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CHRONOLOGY AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
FEDERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION
1935-1983

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ABSTRACT

Since 1935 when Congress first approved the donation of agricultural surplus commodities to low-income populations and school lunch programs, some 57 laws have been passed creating and revising Federal food assistance programs. This report is a chronology of these laws. It briefly describes the major provisions which have led to the network of Federal food assistance programs we know today--the food stamp program, school lunch and breakfast programs, summer food and child care food programs, special and commodity supplemental food programs for women, infants and children (WIC and CSFP), elderly nutrition programs, and commodity donation programs.

CHRONOLOGY OF FEDERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION a/
1935-1983

INTRODUCTION

This chronology of Federal food assistance laws reflects the evolution of a food policy which tries to complement agricultural support with income support and improved nutrition. In the early years, Federal legislation focused on food assistance programs as a way of disposing of surplus agricultural commodities. However, as time went on, this direct commodity distribution was largely supplanted by Federal cash assistance to help States meet the food needs of particular populations. While this is a less direct form of agricultural support, it has assisted in increasing food consumption, which benefits both agricultural markets and food program recipients. It has also allowed recipients a wider choice of foods and has lessened the uncertainty of availability associated with dependence entirely upon surplus commodities.

In FY 1984 an estimated \$19 billion will be spent by the Federal Government to provide food assistance. Of this amount approximately \$2 billion worth of agricultural commodities will be distributed.

Basically, Federal food assistance is provided to individuals in two ways-- directly through issuance of food (or coupons redeemable for food) for at-home consumption, and indirectly through the provision of cash and/or commodities for meal service programs.

a/ Includes all authorizing legislation, but only those appropriations acts which made substantive changes or additions to programs.

Programs providing food for at-home consumption include the food stamp program, the special and commodity supplemental food programs for women, infants and children (WIC and CSFP), and certain commodity donations programs providing food items to needy persons (e.g., needy family program on Indian reservations, and temporary emergency food assistance program for food banks and other agencies which distribute USDA cheese, butter and other perishable commodities). Eligibility for all of the programs providing food for at-home consumption is limited to those who are needy, with need normally determined by income. (The WIC and CSFP programs also have nutritional risk criteria.)

Meal service programs include most child nutrition programs (school lunch, breakfast, child care food, summer food and special milk programs) and the elderly nutrition program. In general, Federal assistance for meal service programs originated for the purpose of improving the nutritional status of all participants. The programs do not limit meal service to low-income persons. However, for child nutrition meal programs, considerably higher amounts of Federal funds are provided for meals served free and at reduced price to low-income children who meet income tests. In FY 1984, Federal cash and commodity assistance for meals served to such children represented approximately 85 percent of the total Federal meal program assistance provided for child nutrition. Thus, while non-poor children can, and do participate in child nutrition meal service programs, most of the Federal support is provided for meals served to low-income children.

Other Federal programs which provide assistance for meal service programs include the commodity program for charitable institutions and summer camps, and commodities for soup kitchens under the temporary emergency food assistance program.

This report describes, in chronological order, all of the Federal food assistance laws passed since 1935. For the convenience of the reader, it also includes an appendix which lists the laws chronologically, by program (or program group) and references the appropriate laws in the chronology.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Public Law</u>	<u>Brief Description of Major Provisions</u>
*1935	74-320	Using funds made available through section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, allowed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to (1) operate food assistance programs aiding the low income population and (2) purchase and donate surplus farm commodities to school lunch programs and programs serving low income populations via a direct commodity purchase and distribution program. Section 32 sets aside 30 percent of gross custom receipts to be used, among other things, to increase domestic consumption of farm products and for surplus removal.
1937	75-165	Authorized the use of Section 32 funds for purchase and donation of commodities for relief purposes and for use in non-profit summer camps.
1943	78-129	Authorized \$50 million of section 32 funds for school lunch and milk programs, for the first time without regard as to whether the food items purchased were surplus.
1944	78-367	Set aside \$50 million of section 32 funds for school lunch and milk programs and child care centers.
1945	79-52	Provided a specific amount of section 32 funds (\$50 million) for the school lunch and milk program with the provision that not more than 2 percent of the funds allotted to any State could be used for programs in child care centers.
*1946	79-396	Enactment of National School Lunch Act of 1946. Permanently authorized the school lunch program with appropriations "as may be necessary." Payments were to be made to States on a matching basis and according to a need formula. Three and one-half percent of the total funds were to be made available for the Secretary for administrative expenses. The remaining funds were to be used for the purchase of agricultural commodities and other foods for distribution in the participating schools. States were required to match Federal funds. Lunches were to be served without cost or at a reduced price to those children determined by local school authorities as being unable to pay the full cost. The schools were to, insofar as practicable, utilize surplus commodities in the lunch programs, and to operate on a nonprofit basis.

