



This document provides grocers with a glossary of common terms and acronyms used in nutrition incentive programs.

ACRONYMS:

CBO:	Community Based Organization
CNHI:	Center for Nutrition & Health Impact
DEIA:	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility
EBT:	Electronic Benefits Transfer
eHIP:	Electronic Health Incentives Program
FINI:	Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive
FNS:	Food and Nutrition Service
FV:	Fruit and Vegetable
GusNIP:	Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program
HIP:	Healthy Incentives Program
NAP:	Nutrition Assistance Program
NIFA:	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
MOU:	Memorandum of Understanding
NGAF:	National Grocers Association Foundation
NI:	Nutrition Incentive
NPO:	Non profit organization
NTAE:	Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation and Information Center
PPR	Produce Prescription
RFA	Request for Applications
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
TA	Technical Assistance
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture



GLOSSARY TERMS

Community Based Organizations (CBOs): Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) are nonprofit, grassroots entities that operate within a specific community to address local needs and issues. They are typically established by community members and are deeply embedded within the community they serve. CBOs focus on a wide range of issues, including health, education, housing, economic development, and social services, often tailoring their programs to the unique cultural, social, and economic needs of the population they serve.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA): A framework often used by organizations, including government agencies, educational institutions, and businesses, to promote a more inclusive and equitable environment. Grocers can implement these elements throughout their business to help reduce barriers to accessing healthy foods.

Diversity: Reflect a range of backgrounds among employees and customers, including different races, genders, ages, and cultural practices. Grocers can advance diversity efforts by offering products that cater to diverse dietary needs and cultural preferences.

Equity: Ensure fair treatment and opportunities for all employees and customers. Grocers can address equity by considering pricing and food access in a way that supports all community members, regardless of background.

Inclusion: Create a welcoming environment where all employees and customers feel valued. Provide multilingual support and respect diverse needs and perspectives.

Accessibility: Make your store and services usable for everyone, including those with disabilities. This includes physical accessibility, clear signage, and accessible online options.

Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT): An electronic system that allows SNAP participants to use a card, similar to a debit card, to purchase food at authorized retail food stores.

Eligible food items: Typically, fresh, frozen, dried, and canned fruits and vegetables without added sugars, fats, or oils. The specific eligibility can vary depending on the GusNIP program's guidelines.

Farm Bill: The farm bill is a comprehensive piece of legislation governing many agricultural and food programs, including the SNAP program. It is typically updated and renewed every five years. GusNIP was included in the Farm Bill for the first time in 2014 and expanded under the 2018.

Food Apartheid: sometimes used interchangeably with the term *food desert*. This term may be preferred over food desert for a couple of reasons. First because deserts are naturally occurring however a food apartheid is a created environment resulting from policies, decisions, and systems in place. Secondly, the term *desert* may implies a barren landscape. While these communities may not have access to a supermarket, they are vibrant neighborhoods.



Food Desert: Sometimes used interchangeably with *food apartheid*. USDA defines food desert as a tract in which at least 100 households are located more than one-half mile from the nearest supermarket and have no vehicle access; or at least 500 people, or 33 percent of the population, live more than 20 miles from the nearest supermarket, regardless of vehicle availability.” This term may also be used more informally to refer to communities that might not meet USDA’s definition, but where residents may still struggle to access fresh food.

Food Insecurity: The lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. It often refers to households that are uncertain of having, or unable to acquire, enough food to meet the needs of all their members.

Food Justice: A movement that addresses the systemic inequalities that prevent certain communities, often low-income or marginalized, from accessing healthy and affordable food.

Food Retail Site: refers to any location where food is sold directly to consumers for off-site consumption. This includes a wide range of establishments such as:

Grocery Stores: Traditional supermarkets and smaller grocery stores that offer a variety of food products, including fresh produce, meats, dairy, and packaged goods.

Farmers Markets: Open-air or indoor markets where local farmers and vendors sell fresh fruits, vegetables, and other food products directly to consumers.

Convenience Stores (Also known as c-stores, bodegas, or corner stores): Small stores that primarily sell everyday items, including a selection of food and beverages, often catering to immediate consumption needs.

Specialty Food Stores: Retail outlets that focus on specific types of food, such as organic markets, health food stores, or ethnic grocery stores.

Supercenters and Warehouse Clubs: Large retail stores like Walmart or Costco that offer a wide range of food products along with other goods, often in bulk.

Online Food Retailers: E-commerce platforms where consumers can purchase groceries and have them delivered to their homes.

Food Sovereignty: The right of people to have access to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods. It also emphasizes the right of people to define their own food and agriculture systems.

Grant: A grant is a financial award provided to support a proposed project. It does not need to be paid back.



Grantee: Grantee refers to a non-profit organization or government agency that has received grant funding to implement a project.

Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP): GusNIP (formerly FINI and HIP) is a federal program dedicated to providing financial incentives to increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables and evaluating the impacts of increased fruit and vegetable consumption. It is administered by NIFA and awards grants to non-profit organizations or government agencies who implement projects across the U.S. There are two types of incentive projects under GusNIP:

Nutrition Incentive (NI) projects (also referred to as SNAP Incentives): Retailers (grocers, farmers markets, etc.) provide shoppers using SNAP with incentives (discounts or coupons) at the point of purchase to increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables.

Produce Prescription (PPR) projects: Healthcare providers give eligible patients incentives (coupons or cards) that can be spent on fruits and vegetables with participating retailers.

Grantees select the type and design of their GusNIP project(s).

For more information, see <https://www.ngaftacenter.org/snap-incentives-si/>

Large Scale GusNIP Projects– projects aimed at developing multi-county, state-wide, regional, or national incentive programs with a large target audience.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): Similar to a contract, an MOU is an agreement between two or more parties. Typically, MOUs are more informal than a contract and are not usually legally binding. Grantees commonly execute MOUs and contracts with grocery partners to outline the responsibilities of both parties when implementing an incentive project.

Non-profit Organization (NPO): A nonprofit organization (sometimes referred to as a 501c3) is a legal entity organized and operated for a collective, public, or social benefit. Any revenues that exceed expenses must be committed to the organization's purpose, not taken by private parties. Non-profits receive funding from different sources including philanthropic foundations, government agencies, individual donations, and corporate contributions. Some non-profits also operate income-generating activities.

Nutrition Assistance Program: in lieu of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) block grants provide assistance to low-income households in the U.S. Territories of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of Mariana Islands.

Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation and Information Center (NTAE): The GusNIP NTAE (Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Center) is a key component of the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP). The NTAE Center was established to support GusNIP grantees in effectively implementing their Nutrition Incentive (NI) and Produce Prescription (PPR) projects. The NGAF TA center is the specialist that supports grocers and grantees working with brick and mortar food retail sites.



Participant-Level Core Measures: metrics to assess the impact of NI and PPR projects on fruit and vegetable (FV) intake, food security, and other indicators of health. Grantees may work with grocers to collect participant-level core measures.

Pilot GusNIP Projects: New applicants may seek funding for the early stages of program development at less than the county level.

POS System Basic Requirements – a basic set of criteria for what constitutes an efficient and accurate nutrition incentive transaction.

Program Outreach: Efforts made to inform and engage SNAP participants and/or eligible patients about the nutrition incentive programs. This can include marketing materials, community events, and partnerships with local organizations.

Redemption Rate: A percentage calculated from the amount of redeemed incentives divided the amount of issued incentives. A higher redemption rate indicates effective program uptake.

Request for Applications (RFA): An RFA is a type of solicitation notice in which an organization announces that grant funding is available. Applicants submit proposals in response to the RFA in the hopes of receiving funding. An RFA for GusNIP is released annually in the and applicants have 90 days to prepare a proposal.

Site-Level Core Measures: metrics that provide descriptive information about project delivery, incentive utilization patterns, and project reach at the food retail site level.

Solutions & Methodologies: each nutrition incentive or produce prescription program will require parameters to be set around the way the transaction is handled at the register. While paper vouchers can be used, often a technology solution is discussed that can digitize the process. The method in which the solution is used the manual process of a p

Standard GusNIP Projects: projects operated by mid-sized groups that develop incentive programs at the county, multi-county, or state level.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): A federal program that provides low-income individuals and families with financial assistance to purchase food. Formerly known as food stamps, SNAP benefits are distributed through an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card.

Technical Assistance: refers to the support provided to organizations, businesses, or individuals to help them build capacity, improve performance, and achieve specific goals. NGAF supports grocers with nutrition incentive projects by offering matchmaking with grantee organizations, assistance with project design, and troubleshoot technology challenges.



KEY PLAYERS:

Center for Nutrition and Health Impact (CNHI): CNHI is a non-profit organization that is leading the nationwide evaluation for GusNIP. All grantees must submit monthly store data to GSCN (including incentive distribution and redemption and SNAP sales) which is used to evaluate the impacts of GusNIP.

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS): FNS is a federal agency within USDA that oversees nutrition programs including SNAP, WIC, and school meals. Retailers who want to be authorized to accept SNAP must submit an application to FNS.

National Grocer's Association Foundation Technical Assistance Center (NGAF TA Center): The grocer's resource for nutrition incentives. Services provided at no cost to grocers, grantees, and technology companies working to implement nutrition incentive projects.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA): NIFA is a federal agency within USDA. Among other things, NIFA oversees the GusNIP program: Establishing the program rules, releasing the RFA, evaluating proposals, and awarding funding.

Nutrition Incentive Hub: a coalition of partners to support nutrition incentive and produce prescription projects. The Nutrition Incentive Hub provides training, technical assistance, reporting, and evaluation support to help strengthen nutrition incentive and produce prescription projects, as they work to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by project participants.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA): USDA is a federal department made up of 29 agencies and offices that work across the country on issues related to food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues. Among other things, USDA oversees the Farm Bill, which includes the SNAP program, and FNS, which authorizes stores to accept SNAP.

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