

Anti-Poverty Food and Nutrition Programs in the USA

**...A HISTORY OF COMMODITY
PROGRAMS**



**SHIRLEY ROBERTS
FDD OPERATIONS BRANCH**

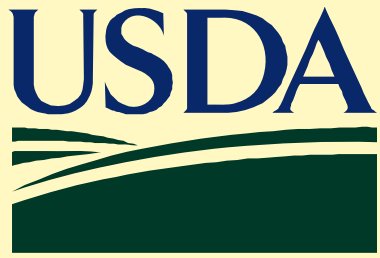
Mission of the Food and Nutrition Programs



**TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER AND TO SAFEGUARD THE
HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF THE NATION
THROUGH THE ADMINISTRATION OF NUTRITION
EDUCATION AND DOMESTIC FOOD ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS IN A MANNER THAT INSPIRES PUBLIC
CONFIDENCE.**

15 different food assistance program all with roots in agriculture





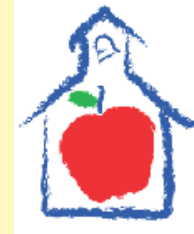
15 Programs

The largest are:

- **Food Stamps**



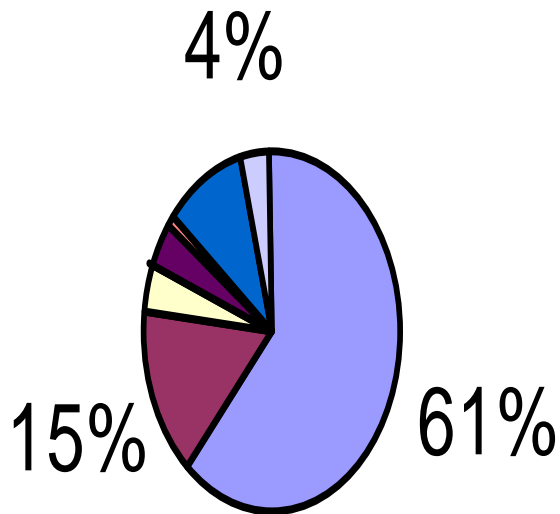
- **National School Lunch**



- **W I C Program**



Average FNS Program Dollars % by Program



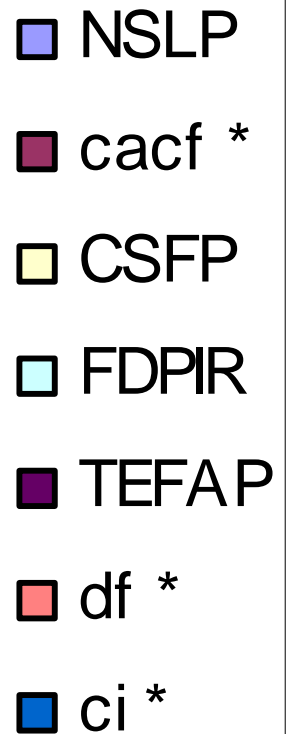
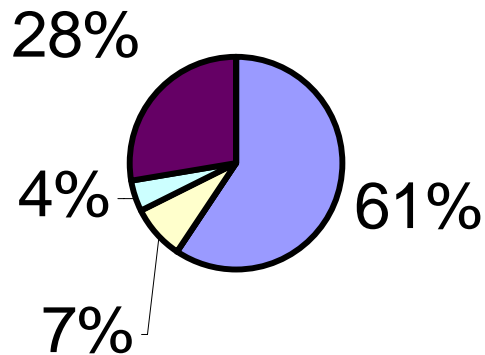
- FSP
- NSLP \$
- SBP
- SMP
- CACF
- SFSP
- WIC
- Commodity

Food Distribution Programs

- **Schools and Institutions**
 - National School Lunch Program - SCH
 - Child Adult Feeding Program - CAFAP
 - Summer Food Service Program - SFSP
 - Nutrition Services Incentive Program - NSIP
- **Household Feeding**
 - The Emergency Food Assistance Program - TEFAP
 - Commodity Supplemental Food Program - CSFP
 - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations – FDPIR
- **Random**
 - Disaster Feeding - DF
 - Bureau of Prisons - BOP

Food Distribution Programs

Average % Commodity Value by Program \$ 1.5 billion



In the early 1930's

- The Great Depression
- Unemployment and hunger
- Farms suffered from surpluses
- Crops and livestock destroyed



