

# Moving Puerto Rico from NAP to SNAP: The Economic and Legislative Case for Equitable Nutrition Aid

COALITION FOR FOOD SECURITY ✦ PUERTO RICO

# Coalition for Food Security Puerto Rico

- The Coalition for Food Security Puerto Rico (CFSPR) was launched by partners in the food and beverage industry to support efforts for nutrition aid to Puerto Rico following Hurricanes Irma and María.
- The Coalition grew to over 80 organizations in private industry (manufacturers, distributors, retail, and shipping) and respected non-profits and think tanks working in the States and Puerto Rico. The Coalition is focused on a bi-partisan effort to engage both parties in Congress.
- Industry leaders in Puerto Rico include manufacturing, banking, shipping, retailers and trade associations.
- Multi-state non-profits and fair share advocacy groups from California, Connecticut, D.C., Florida, Georgia, Hawaii Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Texas.
- Supporting the Puerto Rico Executive and Legislative branches and PR Office of Family Services on nutrition advocacy in Washington, D.C.

# Food Insecurity in Puerto Rico



Since 1981, Puerto Rico has received nutritional assistance aid through a federally-funded block grant. The \$2.03B capped block grant limits Puerto Rico's ability to manage changes in demand, including those due to demographic shifts, poverty levels, and economic stagnation.



Most of the beneficiaries are children, elderly, and disabled individuals, nearly 60%. The levels of aid in Puerto Rico falls well below those of many states and territories. Puerto Rico has limited eligibility requirements and reduced benefit levels.

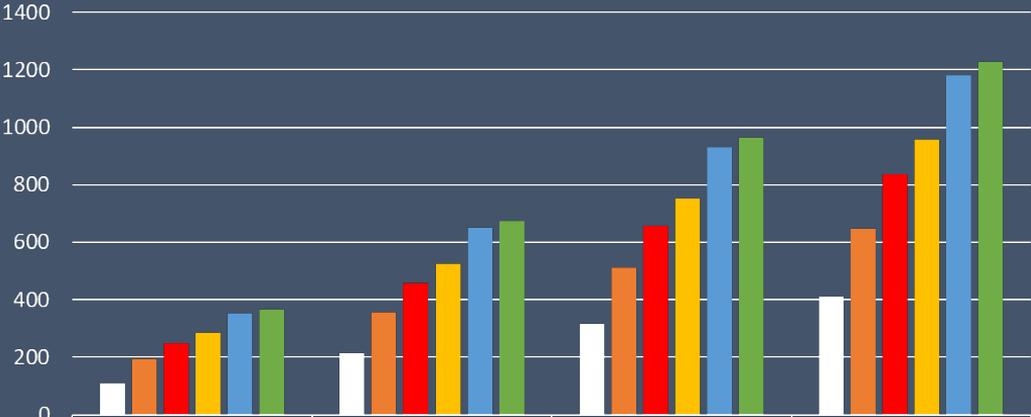


Puerto Rico has experienced steady increases in NAP participation; over 48% of the population or \$1.5M people are dependent on some form of nutrition aid.