NOTE: A cross-reference of legislation and amendments, by program and page follows at the end of this chronology.

*Denotes creation of program or major change

<u>Year</u>	<u>Public Law</u>	<u>Brief Description of Major Provisions</u>
1949	81-272	Under section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) was authorized to donate commodities it had acquired under its price support programs to schools and other institutions.
1952	82-518	The National School Lunch Act was amended for apportionment of funds to Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.
1954	83-690	Under the Agricultural Act of 1954, \$50 million was authorized annually from the CCC for the explicit purpose of increasing the consumption of fluid milk by children in nonprofit schools from September 1, 1954 through FY 1956.
1956	84-540	Section 201(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1956 directed the Secretary of Agriculture to report to the Congress an analysis of a food stamp program as a means of surplus food disposal.
1958	85-459	FY 1959 appropriation provided, in addition to the regular appropriation for the school lunch program, that \$35 million be transferred from section 32 funds for the purchase and distribution of commodities under the National School Lunch Act.
1958	85-478	The milk program was continued through FY 1961 and expanded to include nonprofit nursery schools, child care centers, settlement houses, summer camps, and similar nonprofit child care institutions.
1959	86-341	Granted authority to establish a pilot food stamp program.
1962	87-780	Provided for establishment of an annual National School Lunch Week.
*1962	87-823	Established special assistance under section 11 of the National School Lunch Act. This new section permanently authorized additional funds to States for free and reduced price school lunch programs in low income areas. States were to make funds available only to schools with large numbers of children unable to pay the regular cost of lunches.

*Denotes creation of program or major change

<u>Year</u>	<u>Public Law</u>	<u>Brief Description of Major Provisions</u>
*1964	88-525	Enactment of the Food Stamp Act of 1964. Offered States the option of operating a food stamp program for low income persons in lieu of commodity donation programs offered under the authority of section 32. Benefits were federally funded and required recipients to "buy into" the program with a "purchase requirement." Eligibility standards were set by the various States. A pilot food stamp program under the authority of section 32 had operated since 1961.
1965	89-136	FY 1966 Appropriations Act. First separate appropriation for section 11, special assistance.
*1966	89-642	Enactment of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966. Created specific authorizations for the special milk, school breakfast and nonfood assistance (equipment assistance) programs and funding for State administrative expenses.
1968	90-302	Amended the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Acts to create the special food service program for children: authorizing two pilot projects providing a full year food assistance program for children in day care and a summer program of food assistance for children in special summer programs. Also provided State administrative expenses for this program and for the section 11 program; amended the nutrition requirements to allow for special dietary needs of students, and extended the school breakfast program through FY 1971.
1970	91-207	Provided temporary emergency assistance in the form of additional funds from section 32 to enable the States to continue serving free and reduced price lunches and breakfasts.
*1970	91-248	Authorized all schools serving free and reduced-price lunches to receive special assistance funds; established uniform national guidelines to determine eligibility for the free and reduced-price meal program; changed the State matching requirements for the lunch program; authorized funds for nutritional training and surveys; created the National Advisory Council on Child Nutrition; provided the Secretary with the authority to issue regulations concerning competitive foods in schools.
1970	91-295	Made permanent the special milk program and included Guam in the program.