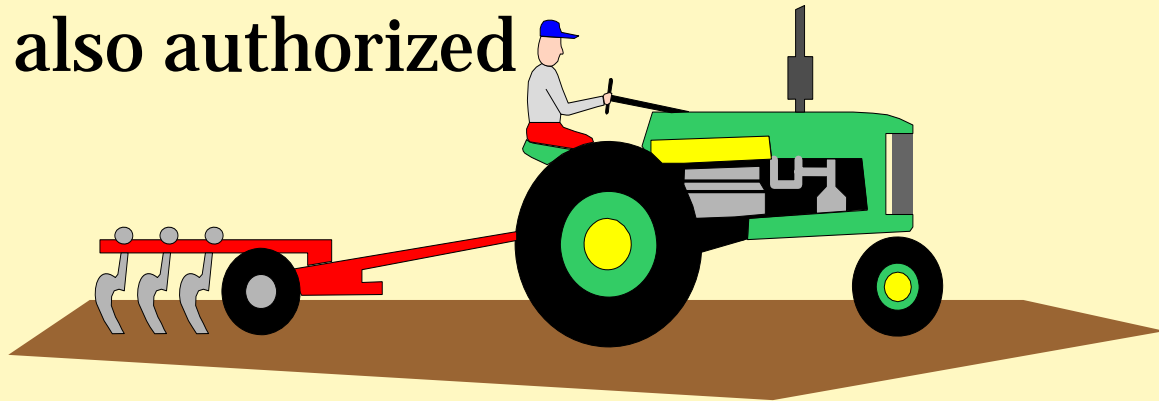
1933 Commodity Credit Corporation

- Farm loans and price support
- Storage of non perishable grains
- Loan payments in the form of crops
- Domestic and international donations



Agriculture Act of 1935

- WWII shortages in food and transportation...so funds were designated for school purchases
- Section 32 authorized funds for USDA to purchase surplus products to promote consumption and remove them from commercial channels
- Non-profit camps, charitable institutions and needy families also authorized



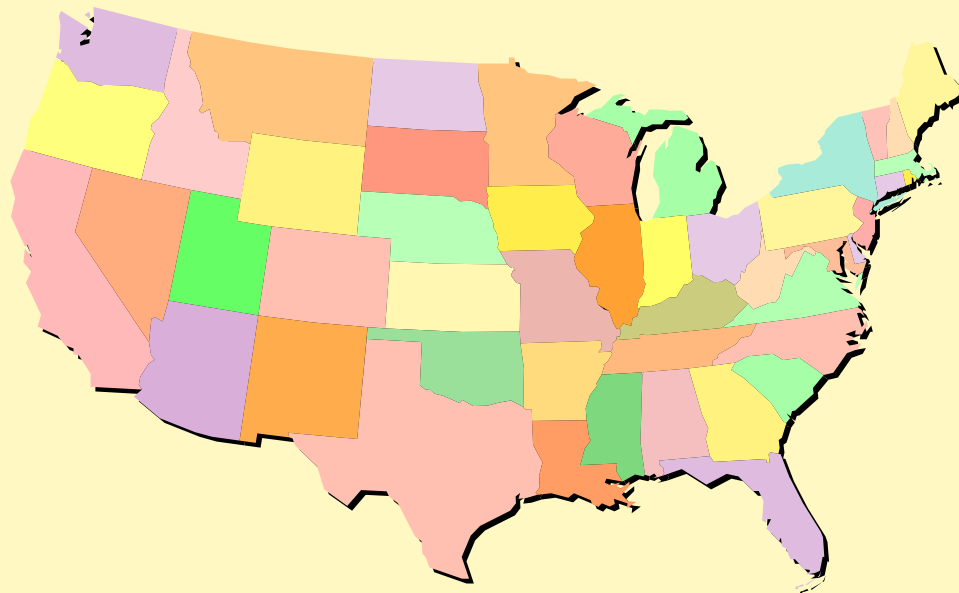
World War II

1939 - 1945



1943

**Program administration changes
from Federal to State control**



Agriculture Act of 1949

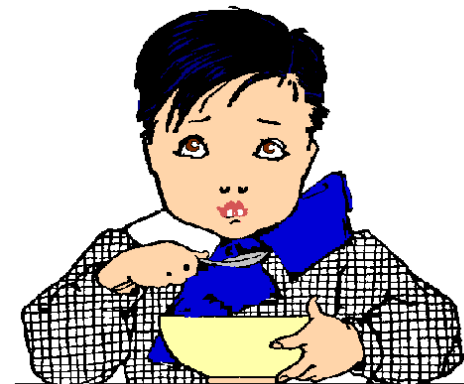
Section 416 price support authority
to CCC to donate food to

- State Education Offices
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Public and private non-profit
assistance organizations
- Needy persons outside the U.S.



National School Lunch Act 1946

- Important change in objective physicals of troops reveal nutritional deficiencies
- Section 6 funds for purchases of food to support agriculture
- **And** to improve the health and well-being of the nation's youth



The 1960's – 1970's Programs expanded

- **School Breakfast Program**
- **Summer Food Service Program**
- **Child Care Food Program**
- **Nutrition Program for the Elderly (NSIP)**
(currently Nutrition Services Incentive Program)

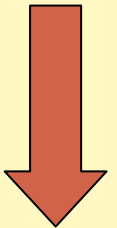
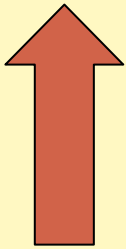
1961

- President Kennedy mandated increase in quantity and variety of foods for needy families.
- Change in program focus to nutritional and health welfare
- Began establishing goal in minimum level of assistance to schools.
- Food Stamp Pilot Program
(an alternative to the Needy Family Program)



1964 Food Stamp Act

- War Against Poverty
- Established a permanent program
- Increased food stamps and decreased commodities distribution for the next decade



1970's

- Commodity Supplemental Food Program for targeted populations
- Population at risk women, infants and children under 6
- **Predecessor to WIC – Pilot program**
 - Permanent in 1974



1973 - 1977



- Decrease in surplus products due to a agriculture policy change
- Funds were appropriated to buy food on the open market absent surpluses and inventories.



