Nutrition Incentive Program to scale these programs statewide;
- Create a new tier of grants under PRx to fund large-scale clinical studies on the use of food as medicine;
- Require relevant federal agencies to provide a 10-year roadmap for PRx to become fully funded by public and private health insurers; and
- Provide an inflationary update to ensure all programs financed under GusNIP remain resilient to rising food costs.

The GusNIP Expansion Act is endorsed by: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, American Heart Association, Bread for the World, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Council for a Strong America, Fair Food Network, Farmers Market Coalition, International Fresh Produce Association, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, Mission: Readiness, National Grocers Association, National Produce Prescription Collaborative, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Nourish Colorado, Save the Children, Share Our Strength, Union of Concerned Scientists, and Wholesome Wave.