*Denotes creation of program or major change

<u>Year</u>	<u>Public Law</u>	<u>Brief Description of Major Provisions</u>
*1971	91-671	Provided for reduced food stamp purchase requirements and substantially increased benefit levels. Required nationally uniform eligibility standards and benefits. Provided that benefits and income eligibility standards be updated annually to reflect inflation. Established work registration requirements as a condition of eligibility. Allowed households with little or no income to receive food stamps free of charge. Allowed recipients to purchase less than a full monthly allotment.
1971	92-32	Provided additional funding from section 32 for programs under the National School Lunch Act for FY 1972; extended the school breakfast program through FY 1973; and provided for uniform national guidelines for eligibility determination for free and reduced-price breakfasts.
1971	92-35	Provided additional funds for the summer program of the special food service program for children to meet intermediate needs resulting from insufficient funds for that summer.
*1971	92-153	Made section 32 funds available for child nutrition programs until a supplemental appropriation was passed; provided an average rate of reimbursement of 6 cents for all lunches and established guaranteed levels of reimbursement for free and reduced-price lunches; directed the Secretary to determine the needs for additional funds for the school breakfast and the nonfood assistance programs.
*1972	92-258	Created the nutrition program for the elderly through which primarily congregate and some home-delivered meals were made available to persons age 60 and over. Also authorized community donations for such nutrition programs.
*1972	92-433	Created the special supplemental food program for women, infants and children (WIC); increased the average reimbursement rate for all lunches to 8 cents per lunch; gave States the option to establish eligibility for free lunches at up to 25 percent above the income guideline and established eligibility for reduced-price lunches at no more than 50 percent above the guideline; extended the special food service program for children and the school breakfast program through FY 1975; made the funding method for the school breakfast program performance funding (i.e., based on actual costs and meals served); and prohibited the Secretary from prescribing regulations prohibiting the sale of competitive foods.

*Denotes creation of program or major change

<u>Year</u>	<u>Public Law</u>	<u>Brief Description of Major Provisions</u>
1973 Commodities (cash-in-lieu)	93-13	Required the Secretary to grant cash in lieu of commodities to States in any fiscal year that the Department found itself unable to provide at least 90 percent of the amount of commodity assistance to schools it promised in its proposed budget for that year.
1973 Elderly nutrition	93-29	Expanded the donation of commodities to elderly nutrition projects under the Older Americans Act to allow for dairy product donations.
*1973 Food stamps commodity donations	93-86	Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973. Granted special purchasing authority to USDA to purchase commodities at market prices if surplus or price-support commodities were not available for purchase and donation. Also provided for implementation of a nationwide food stamp program (replaced the commodity distribution program in those areas still not offering food stamps). Required semiannual adjustments of benefits and income eligibility standards to reflect inflation. Broadened the definition of eligible food items and expanded the categories of eligible households by removing certain barriers to participation by the elderly, the housebound, and drug addicts and alcoholics in treatment programs. Authorized use of Sec. 32 and CCC funds to purchase agricultural commodities to maintain distribution to domestic programs, including supplemental food programs through FY 1974.
*1973 School lunch and breakfast, WIC and special milk	93-150	Increased the general assistance reimbursement for the lunch program to 10 cents and set special assistance rate for free lunches at 45 cents and 10 cents less for the reduced-price lunch; required that all three rates be adjusted semiannually for inflation; temporarily raised the eligibility for the reduced-price lunch to 75 percent above the Secretary's poverty guideline; set the reimbursement rate for the breakfast program at a minimum of 8 cents for each breakfast served, 15 cents for a reduced-price breakfast, and 20 cents for a free breakfast, all rates to be adjusted semiannually; in cases of severe need, 45 cents was authorized for a free breakfast. Extended the WIC program through FY 1975; amended the special milk program so that children eligible for a free lunch would also be eligible for additional free milk.
1973 Food stamps	93-233	Together with later extensions, allowed certain States to substitute increased cash supplemental security income benefits for food stamps. Earlier legislation, Public Laws 92-603 and 93-86, would have made all or some supplemental security income recipients ineligible for food stamps.

