



September 3, 2021

Tom Vilsack
Secretary
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Financial Security and Poverty Taskforce writes to thank you for the re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan resulting in an increase in the average Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit. CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

As this plan recognizes, of the 42 million people participating in SNAP, 68% are children, people with disabilities, or older adults who rely on SNAP for crucial food assistance. Compared to people without disabilities, people with disabilities and their families are significantly more likely to experience hunger and food insecurity. For the first time in more than 45 years, this Thrifty Food Plan is not constrained by cost-neutrality, but rather focused on ensuring that families, including people with disabilities, have access to healthy and practical foods they need. The Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review rightfully takes into consideration "the amount of time households spend in food-related activities (e.g., cleaning, shopping, preparation) ... and factors that influence the purchase of ready-to-eat foods intended for at-home consumption." This is essential for people with disabilities who require accessible ways to accomplish tasks related to cleaning, shopping, and preparation and who often rely on foods intended for at-home consumption.

We welcome these much-needed updates that will undoubtedly have a positive impact on SNAP recipients with disabilities. We also recognize that this re-evaluation is just one piece on the continuum of actions this Administration has taken to protect and expand access to SNAP.

Again, we applaud the Administration taking this important action to improve the lives of SNAP recipients with disabilities.

Sincerely,

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