

## ABOUT THE CONSORTIUM



COORDINATED  
**FOOD DELIVERY SERVICES**  
CONSORTIUM

### OUR GOAL:

*“Increasing Healthy Food Access to Reduce Food Insecurity of Older Adults in Southeast Michigan during Emergencies and on an Ongoing Basis.”*

The Detroit Area Agency on Aging was awarded a two-year Michigan Health Endowment Fund grant in 2020 to bring together key organizations that provide nutrition programs to older adults in Southeast Michigan. The purpose of the Coordinated Food Delivery Consortium is to better coordinate and improve the delivery of services related to food insecurity. The content for this guide was created by the Public Policy and Advocacy Workgroup, a subcommittee within this Consortium. This workgroup is comprised of experts in Public Policy, Advocacy, Public Health and Nutrition programs.



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This is a part of a series of guides:

- Nutrition and Health Resource Guide
- Public Policy and Advocacy Guide
- Emergency Response Poster

### CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

Detroit Area Agency on Aging

Phone: | **313-446-4444**

Health and Wellness/Nutrition Services  
Departments

Inquiries can also be made on our website:

**[DetroitSeniorSolution.org](http://DetroitSeniorSolution.org)**



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# Food for Thought: Let's Take Action!



## Public Policy & Advocacy Guide for Nutrition-Related Programs for Seniors

Prepared by:  
Coordinated Food Delivery Consortium  
Detroit Area Agency on Aging

## GET INVOLVED AND STAY INFORMED!

*The organizations and resources highlighted in this guide can help you stay up-to-date with policy issues related to nutrition and health services. Stay in the loop and advocate for policies that affect your nutritional health and well-being.*



**Feeding America**  
[feedingamerica.org](https://feedingamerica.org)  
1-800-771-2303



**Food Security Council**  
[michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/food](https://michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/food)



**Michigan League for Public Policy**  
[mlpp.org](https://mlpp.org) • 517-487-5436



**Michigan Local Food Council**  
[canr.msu.edu/local\\_food\\_council\\_network](https://canr.msu.edu/local_food_council_network) • 517-353-3535



**Michigan Nonprofit Association**  
[mnaonline.org](https://mnaonline.org) • 517-492-2400



**Senior Alliance Newsletter**  
[thesenioralliance.org/advocacy](https://thesenioralliance.org/advocacy)



**Silver Key Coalition**  
[Silverkeycoalition.com](https://silverkeycoalition.com)



**USAging**  
[usaging.org](https://usaging.org)

### OLDER AMERICANS ACT

**Policy priorities for programs authorized and funded by the “Older Americans Act” (OAA),** a federal statute that expires in 2024:

- Continue to protect and increase investments for home-delivered meals, such as “Meals on Wheels.”
- Seek increased investment in additional OAA programs, including in Home & Community-Based Supportive Services, Nutrition Services, and National Family Caregiver Support Program.
- Support moving administration of “Senior Community Service Employment Program” (SCSEP) – a federal program authorized and funded under OAA that enables low-income seniors to obtain training for continued employment) from the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) Administration on Agency to DOL’s Community Living Agency.

### FARM BILL

**Policy priorities for programs authorized and funded by the “Farm Bill,”** a multi-titled federal statute that authorizes many U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) programs, including key nutrition programs; statute must be reauthorized by September 2023:

- Increase investment in the USDA’s “Commodity Supplemental Food Program,” (CSFP) to enable more organizations to sponsor CSFP distributions so that more low-income seniors can access the program. Also, increase CSFP funding for ways to enable seniors to prepare, store, and eat nutritious foods that may be more challenging for seniors, such as whole uncut apples and winter squash.
- Increase investment in “Seniors Farmers Market Program,” a nutrition program for low-income seniors. Recommend innovative ways to get food to seniors who may be homebound and ways to get seniors to markets safely, if there are transportation or other physical barriers.
- Increase investment in “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program” (SNAP; formerly known as “food stamps”) to assure low-income seniors continue to receive increased allocations to acquire nutritious food.

- Protect and increase investment in Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP; in MI: “Double Up Food Bucks”) and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR, a program benefiting income-eligible households living on Indian reservations). These programs assure that low-income seniors have access to nutritious food that is locally grown and produced.

### CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

**Policy priorities for federal “Child and Adult Care Food Program” (CACFP),** authorized and funded by “Children’s Nutrition” bill - a federal statute that authorizes many children’s meal / snack programs and also includes a key program benefiting certain eligible adults:

- As Congress takes up reauthorization of the federal statute authorizing CACFP, urge additional investment to support the CACFP program.

### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

**Programs funded under the federal “Affordable Care Act’s Prevention and Public Health Fund” (PPHF):**

- Increase funding for “Chronic Disease Self-Management Education” programs (CDSME), which provide older persons and adults with disabilities education and tools to help them better manage chronic conditions.
- Support transportation policies and system-wide programs to assure that seniors have access to safe, affordable transportation so they can reach grocery stores, farmers markets, and senior centers serving congregate meals.
- Support policies that provide safe, affordable means for seniors to maintain their independence and also to help assure that they can safely access grocery stores, farmers’ markets, and congregate meals to access nutritious food.

