

GusNIP Improvement Act

The GusNIP Improvement Act updates the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program to allow the program to continue to successfully connect participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) with fresh, local produce. Changes to the program structure will help existing grantees continue to grow participation and total dollars spent, while giving new grantees more opportunity to establish and grow small to mid-size programs.

The bill would:

- Increase overall funding under the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program to \$150 million per year, including:
 - \$15 million for the Produce Prescription program;
 - \$75 million for grants under a new “scaling tier”;
 - \$40 million (remaining funds) for standard GusNIP grants; and
 - An increase of \$1 million per year in funding for Technical Assistance from the current \$7 million per year to \$8 million per year total.
- Increase the federal share of the program from 50% to 90%, reducing burdensome match requirements that have hindered growth for many grantees.
- Allow the Secretary of Agriculture to waive matching requirements for small GusNIP projects under \$100,000.
- Create a new grant tier aimed at scaling existing programs. These funds would require states, regions, or Tribes who have previously received one (1) large-scale FINI or GusNIP grant to put forth a plan to use at least \$3 million in funding per year, with at least 75% of every project dollar going to redeemed incentives, by the end of the 4-year grant term. Creating this new tier of funding reduces competition and opens up the existing grant programs to those states, regions, and Tribes who are still working to establish and grow smaller programs.
- Create a new grant tier aimed at scaling well-established Produce Prescription programs. Under the legislation, Produce Prescription would have two buckets of funds, similar to GusNIP: one to seed new programs, and one to scale existing programs.

	<u>GusNIP Improvement Act</u>	<u>Current Funding Level</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>% change</u>
Total	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 56,000,000	\$ 94,000,000	168%
Produce Prescription Program	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 5,600,000	\$ 9,400,000	168%
USDA admin	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 4,480,000	\$ 7,520,000	168%
Technical Assistance	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	14%
Subtotal	\$ 115,000,000	\$ 38,920,000	\$ 76,080,000	195%
NEW state-wide scaling tier	\$ 75,000,000	\$ -	\$ 75,000,000	
EXISTING Pilot, mid, and large scale	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 38,920,000	\$ 1,080,000	3%