

# The Emergency Food System

Contextualizing Hunger in America

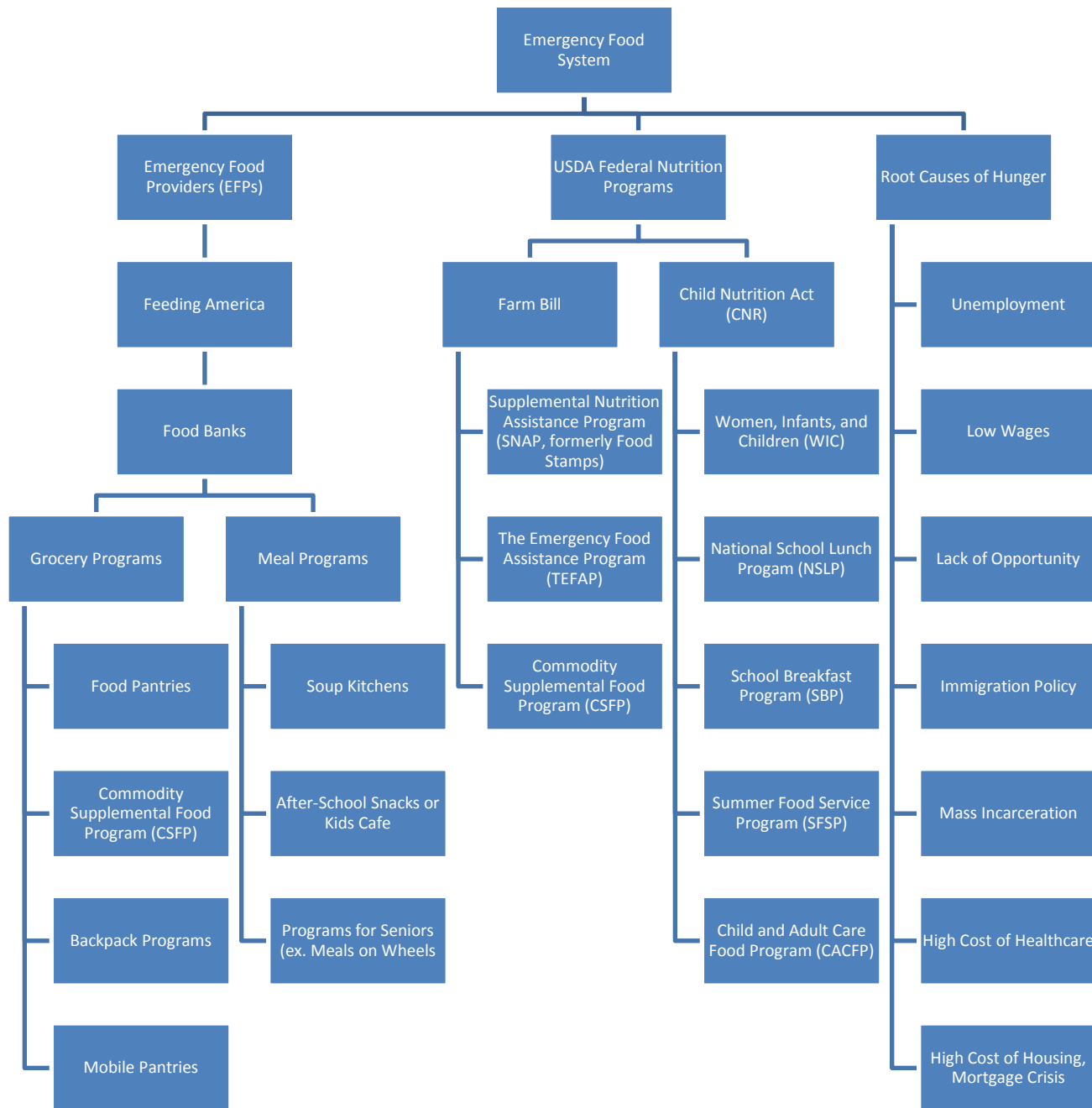
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# Food Systems

A food system includes all processes and infrastructure involved in feeding a population:

- growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, marketing, consumption, and disposal of food and food-related items
- inputs needed and outputs generated
- operates within and is influenced by social, political, economic and environmental contexts
- requires human resources that provide labor, research and education
- can be “conventional” or “alternative”



Emergency Food System

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graph TD; A[Emergency Food System] --- B[Emergency Food Providers (EFPs)]; A --- C[USDA Federal Nutrition Programs]; A --- D[Root Causes of Hunger];
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Emergency Food Providers (EFPs)

