

December 9, 2025

Dear Members of Congress,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we respectfully request your support for the inclusion of Puerto Rico in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). We advocate for the inclusion and enactment of language in the 2025 Farm Bill and/or the passage of H.R. 5168, the Puerto Rico Nutrition Assistance Fairness Act, that would facilitate a structured transition for Puerto Rico into SNAP. **Puerto Rico's current status quo is detrimental to American working families, and America's farming communities.** These measures aim to address nutritional disparities experienced by American families and children residing in Puerto Rico, ensuring that, during periods of economic decline, public health emergencies, natural disasters, and increasing food insecurity, U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico have equitable access to nutrition assistance—comparable to that available to the most vulnerable populations across the continental United States. The central issue is not whether Puerto Rico should participate in SNAP, but rather why it has remained excluded from this established program for such an extended period.

Since 1982, U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico have been excluded from SNAP and instead receive limited nutrition assistance through a capped block grant under the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP). This grant, funded at only 75% of what the Food Stamp Program would provide, led to stricter eligibility and reduced benefits, worsening food insecurity for Puerto Rico's residents. The proposed legislative provisions outline a measured and pragmatic approach for transitioning Puerto Rico to SNAP, with the intent to minimize disruptions and promote effective implementation over a 10–15-year period.

**Years 1–10:** Puerto Rico and the USDA will focus on developing the necessary infrastructure for SNAP, including integration into data reporting systems, the migration of retailer networks, and comprehensive workforce training for SNAP operations.

**Years 11–15:** The transition will involve aligning benefit levels and administrative processes with SNAP standards to ensure a seamless experience for participants and businesses.

This phased strategy allows both Puerto Rico and the USDA to prepare thoroughly for full participation in SNAP while enabling policymakers to address Pay as You Go (PAYGO) requirements and budget responsibly.

Puerto Rico has implemented an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) system, updated its technology, phased out cash benefits, and trained employees to support program administration. Recent reports from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) have evaluated Puerto Rico's compliance with relevant regulations, planning requirements, and monitoring standards positively. Including Puerto Rico in SNAP is projected to affect food security and provide mechanisms for accountability, workforce development, and disaster assistance distribution.

Puerto Rico imports approximately 85% of its food and goods from the mainland United States. By transitioning to SNAP, estimates suggest Puerto Rican households would have increased purchasing power, resulting in greater demand for products such as pork, poultry, beef, soybeans, corn for livestock feed, dairy products (including cheese and milk), as well as rice, canned foods, cereals, and processed goods. This change would create additional markets for U.S. farmers, food processors, and manufacturers. Estimates indicate that every \$1 in SNAP benefits distributed generates approximately \$1.50–\$1.80 in economic activity. Transitioning Puerto Rico to SNAP is projected to return significant financial activity to the U.S. economy, potentially benefiting sectors such as agriculture, transportation, retail, and manufacturing. In turn, including provisions to transition Puerto Rico into SNAP within the 2025/2026 Farm Bill or passing H.R. 5168 would address federal policy differences, extend support during periods of acute need, and enhance agricultural economies both on the island and in the fifty states, enhancing prosperity nationwide.

**Nearly 6,00,000 members of the Puerto Rican diaspora currently live throughout the United States. Analysis of the 2022 American Communities Survey suggests that the Puerto Rican diaspora in the United States enjoyed a purchasing power of \$170 billion, fueling the nation's economy, and representing an of the most influential voting blocs across the country. Many maintain connections with the island and their culture, despite living at a distance. Relationships with relatives and friends on the island are often sustained through regular visits and financial support, which contributes to Puerto Rico's economy.**

**Your co-sponsorship of H.R. 5168 and/or Farm Bill language enabling a transition from NAP to SNAP would significantly support the interests of Puerto Ricans in the U.S. mainland, by** allowing Puerto Rico and its citizens to fairly join the rest of the country in participating in SNAP. If you have any questions, please contact Hispanic Federation's Vice President for Federal Advocacy and Network Engagement at [jlopez@hispanicfederation.org](mailto:jlopez@hispanicfederation.org) for further information.

Respectfully submitted,

Hispanic Federation

100 Hispanic Women National Inc.

Acción Hispana/Qué Pasa

Advance Community Outreach Center

Alianza Center

Alianza Americas

AMEXCAN, Inc.

ARTE Inc.

Ascendus, Inc.

Asheboro Latinxs Services

Asociación de Puertorriqueños Viviendo en FL

Association of Latinos/as/xs Motivating Action

Belinda Ramos

Boricua Vota

Boricuas de Corazón Inc

Brandworkers

Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders

Building Skills Partnership (BSP)

Capital District Latinos

Carolina Migrant Network

Casa Central

Casa Venezuela

Casita Maria, Inc.

Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of New York

Center for Children's Advocacy

Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN NY)

Chemical Abuse Services Agency, Inc.

Church and Community Assistance Program

Churches United for Fair Housing

Cine Casual

Cine Casual

Comité Noviembre, Puerto Rican Heritage Month

COMPASS Youth Collaborative

Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Puerto Rico, Inc.

Corazon Community Services

Davidson Community Center Inc,

Del Ambiente

Dominican Women's Development Center

Dynamic CDC

East Harlem Council for Human Services, Inc.

Eastmont Community Center

El Centro Hispano, Inc

El Concilio California

El Museo del Barrio

El Pueblo

El/La Para TransLatinas

El/La Para TransLatinas

EMHS

Erie Neighborhood House

Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project-FLAP

Farmworker Association Of Florida

Feed and Fortify

Fifth Avenue Committee

Hispanic Alliance

Hispanic Brotherhood, Inc.

hkyo.org

Hope Community Center

I Challenge Myself

Illinois Unidos

Instituto del Progreso Latino

Junta For Progressive Action, Inc.

Kenneth Sanchez Renew

La Colmena

La Fuerza NC

La Mesa Boricua de Florida

Latin Community Advisors Inc.

LATIN-19

Latino Commission on AIDS

Latino Commission on AIDS

Latino Policy Forum

Latinx LIFE

Lila Latinx LGBTQ Inc.

Long Island Immigration Clinic/Sisters of St. Joseph

Long Island Latino Teachers Association

MDC Inc.

National Puerto Rican Museum

NC Budget & Tax Center

NC Congress of Latino Organizations

NC Latino Power

NY COAC

PODER

Puerto Rican Family Institute, Inc

R.A.I.N. TOTAL CARE, Inc.

Raíces Latino Arts

Repertorio Español

San Jose Grail Family Services

San Juan Center

San Juan Center Inc.

SCRIP INC

Spanish Community Center

St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction

TFBU Foundation

The Freedom Center for Social Justice

The Healing Center

The Open Hearth Association

The Wall Las Memorias

Toxic Free North Carolina

True Ridge

Unidxs

Union Community Health Center, Inc.

Urban Health Plan

Urban Warriors

Valores

Violence Intervention Program

Vision Urbana Inc.

Vision y Compromiso

Voces Latinas

We Stay/Nos Quedamos

Women Leading 4 Wellness and Justice

Woodside On The Move Inc

Youth Alliance

Zone 126

Latin Americans Working for Achievement