*Denote creation of program or major change

<u>Year</u>	<u>Public Law</u>	<u>Brief Description of Major Provisions</u>
*1974	93-326	Set the level of commodity assistance for school lunches at a value of 10 cents per lunch, to be adjusted annually. Added a new section 14 to the NSLA requiring the use of Sec. 32 funds for donation of agricultural commodities needed to maintain the annually programmed level of support for child and elderly nutrition programs. Extended this requirement through FY 1975. Made permanent the provision for eligibility for reduced-price meals at 75 percent above the poverty guideline.
*1974	93-347 Special milk, commodities, food stamps, commodity supplemental food	Established a minimum rate of reimbursement for each half-pint of milk served in the special milk program at 5 cents, to be adjusted annually; extended the special commodity purchasing authority through FY 1977. Also increased the Federal share of State and local food stamp administrative expenses from one-third to 50 percent. Required improvements in the State administration of food stamps with certain fiscal penalties attached. Granted Indian reservations a delay in the requirement to switch over from commodity distribution to food stamps. Required the purchase of sufficient commodities to maintain traditional levels of assistance in the various commodity distribution programs (e.g. supplemental food program).
*1974	93-351 Elderly nutrition	Extended the elderly nutrition program for 3 years through FY 1977, and established a minimum level of commodity support for elderly nutrition programs set at a minimum value of 10 cents per meal, to be adjusted annually for inflation.
1975	S. Res. 58 Food (94th Cong.) stamps	Called for a comprehensive Department of Agriculture study of the food stamp program, with legislative recommendations for needed changes.
1975	94-4 Food stamps	Blocked an administration proposal to increase all food stamp purchase requirements to the maximum allowed by law (30 percent of net household income), and, consequently, reduce benefits and cut back in participation.
1975	94-20 Special food service (summer and child care)	Extended the special food service program for children through September 30, 1975.
1975	94-28 WIC	Extended the WIC program through September 30, 1975.

*Denotes creation of program or major change

<u>Year</u>	<u>Public Law</u>	<u>Brief Description of Major Provisions</u>
*1975	94-105	Expanded the eligibility for the reduced-price meals to 95 percent above the Secretary's guideline and made the reduced-price lunch program mandatory in schools and institutions participating in the national school lunch program; created the child care food program with reimbursement rates to be the same as in the lunch program; made separate the summer food service program for children which was expanded to include nonprofit residential summer camps; extended the commodity purchasing requirement for child and elderly nutrition programs through September 30, 1977; granted any State which phased out its commodity distribution facilities prior to June 30, 1974 (Kansas), the right to receive cash in lieu of commodities; included the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in the definition of State; made permanent the school breakfast program; extended the WIC program through FY 1978 and expanded eligibility in the program; created a new section to authorize the Secretary to make cash grants to State education agencies to conduct nutrition education projects; and expanded eligibility in the special milk program to include the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.
1975	94-135	Extended nutrition program for elderly through FY 1978. Authorized cash in lieu of commodities for elderly nutrition programs in any State which phased out its commodity distribution facilities before June 30, 1974 (Kansas); raised the commodity reimbursement rates from 10 cents to 15 in FY 1976 and 25 cents in FY 1977.
1976	94-339	Established new and tighter procedures governing the activities of banks and other agents issuing food stamps.
*1977	95-65	Set minimum commodity reimbursement for elderly nutrition program in FY 1978 at 25 cents; authorized all States to receive cash in lieu of commodities for the elderly nutrition program.
*1977	95-113	Completely revamped the food stamp program by enacting a new Food Stamp Act of 1977 with an authorization through 1981: eliminated the food stamp purchase requirement; established more restrictive income and other eligibility standards and reworked benefit calculations by tying income eligibility to the Federal poverty levels and increasing the degree to which income was counted; gave permanent authority to Indian