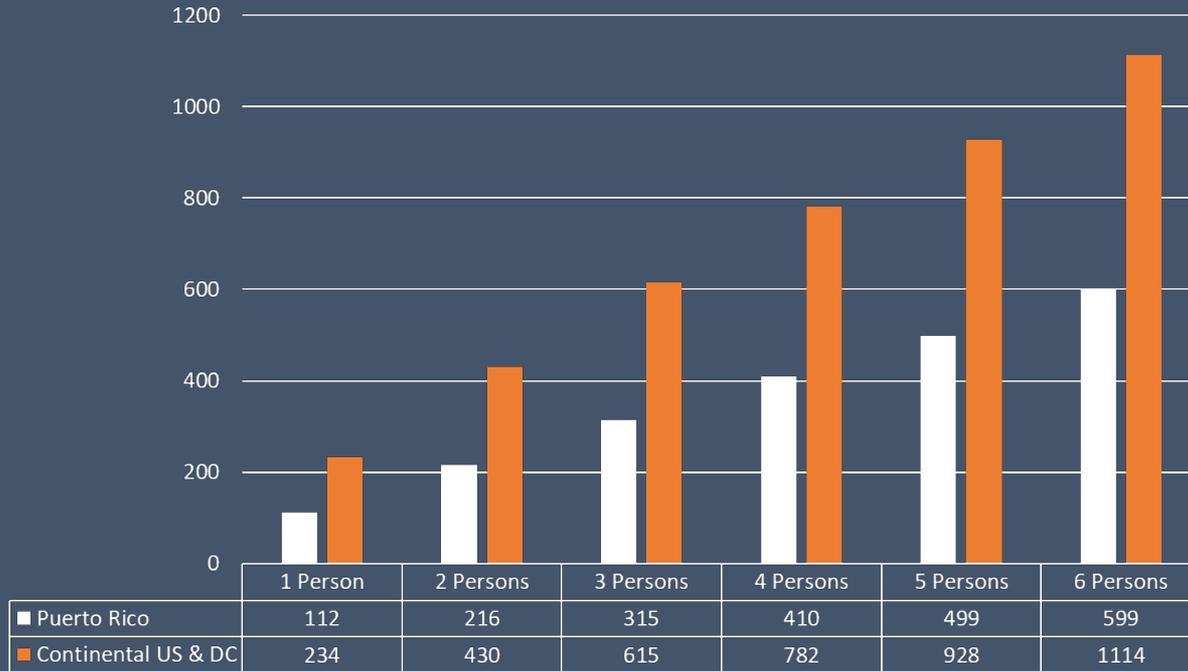
Puerto Ricans continue to experience food insecurity and inequity as a result of their exclusion from the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP is available to residents of the Continental US, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the District of Columbia. These disparities necessitate legislative action to integrate Puerto Rico into SNAP.

# PUERTO RICO NAP VS. STATES & TERRITORIES ON SNAP/Pre- COVID Levels



	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons
■ Puerto Rico	112	216	315	410
■ Continental US & DC	194	357	511	649
■ USVI	250	459	657	835
■ Guam	287	526	753	957
■ Hawaii	354	650	931	1182
■ Alaska	368	675	966	1227

