

Bennet # 1  
AS MODIFIED

1 **SEC. 142. STATE CHILDHOOD HUNGER CHALLENGE**  
2 **GRANTS.**

3 The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act  
4 (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) is amended by inserting after  
5 section 23 (as added by section 141) the following:

6 **“SEC. 24. STATE CHILDHOOD HUNGER CHALLENGE**  
7 **GRANTS.**

8 “(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

9 “(1) **CHILD.**—The term ‘child’ means a person  
10 under the age of 18.

11 “(2) **SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**  
12 **PROGRAM.**—The term ‘supplemental nutrition assist-  
13 ance program’ means the supplemental nutrition as-  
14 sistance program established under the Food and  
15 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

16 “(b) **PURPOSE.**—Under such terms and conditions as  
17 are established by the Secretary, funds made available  
18 under this section may be used to competitively award  
19 grants to or enter into cooperative agreements with Gov-  
20 ernors to carry out comprehensive and innovative strate-  
21 gies to end childhood hunger, including alternative models  
22 for service delivery and benefit levels that promote the re-  
23 duction or elimination of childhood hunger by 2015.

1       “(c) PROJECTS.—State demonstration projects car-  
2 ried out under this section may include projects that—

3               “(1) enhance benefits provided under the sup-  
4 plemental nutrition assistance program for eligible  
5 households with children;

6               “(2) enhance benefits or provide for innovative  
7 program delivery models in the school meals, after-  
8 school snack, and child and adult care food pro-  
9 grams under this Act and the Child Nutrition Act  
10 of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.);

11               “(3) target Federal, State, or local assistance,  
12 including emergency housing, family preservation  
13 services, child care, or temporary assistance at  
14 households with children who are experiencing hun-  
15 ger or food insecurity, to the extent permitted by the  
16 legal authority establishing those assistance pro-  
17 grams and services;

18               “(4) enhance outreach to increase access and  
19 participation in Federal nutrition assistance pro-  
20 grams; and

21               “(5) improve the coordination of Federal, State,  
22 and community resources and services aimed at pre-  
23 venting food insecurity and hunger, including  
24 through the establishment and expansion of State  
25 food policy councils.

1 “(d) GRANTS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this sec-  
3 tion, the Secretary may competitively award grants  
4 or enter into competitively awarded cooperative  
5 agreements with Governors for use in accordance  
6 with demonstration projects that meet the purposes  
7 of this section.

8 “(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a  
9 grant or cooperative agreement under this section, a  
10 Governor shall submit to the Secretary an applica-  
11 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing  
12 such information as the Secretary may require.

13 “(3) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary  
14 shall evaluate proposals based on publicly dissemi-  
15 nated criteria that may include—

16 “(A) an identification of a low-income tar-  
17 get group that reflects individuals experiencing  
18 hunger or food insecurity;

19 “(B) a commitment to approaches that  
20 allow for a rigorous outcome evaluation as de-  
21 scribed in subsection (f);

22 “(C) a comprehensive and innovative strat-  
23 egy to reduce the risk of childhood hunger or  
24 provide a significant improvement to the food  
25 security status of households with children; and

1           “(D) such other criteria as are determined  
2           by the Secretary.

3           “(4) REQUIREMENTS.—Any project funded  
4           under this section shall provide for—

5           “(A) a baseline assessment, and subse-  
6           quent annual assessments, of the prevalence  
7           and severity of very low food security among  
8           children in the State, based on a methodology  
9           prescribed by the Secretary;

10          “(B) a collaborative planning process in-  
11          cluding key stakeholders in the State that re-  
12          sults in a comprehensive agenda to eliminate  
13          childhood hunger that is—

14                 “(i) described in a detailed project  
15                 plan; and

16                 “(ii) provided to the Secretary for ap-  
17                 proval;

18          “(C) an annual budget;

19          “(D) specific performance goals, including  
20          the goal to sharply reduce or eliminate food in-  
21          security among children in the State by 2015,  
22          as determined through a methodology pre-  
23          scribed by the Secretary and carried out by the  
24          Governor; and



1                   “(i) focuses particularly on the level of  
2                   food insecurity among children in the  
3                   State; and

4                   “(ii) includes a preimplementation  
5                   baseline and annual measurements taken  
6                   during the project of the level of food inse-  
7                   curity in the State; and

8                   “(B) is carried out using a methodology  
9                   prescribed by the Secretary.

10                  “(2)     INDEPENDENT     EVALUATION.—Each  
11                  project authorized under this section shall provide  
12                  for an independent evaluation of not less than 1  
13                  major strategy that—

14                         “(A) measures the impact of the strategy  
15                         on appropriate participation, food security, nu-  
16                         trition, and associated behavioral outcomes  
17                         among participating households; and

18                         “(B) uses rigorous experimental designs  
19                         and methodologies, particularly random assign-  
20                         ment or other methods that are capable of pro-  
21                         ducing scientifically valid information regarding  
22                         which activities are effective in reducing the  
23                         prevalence or preventing the incidence of food  
24                         insecurity and hunger in the community, espe-  
25                         cially among children.

1           “(3) REPORTING.—Not later than December  
2           31, 2011 and each December 31 thereafter until the  
3           date on which the last evaluation under paragraph  
4           (1) is completed, the Secretary shall—

5                   “(A) submit to the Committee on Agri-  
6                   culture and the Committee on Education and  
7                   Labor of the House of Representatives and the  
8                   Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-  
9                   estry of the Senate a report that includes a de-  
10                  scription of—

11                           “(i) the status of each State dem-  
12                           onstration project; and

13                           “(ii) the results of any evaluations of  
14                           the demonstration projects completed dur-  
15                           ing the previous fiscal year; and

16                   “(B) ensure that the evaluation results are  
17                   shared broadly to inform policy makers, service  
18                   providers, other partners, and the public in  
19                   order to promote the wide use of successful  
20                   strategies.

21           “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

22                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
23                   appropriated to carry out this section such sums as  
24                   are necessary for each of fiscal years 2011 through  
25                   2014, to remain available until September 30, 2015.



1           “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available  
2 under paragraph (1) may be used to carry out this  
3 section, including to pay Federal costs associated  
4 with developing, soliciting, awarding, monitoring,  
5 evaluating, and disseminating the results of each  
6 demonstration project under this section.

7           “(3) LIMITATIONS.—

8           “(A) DURATION.—No project may be  
9 funded under this section for more than 5  
10 years.

11           “(B) PERFORMANCE BASIS.—Funds pro-  
12 vided under this section shall be made available  
13 to each Governor on an annual basis, with the  
14 amount of funds provided for each year contin-  
15 gent on the satisfactory implementation of the  
16 project plan and progress towards the perform-  
17 ance goals defined in the project year plan.

18           “(C) ALTERING NUTRITION ASSISTANCE  
19 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—No project that  
20 makes use of, alters, or coordinates with the  
21 supplemental nutrition assistance program may  
22 be funded under this section unless the project  
23 is fully consistent with the project requirements  
24 described in section 17(b)(1)(B) of the Food



1 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.  
2 2026(b)(1)(B)).

3 “(D) OTHER BENEFITS.—Funds made  
4 available under this section may not be used for  
5 any project in a manner that is inconsistent  
6 with—

7 “(i) this Act;

8 “(ii) the Child Nutrition Act of 1966  
9 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.);

10 “(iii) the Food and Nutrition Act of  
11 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.); or

12 “(iv) the Emergency Food Assistance  
13 Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.).”