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<u>Year</u>	<u>Public Law</u>	<u>Brief Description of Major Provisions</u>
		reservations to continue having a commodity distribution program, either alone or in combination with food stamps; and allowed for Indian administration of food stamps or commodity assistance, in some cases. Authorized use of general treasury funds for the purchase and distribution of commodities needed to maintain the traditional level of support for supplemental feeding programs, such as the commodity supplemental food program (CSFP). Provided administrative funds for CSFP equal to 15% of the value of commodities donated.
1977	95-166	Extended the summer food service program through FY 1980 with major changes to prevent fraud and abuse in the program; extended the Secretary's commodity purchase requirements for elderly and child nutrition programs through FY 1982; allowed any school to refuse to accept up to 20 percent of the commodities offered to it and receive other commodities when available; directed the Secretary to provide limited amounts of cash in lieu of commodities; required a study of cash in lieu of commodities; created a new nutrition education and training program; changed the name of the nonfood assistance program to food service equipment assistance; provided that children eligible for free milk under the special milk program could receive it only when milk was provided at times other than the period of meal service; revised the State administrative expenses program; increased the severe need reimbursement rate for the school breakfast program; gave the Secretary the authority to approve the types of competitive foods sold during the time of food service.
1978	95-478	Combined elderly nutrition program under the Older Americans Act with local services and planning operations; created a separate authorization of appropriations for home-delivered meals; extended the nutrition program for 3 years through FY 1981, and set minimum commodity reimbursement at 30 cents for fiscal years 1978-1981.
*1978	95-627	Raised from 100 to 125 percent of the USDA poverty guideline the income eligibility cut-off level that had to be used for free meal eligibility. Lowered the reimbursement rate for reduced-price lunches by 10 cents, by setting it at 20 cents less than the free rate instead of 10 cents less than the free rate, but allowed States that charged less than the 20 cents maximum meal charge to receive an additional reimbursement

*Denotes program creation or major change

<u>Year</u>	<u>Public Law</u>	<u>Brief Description of Major Provisions</u>
		amount. Provided higher breakfast reimbursements for breakfasts served in "especially needy schools." Made the child care food program permanent and substantially revised it by providing for a three-tier system of meal reimbursements based on the income groups of children in day care centers, and providing separate payment rates for meals served in family or group day care homes. Extended the WIC program through FY 1982 and revised it by 1) establishing eligibility criteria based on defined nutritional risk and low-income and prohibiting States from setting income criteria higher than that set for reduced price school lunch eligibility (195 percent of the USDA poverty guidelines); 2) requiring States to conduct nutritional education for WIC participants and to set aside the specified portion of Federal administrative funds for this purpose; and 3) allowing commodity supplemental food programs to operate in the same area as a WIC program but prohibiting individuals from participating in both programs at the same time.
1979	96-58	
Food stamps		Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1979. Raised the limit on FY 1979 food stamp appropriations and liberalized benefits for elderly and disabled recipients.
1980	96-249	
Food stamps		Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1980. Raised the FY 1980 and 1981 limits on food stamp appropriations; enacted budget reductions saving some \$150 million in FY 1980 and \$600 million in FY 1981. Major revisions included postponing scheduled benefit increases and liberalizations, allowing States to use monthly reporting and retrospective budgeting in administering the program, and administrative changes aimed at reducing erroneous payments.
1980	96-494	
Commodity donations		Required the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out demonstration projects to provide agricultural commodities to community food banks for emergency food box distribution to needy individuals and families.
1980	96-499	
School lunch, breakfast, summer food, child care food, special milk, commodity distribution and WIC		Under the provisions of the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1980, changed child nutrition programs to reduce funding (by approximately \$400 million in FY 1981), by changes in income eligibility criteria (use of lower Office of Management and Budget [OMB] poverty guideline instead of USDA guideline and substitution of special hardship deductions with a standard deduc-

