To provide community-based nonprofit feeding and anti-hunger groups with funding to partner with small and mid-sized restaurants to expand meal access and delivery for low-income and vulnerable populations during a pandemic or public health emergency.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Velázquez (for herself and ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on __________________________

A BILL

To provide community-based nonprofit feeding and anti-hunger groups with funding to partner with small and mid-sized restaurants to expand meal access and delivery for low-income and vulnerable populations during a pandemic or public health emergency.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
4 This Act may be cited as the “Community Meals
5 Fund”.

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SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(1) VULNERABLE POPULATION.—The term vulnerable population means any person who is a member of the target population, is a low income individual, or receives a means-tested benefit as defined under this Act.

(2) GRAB-AND-GO MEAL.—The term Grab-and-go meals refers to pre-packaged, ready to eat food that has been prepared and cooked no greater than 8 hours prior to being sealed or enclosed in a container.

(3) TARGET POPULATION.—The term “target population” includes an individual who (or family that)—

(A) earns an income below 200 percent of the Federal poverty line;

(B) suffers from food insecurity;

(C) is homeless;

(D) receives (or recently received) assistance under a State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. et seq.), relating to temporary assistance to needy families; or

(E) is eligible for benefits under any nutrition assistance or anti-poverty program.
(4) **COMMUNITY-BASED NONPROFIT FEEDING AND ANTI-HUNGER GROUP.**—The term “community-based nonprofit feeding and anti-hunger group” means an anti-hunger organization, food bank, food pantry, soup kitchen, food rescue group, or community food security organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.

(5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(6) **LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUAL.**—The term “low-income individual” means, with respect to any calendar year, any individual who lives in a household that has a gross income that does not exceed 300 percent of the poverty line, as defined in section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)).

(7) **HOMELESS.**—The term “homeless” has the meaning given such term in subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Act and the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition in section 103 of subtitle I of the McKinney-Vento Act.

(8) **CRISIS HOUSING.**—The term “crisis housing” means a supervised publicly or privately oper-
ated shelter designated to provide temporary living
arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for
by Federal, State, or local government programs for
low-income individuals or by charitable organiza-
tions, congregate shelters, and transitional housing).

(9) MEANS-TESTED BENEFIT.—The term
“means-tested benefit” means a mandatory spending
program of the Federal Government for which, as
determined by the Secretary, eligibility for the pro-
gram’s benefits, or the amount of such benefits, is
determined on the basis of income or resources of
the individual or family seeking the benefit.

(10) DEPENDENT.—The term “dependent” has
the meaning given such term in section 152 of the
Internal Revenue Code of 1986, except that the term
also includes an individual who is not a citizen or
national of the United States if such individual
would otherwise be considered a dependent pursuant
to such section if such individual were a citizen or
national of the United States.

(11) DISASTER DECLARATION.—The term “dis-
aster declaration” means the instance a Governor re-
quests a major disaster declaration under the Robert
T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).
TEMPORARY COMMUNITY NEED.—The term “temporary community need” means prepared meals during the time period under which a disaster declaration is provided. Such community need shall terminate 30 days after the termination of such declaration.

PANDEMIC.—The term “pandemic” means a communicable disease for which the Federal Government has issued a travel alert or travel warning.

SEC. 3. COMMUNITY MEALS FUND.

(a) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant to address temporary community needs under this section, a community-based nonprofit feeding and anti-hunger group shall submit to the Secretary an application that contains a description of how the applicant proposes to use the grant funds to implement the components of the temporary grant program listed in subsection (b). The application shall be submitted in such form, at such time, and containing such other information as the Secretary may require.

(b) COMMUNITY MEALS GRANT PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—An application for a grant under this section shall contain an assurance that the applicant will expand the capacity of community-based nonprofit feeding and anti-hunger groups and schools to meet the needs of chil-
dren, families, and vulnerable populations in a pandemic by—

(1) contracting with small and mid-sized business restaurants or small and mid-sized food contractors that are small business concerns as defined in section 3 of the Small business Act (15 U.S.C. 632) for—

(A) preparing, cooking, and storing grab-and-go meals;

(B) serving meals to vulnerable populations or make them available for pick up, or distributed in high poverty areas designated by state and local agencies;

(C) bolstering food security for children, dependents, families, and the elderly in rural and hard to reach communities;

(D) bolstering food security for dependents, target populations, and families in crisis housing; and

(E) improving the nutrition of vulnerable populations.

(c) CRITERIA.—In evaluating an application of a community-based nonprofit feeding and anti-hunger group to receive a grant, the Secretary shall consider criteria as the Secretary determines appropriate.
(d) **Grant Administration.—**

(1) **Amount.**—A grant awarded under this section may not exceed $500,000

(2) **Renewals.**—

(A) **In general.**—The Secretary may renew a grant awarded under this section with respect to an eligible entity if the entity—

(i) submits to the Secretary an application for renewal at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require; and

(ii) demonstrates in such application that—

(I) grant, contract, or cooperative agreement funds made available to the entity were used in a manner required under the most recently approved application of the entity under this section; and

(II) the entity has made progress in achieving the objectives of the initial application approved for the entity under this section.
(B) DURATION.—A grant shall be eligible for renewal so long as a disaster declaration is active on the date of the renewal application.

e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT, REQUIREMENT.—A grant, contract, or cooperative agreement made under this Act shall be expended to supplement, and not supplant, the expenditures of the eligible entity involved and the value of in-kind contributions.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $20,000,000 during the 1-year period beginning on May 1, 2020.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Funds authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit a community-based nonprofit feeding and anti-hunger group from receiving a grant under this Act for any vulnerable population otherwise served by such group with other Federal funds.

SEC. 6. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) GRANTEE REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the end of the fiscal year for which a grantee receives a grant under this Act, such grantee
shall submit to the Secretary a report that contains an
evaluation of the results of the activities, including finan-
cial expenditures, made during such fiscal year to carry
out the program for which such grant is received.

(b) **Annual Reports to Congress.**—Not later
than January 1 following the end of fiscal year for which
funds are appropriated are appropriated to carry out this
Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report de-
scribing the progress of the programs carried out with
grants made for such fiscal year.