
42 U.S. Code § 1769d

Childhood hunger research

(a) Research on causes and consequences of childhood hunger

(1) In general

The Secretary shall conduct research on—

- (A) the causes of childhood hunger and food insecurity;
- (B) the characteristics of households with childhood hunger and food insecurity; and
- (C) the consequences of childhood hunger and food insecurity.

(2) Authority

In carrying out research under paragraph (1), the Secretary may—

- (A) enter into competitively awarded contracts or cooperative agreements; or
- (B) provide grants to States or public or private agencies or organizations, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) Application

To be eligible to enter into a contract or cooperative agreement or receive a grant under this subsection, a State or public or private agency or organization shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary shall require.

(4) Areas of inquiry

The Secretary shall design the research program to advance knowledge and understanding of information on the issues described in paragraph (1), such as—

- (A) economic, health, social, cultural, demographic, and other factors that contribute to childhood hunger or food insecurity;
- (B) the geographic distribution of childhood hunger and food insecurity;
- (C) the extent to which—
 - (i) existing Federal assistance programs, including title 26, reduce childhood hunger and food insecurity; and
 - (ii) childhood hunger and food insecurity persist due to—
 - (I) gaps in program coverage;
 - (II) the inability of potential participants to access programs; or
 - (III) the insufficiency of program benefits or services;
- (D) the public health and medical costs of childhood hunger and food insecurity;
- (E) an estimate of the degree to which the Census Bureau measure of food insecurity underestimates childhood hunger and food insecurity because the Census Bureau excludes certain households, such as homeless, or other factors;

- (F) the effects of childhood hunger on child development, well-being, and educational attainment; and
- (G) such other critical outcomes as are determined by the Secretary.

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