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<u>Year</u>	<u>Public Law</u>	<u>Brief Description of Major Provisions</u>
		tion); lowered school lunch subsidy rates (4.5 cent reduction in cash and commodity assistance; elimination of extra reduced price reimbursement for States charging less than maximum allowed charge); reduced child care food supplement reimbursement by 3 cents; substituted annual for semi-annual inflation adjustment of all meal reimbursement rates; froze subsidy for paid milk served in schools with meal service programs at 5 cents per half pint. Also limited meal reimbursements for most summer food programs to two meals per day (i.e., lunch plus either breakfast or a snack); reduced nutritional education training authorization; prohibited commodity donations for the breakfast program and eliminated Job Corp Center participation in school lunch and child nutrition programs. Extended the summer food, WIC, NET, State administrative expense and commodity distribution programs through FY 1984.
*1981	97-35 b/ Child nutrition programs	Under the provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, changes were made to reduce funding for child nutrition programs (by approximately \$1.4 billion, beginning in FY 1982). Lowered income eligibility criteria for reduced-price meals from 195 percent of OMB poverty guidelines to 185 percent; eliminated standard deductions for free and reduced-price meal eligibility and set free meal eligibility at the gross income standard for food stamps (130 percent of OMB poverty level). Also substantially lowered school lunch and breakfast cash reimbursement rates (by 7.25 cents for paid lunches and 20 cents for reduced-price lunches and by 8 cents for paid breakfasts and 25 cents for most reduced-price breakfasts) and commodity assistance by 5.75 cents. Raised allowable charges to students for reduced price lunches from 20 cents to 40 cents and for reduced price breakfasts, from 10 cents to 30 cents. Also excluded private schools charging tuition in excess of \$1,500 per year from participating in any child nutrition program and prohibited participation in the special milk program by any school or institution participating in meal service programs. For the child care food program, the three-tier system of reimbursements for child care centers' meals was eliminated and reimbursements based on the individual

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b/ Taken together, the food stamp revisions enacted in P.L. 97-35, 97-98, and 98-253 are estimated to have produced total savings of \$7 billion through FY 1985. Child nutrition program changes resulting from P.L. 97-35 are estimated to have produced total savings of approximately \$5 billion through FY 1985.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Public Law</u>	<u>Brief Description of Major Provisions</u>
Food stamp program		<p>family income of the participant. Additionally, the maximum number of child care meals and snacks that could be reimbursed was lowered from three meals and two snacks per day per child to two meals and one snack. Also, summer food program sponsorship was limited to schools, local municipal and county governments and public and private nonprofit summer camps, thus excluding all private sponsors of daytime summer programs. The food service equipment program was also terminated, and funding authority for nutrition education and training was lowered from \$15 million to \$5 million per year.</p> <p>Revisions affecting the food stamp program: postponed certain inflation-indexed benefit increases; placed a gross income eligibility ceiling of 130 percent of the Federal poverty levels on all food stamp households except those with elderly or disabled members; reduced first-month food stamp benefits by prorating them according to the date when a household applies or re-applies; replaced the food stamp program in Puerto Rico with an \$825-million-a-year nutritional assistance block grant; reduced food stamp benefits slightly for those with earned income; substantially eliminated eligibility for most strikers; and required that, by October 1983, most food stamp households report monthly on their income and other circumstances (e.g., household size), and that States use a recent <u>prior</u> month's income in determining eligibility and benefits rather than projecting benefits and eligibility based on <u>current</u> income.</p>
*1981 Food stamps, commodity donations and CSFP	97-98 <u>b/</u>	<p>Food Stamp and Commodity Distribution Amendments of 1981 (title XIII of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981) further delayed inflation-indexed benefit increases, allowed States or localities to set up food stamp "workfare" programs, and made numerous other revisions aimed at controlling access to the program such as revising the work requirements, rules governing treatment of aliens, the requirement for use of social security numbers, and cross-matching of information from other sources to verify statements by recipients. Changed formula for administrative funding of CSFP and gave Secretary authority to establish two pilot projects for commodity distribution to the elderly. Authorized distribution of price support commodities acquired by the CCC but not used, to child and elderly nutrition programs and to certain food banks. Also modified some of the provisions of Sec. 211 of the Agricultural Act of 1980 dealing with community food banks.</p>