USDA Federal Nutrition Programs

Root Causes of Hunger

# Hunger by the Numbers

- 49 million individuals live in food-insecure households
- 14.3% of households are food insecure
- 16 million children live in food insecure households
- 8.5 million children are food insecure themselves
- 46.5 million individuals receive food from EFPs in the Feeding America Network

Emergency Food Providers (EFPs)

\$5 billion/year

Feeding America

3<sup>rd</sup> largest non-profit in America

Food Banks

200+ in Feeding America network

Grocery Programs

2/3 of EFPs

Meal Programs

1/3 of EFPs

1/2 employ paid staff  
1/2 volunteer-run

2 million volunteers/month  
8.4 million hours/month

62% from food bank  
22% purchased  
13% donated directly

15 programs  
total

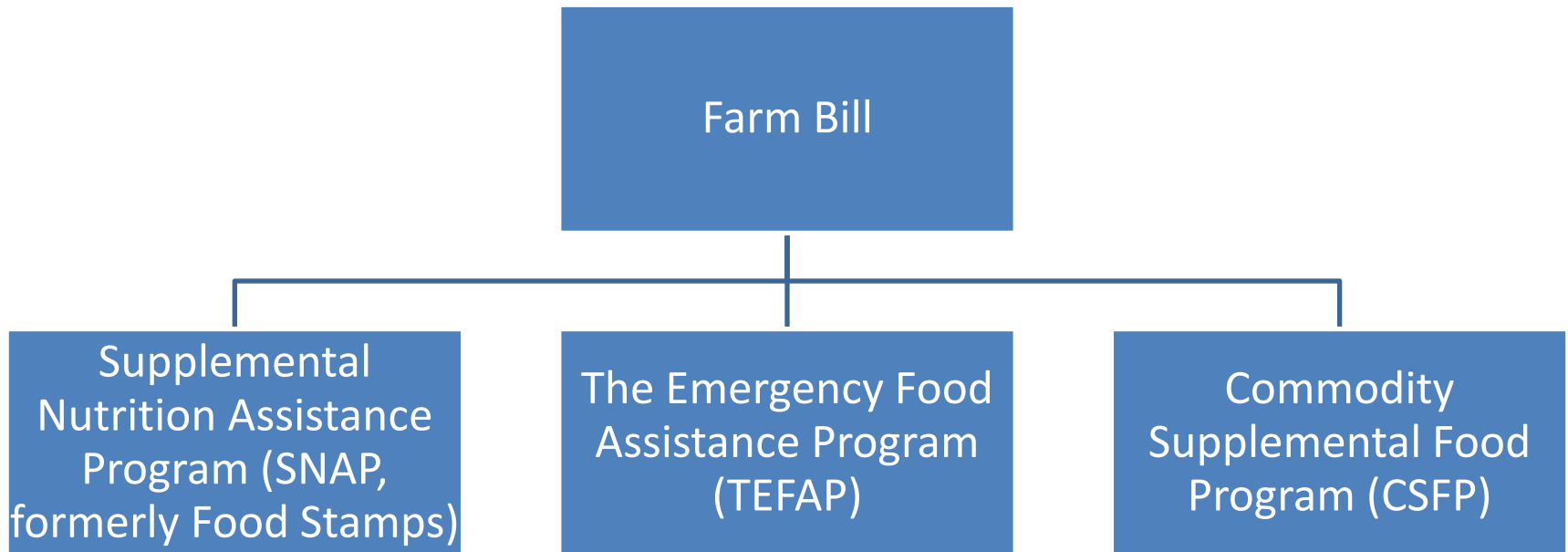
USDA Federal  
Nutrition  
Programs

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graph TD; A[USDA Federal Nutrition Programs] --- B[Farm Bill]; A --- C[Child Nutrition Act (CNR)];
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1/4 Americans  
participating at  
any given time

Farm Bill

Child Nutrition  
Act (CNR)



Largest federal  
nutrition program

47 million participants



Child Nutrition Act (CNR)

National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

School Breakfast Program (SBP)

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

2<sup>nd</sup> largest

3<sup>rd</sup> largest

4<sup>th</sup> largest

5<sup>th</sup> largest

8 million kids

100,000 schools

8.6 million participants

13.2 million kids

3.6 million participants

30.7 million kids

# Emergency Food System

Emergency Food Providers (EFPs)

USDA Federal Nutrition Programs



# Root Causes of Hunger

- Unemployment
- Low Wages
- Lack of Opportunity
- Immigration Policy
- Mass Incarceration
- Healthcare Costs
- Housing Costs