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FY 2019 data are preliminary; all data are subject to revision.

1] Participation data are twelve-month averages.

2] Formerly known as the Needy Family Program. Program participation was limited to Indian reservations and to certain Pacific islands after nationwide conversion to the Food Stamp Program (completed by the end of FY 1975). Most Pacific island assistance was phased out as islands converted from U.S. territorial status to commonwealths.

3] Initiated operations in November 1968. W-I-C is the women, infants and children component, a food distribution alternative to the WIC program. Elderly participation was initiated on a pilot project basis in FY 1982.

4] Until re-titled by legislation in FY 2001, this program was called Nutrition Program for the Elderly. Meals are home delivered (meals on wheels) or served in congregate settings. It was initiated in FY 1975 but data on meals served were not collected prior to FY 1977. As of FY 2002, NSIP meal counts are collected by the Administration on Aging. As of FY 2003, NSIP is administered by AoA except for food distribution; most State/Indian agencies receive cash grants, but a small number elect to receive part of their grants as commodities. Data collection was transferred a year early because the FY 2001 legislation mandated that the proportion of total funds received by each grantee is based on its percentage of total meals served during the previous year.

5] The decline in FY 2006 participation is due primarily to reduced activity in New Orleans following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina; it also reflects a reduction in program caseload due to funding constraints. FY 2006 does not include supplemental disaster assistance provided to the gulf states beginning in July.