*Denotes creation of program or major change

<u>Year</u>	<u>Public Law</u>	<u>Brief Description of Major Provisions</u>
1981	97-115	Extended the elderly nutrition program for 3 years through FY 1984. Placed a ceiling on authorized funding for commodities or cash-in-lieu thereof, reduction in amount of commodity reimbursements if authorized funds are less than the full reimbursement times the number of meals served.
*1982	97-253 <u>b/</u>	The Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1982 (sections 140-190 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982). Extended the authorization of appropriations for the Food Stamp Act through FY 1985, reduced the maximum benefit guarantee to 99 percent (rather than 100 percent) of the cost of purchasing food in the Agriculture Department's Thrifty Food Plan, thereby slightly reducing potential benefits to all recipients; reduced benefits based on estimated household shelter expenses for some recipients; substantially eliminated eligibility for most post-secondary students; set specific targets for States to meet in reducing the rate of erroneous benefit payments, with penalties for States that do not meet their error reduction targets; and changed the rules governing how benefit calculations are rounded off, so that any benefit less than a whole dollar is not granted.
*1983	98-8	FY 1983 Emergency Appropriations Act. Among other things, authorized creation of the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 requiring the USDA to release certain Commodity Credit Corporation commodities for food banks, soup kitchens, elderly and child nutrition programs and other outlets serving the food needs of low income and unemployed persons. Also added \$50 million in FY 1983 appropriations for the State and local administrative costs of such commodity distribution, and provided \$100 million in additional funds for the WIC program.
1983	98-92	Among other things, revised and extended the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 through FY 1985, authorizing \$50 million for each of fiscal years 1984 and 1985 for State and local administrative costs.

*Denotes creation of program or major change

The following sources were used for much of the information in this chronology:

- o U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. "Chronological Legislative History of Child Nutrition Programs." March 1977.
- o Congressional Research Service. "Legislative History of the Child Feed Programs." Report by Kathryn Michelman, January 10, 1978.
- o U.S. Congress. Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human needs. Final Report, 95th Cong., 1st Sess, Decemeber 1977.

Information on food stamp and elderly nutrition legislation between 1977 and 1983 was provided by Congressional Research Service Specialists Joe Richardson and Carol O'Shaughnessy.

APPENDIX: LEGISLATION AND AMENDMENTS - BY PROGRAM

<u>Programs</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Public Law</u>	<u>Page</u>
Food Stamp	1935	74-320	4
	1956	84-540	5
	1959	86-341	5
	1964	88-525	6
	1971	91-671	7
	1973	93-86	8
	1973	93-233	8
	1974	93-347	9
	1975	S. Res. 58 (94th	9
	1975	94-4 Congress)	9
	1976	94-339	10
	1977	95-113	10
	1979	96-58	12
	1980	96-249	12
	1981	97-35	13
	1981	97-98	14
	1982	97-253	15
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School Lunch	1935	74-320	4
	1943	78-129	4
	1944	78-367	4
	1945	79-52	4
	1946	79-396	4
	1952	82-518	5
	1962	87-780 and 823	5
	1965	89-136	6
	1968	90-302	6
	1970	91-207 and 91-248	6
	1971	92-32 and 92-153	7
	1972	92-433	7
	1973	93-13 and 93-150	8
	1974	93-326	9
	1975	94-105	10
	1977	95-166	11
	1978	95-627	11
1980	96-499	12	
1981	97-35	13	

<u>Programs</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Public Law</u>	<u>Page</u>
School breakfast	1966	89-642	6
	1968	90-302	6
	1970	91-207	6
	1971	92-32 and 92-153	7
	1972	92-433	7
	1973	93-150	8
	1975	94-105	10
	1977	95-166	11
	1978	95-627	11
	1980	96-499	12
1981	97-35	13	
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Child care food	1944	78-367	4
	1945	79-52	4
	1968	90-302	6
	1972	92-433	7
	1975	94-20 and 94-105	9
	1977	95-166	11
	1978	95-627	11
	1980	96-499	12
	1981	97-35	13
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Summer food service	1968	90-302	6
	1971	92-35	7
	1972	92-433	7
	1975	94-20 and 92-105	9 and 10
	1977	95-166	11
	1980	96-499	12
	1981	97-35	13
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Special supplemental food program for women, infants, and children (WIC)	1972	92-433	7
	1975	94-28 and 94-105	9 and 10
	1978	95-627	11
	1980	96-499	12
	1981	97-35	13
	1983	98-8	15
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Commodity distribution to child and elderly nutrition programs (institutional feeding)	1935	74-320	4
	1946	79-396	4
	1949	81-272	5
	1973	93-13 and 93-29	8
	1974	93-326	9
	1975	94-105 and 94-135	10
	1977	95-65 and 95-166	10 and 11
	1980	96-499	12
	1981	97-35 and 97-115	13 and 15