# PUERTO RICO NAP VS. STATES ON SNAP – February 2020 – Maximum Benefit Levels\*



\*Excludes Pandemic EBT for school-age children

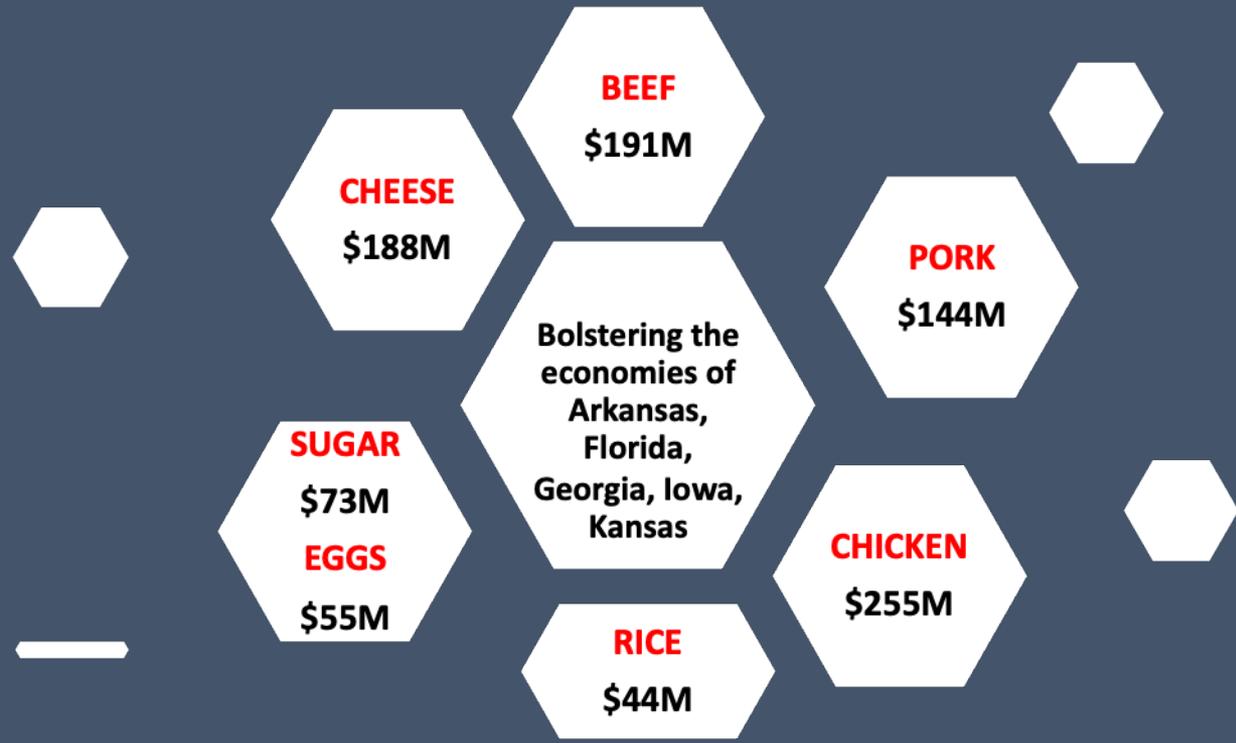
# Top 15 Import Categories for Puerto Rico

## US ranks #1 in each category in 2019

Category		Total Imports
1. Meat And Edible Meat Offal	\$630,755,946	
2. Miscellaneous Edible Preparations	\$474,964,761	
3. Dairy Prods; Birds Eggs; Honey; Ed Animal	\$348,341,896	
4. Prep Cereal, Flour, Starch Or Milk; Bakers Wares	\$298,995,396	
5. Beverages, Spirits And Vinegar	\$296,072,513	
6. Edible Preparations Of Meat, Fish, Crustaceans Etc.	\$218,003,590	
7. Prep Vegetables, Fruit, Nuts Or Other Plant Parts	\$170,261,008	
8. Edible Vegetables & Certain Roots & Tubers	\$155,875,186	
9. Food Industry Residues & Waste; Prep Animal Feed	\$150,743,484	
10. Sugars And Sugar Confectionary	\$104,982,145	
11. Cereals		\$90,011,957
12. Animal Or Vegetable Fats, Oils Etc. & Waxes	\$88,272,904	
13. Edible Fruit & Nuts; Citrus Fruit Or Melon Peel	\$87,346,267	
14. Cocoa And Cocoa Preparations	\$51,730,590	
15. Fish, Crustaceans & Aquatic Invertebrates	\$48,357,906	

# Circular Economy: US Agriculture & Manufacturing & PR Food Consumption

US Trade with Puerto Rico and US Possessions, Census Bureau: 2019



CONGRESSIONAL  
ACTIVITY ON  
PUERTO RICO

NUTRITION AID –  
FY20-21

COVID -19 EMERGENCY FUNDING SUPPORT IN 2020

Achieved: \$897M in additional aid

INCREMENTAL INCREASE TO BLOCK GRANT - March 2021

Proposal: 15% Increase for COVID-19

Achieved: An additional \$960M over block grant of \$2.037B

EQUITABLE NUTRITION ASSISTANCE FOR THE  
TERRITORIES ACT of 2020 (House Bill)

Goal: Transition Puerto Rico into SNAP

COMPREHENSIVE BENEFITS EQUITY ACT  
CLOSING THE MEAL GAP ACT (Senate Bills)

Goals: Transition Puerto Rico into SNAP and  
Increase SNAP Nutrition levels by changing Basic Thrifty  
Food Plans