

PARTNERSHIPS to PREVENT POVERTY ACT



In the United States, food insecurity continues to burden the financial security, health, and educational attainment of too many American families. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 15.6 million U.S. households were food insecure in 2016, including 3.1 million households with children.

In 2015, the National Commission on Hunger published a report finding that individuals and the government should not have the sole responsibility of addressing hunger. The Commission recognized that public-private partnerships with multiple stakeholders create valuable relationships to effectively reduce hunger, especially in the five areas of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), child nutrition, food distribution, healthy food access, and research and education. Congress had established the Commission to provide recommendations on how federal policymakers can best address domestic hunger and food insecurity, reduce the need for government nutrition assistance programs, and protect the safety net for the most vulnerable members of our society.

The Partnerships to Prevent Poverty (P3) Act implements the Commission's recommendations by establishing a pilot program that incentivizes public-private partnerships and civic engagement to reduce and eliminate hunger. The aim of the bill is to increase the impact and effectiveness of how the 15 programs administered by USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) operate in local communities. The bill encourages collaboration between the public and private sectors to minimize decentralized and duplicative efforts at the federal, state, and local levels and to increase a community's long-term capacity to address food insecurity, including in rural areas.

The P3 Act would:

- Establish a pilot program to award grants to multi-sector public-private partnerships in various communities. The public-private partnerships would be led by a state, local government, school district, non-profit organization, community-based organization, or an institution of higher education to effectively support the programs administered by FNS.
- Allow grantees to use the funds to: (1) strengthen local participation in and access to a federal nutrition program in the region; (2) collect and analyze data on community hunger to develop community assessments in the region; (3) refine and execute a plan for marketing, outreach; and (4) carry out assessments.
- Equip USDA and a designated lead organization to provide technical assistance to the public-private partnerships to support long-term capacity building and implement evidence-based practices. USDA would designate a lead organization that has research and programmatic experience in federal nutrition programs, grassroots engagement and direct services experience, and capacity building experience.
- Require proper assessments and evaluations of the public-private partnerships to inform local, state, and federal policy recommendations and the effective implementation of FNS programs.