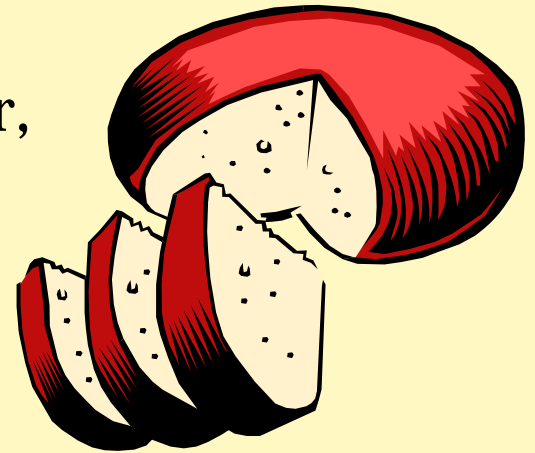
1977 Food Stamp Act

- **Food Stamp Program replaces the Commodities for Needy Families Program**
- **The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations is established**
- **Commodities are available for disaster assistance**

1981 *Temporary* Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

“THE FREE CHEESE”

- Weak economy and unemployment and homeless increase
- Increased inventories (cheese, butter, NFD milk, grains...)
- Schools could not absorb the inventories
- Political pressure to distribute to needy



Late 1980's – Late 1990's

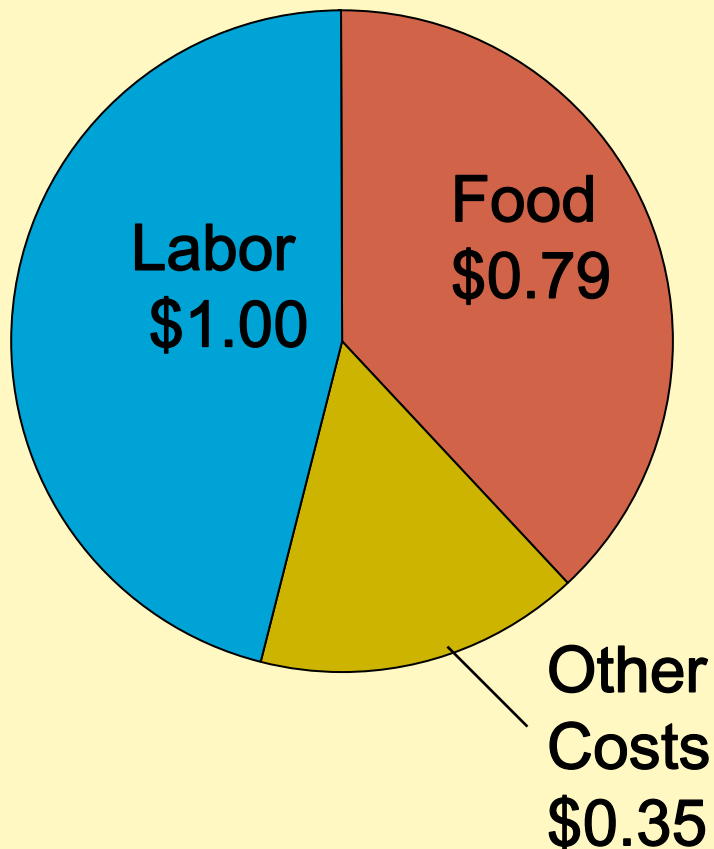
- 1988: Soup Kitchen / Food Bank Programs established to serve the homeless.
- 1989: Surpluses greatly reduced
- 1990: Program became permanent –
- “T” from Temporary became “The.”
- 1996: Merged SK/FB into TEFAP (part of Welfare Reform).

1981 – Cash/CLOC Commodity Letter of Credit “Demo”

- Ag Appropriations Act of 1981
- 3 year demo of two alternatives
- SY 83 w/ 96 districts
- 1986 USDA recommended discontinue
- School districts appealed to Congress and it became permanent in demo sites because...

Food and Labor Account for Most Program Costs

Mean Cost
Per Meal - \$2.14



- **Food Costs**
 - Local Food Purchase
 - USDA Donated Commodities
- **Labor Costs**
 - Production and Food Service Labor
 - Administrative Labor
- **Other Costs**
 - Supplies
 - Capital Expenditures / Depreciation
 - Contracted Services
 - Indirect Charges

Source: School Lunch and Breakfast Cost Study, October 1994



1987

Commodity Reform Act

- To improve
 - the manner in which commodities are distributed to RAs
 - the quality of commodities distributed
 - The degree to which such distribution responds to the needs of RAs
- Mandated National Advisory Council
- Provision of key information to RAs
- Evaluation of whse. & dist. systems
- State performance standards
- Uniformity across SDA and Regions

Stay tuned for Program Regs, Legislation, Administration & Operation

- **Food Distribution Programs**

