

## [House Appropriations Committee](#)

### Full Committee Markup of Fiscal Year 2026 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Bill June 11, 2025

“The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act provides a total discretionary allocation of \$25.523 billion, which is \$1.163 billion (4.2%) below the Fiscal Year 2025 enacted level.”

#### Summary:

- This full committee markup session was held to discuss the Fiscal Year 2026 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. The bill outlines federal funding allocations for various USDA programs including, Farm Services Agency, Risk Management Agency, and Nutrition Programs like WIC and SNAP; as well as FDA operations including food safety.

[Rep. Tom Cole](#), (Chair, R-OK) highlighted the importance of supporting American farmers and ranchers and that the bill intends to cut waste and ensure funding is used efficiently. He also highlighted the importance with aligning with the Administration’s agenda.

[Rep. Rosa DeLauro](#), (Ranking Member, D-CT) criticized cuts to WIC and local food purchasing initiatives as these cuts hurt vulnerable families and ranchers. She urged the members to work toward a different bill that would support farmers, families, and communities.

#### Key Points:

- Food Insecurity in Tribal Communities
  - [Rep. Andy Harris \(R-MD\)](#) criticized the previous administration for what he described as “catastrophic food shortages in Tribal and elderly communities.” He emphasized that the FY26 bill aims to refocus USDA on its core mission.
- Historical Underfunding of Tribal Institutions
  - [Rep. Jim Clyburn \(D-SC\)](#) raised the issue of systemic underfunding of 1890 land-grant institutions, many of which serve African American and Native American students.
    - He cited a USDA study showing that Florida A&M University was underfunded by \$1.9 billion and South Carolina State by \$469 million.
    - He emphasized that DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) programs are corrective measures to address long-standing inequities, including those affecting Native American communities.
- Persistent Poverty and Tribal Areas
  - Rep. Clyburn also highlighted that many counties that experience persistent poverty include Native American communities, particularly in states like Alaska and New Mexico.
    - He advocated for the continuation of the "[10-20-30 formula](#)", which ensures that at least 10% of federal funding is directed to these high-poverty areas.
- Rural Development and Infrastructure
  - Several members, including [Rep. Sanford Bishop \(D-GA\)](#) and [Rep. Veronica Escobar \(D-TX\)](#) criticized cuts to rural housing, water, and broadband programs that would

negatively impact rural and Tribal communities. Many of these communities already lack basic infrastructure like clean water and reliable internet.

- Support for Tribal Agriculture
  - General discussion about local food systems, conservation programs, and agricultural research that has implications for Tribal agriculture. Ranking Member DeLauro and several Democrat representatives criticized the termination of more than \$1 billion in funding for LFPA and Local Food for Schools Programs.
- Reinstatement and Expansion of Local Food Purchasing Programs
  - Nutrition programs like LFPA (Local Food Purchase Assistance) and Local Food for Schools are essential for connecting Tribal and local farmers to food banks and schools.
  - Lawmakers proposed restoring funding to these programs to:
    - Support Tribal and small-scale farmers.
    - Provide culturally appropriate and nutritious food to Native communities.
    - Strengthen local food systems and food sovereignty.
- Restore and Protect DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Initiatives
  - Rep. Jim Clyburn and others defended DEI programs as corrective tools to address historical underfunding of land-grant institutions, including Tribal colleges.
  - Proposed solution: Maintain or expand DEI funding to ensure equitable access to USDA programs and correct systemic disparities in education and rural development.
- Reinstatement of the “10-20-30” Formula
  - This formula mandates that at least 10% of federal funding be directed to counties where 20% or more of the population has lived in poverty for 30 years or more.
  - Rep. Clyburn advocated for its continued inclusion, noting that many of these counties include Native American populations.
  - Proposed solution:
    - Codify or reintroduce the 10-20-30 formula in appropriations to ensure persistent poverty areas, including tribal lands, receive targeted support.
- Increase Rural Development Funding
  - Members proposed restoring cuts to:
    - Rural housing programs.
    - Water and wastewater infrastructure.
    - Community facilities grants and loans.
- Address Staffing Shortages in USDA Field Offices
  - Lawmakers noted that tribal and rural USDA offices are understaffed, making it difficult for Native farmers to access services.
    - Proposed solution: Increase funding for Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Rural Development staff to ensure tribal communities receive timely support.
- Protect and Expand Nutrition Programs (WIC, SNAP)
  - Several amendments were proposed to:
    - Reverse the 10% cut to WIC fruit and vegetable benefits.
    - Prevent USDA from requiring states to share personally identifiable information of SNAP recipients.
- Conduct Impact Studies and Oversight
  - Rep. Andy Harris proposed a USDA report on the causes of the agricultural trade deficit.
  - Rep. Clyburn and others suggested similar oversight mechanisms to ensure funding reaches underserved communities, including tribal areas.
- Support Tribal Colleges and Land-Grant Institutions

- Lawmakers emphasized the need to address the billions in underfunding to 1890 and tribal land-grant institutions.
  - Proposed solution: Direct appropriations or matching funds to ensure these institutions receive their full entitlements.