

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Washington D.C. --- U.S. Representative Nick J. Rahall, (D-4th) said today that the Federal Government should encourage and assist low income families in growing their own food.

"For the past three years the West Virginia State Economic Opportunity Office, in cooperation with West Virginia's fourteen community action agencies, have operated a Community Food and Nutrition Program for our low income citizens," Rahall said. "This program consists primarily of a gardening program providing seeds, plants, fertilizer and insecticide to establish home gardens."

Congressman Rahall pointed out that, "With normal living costs rising 44.8% in the last five years, some families have saved as much as \$800 dollars annually on food costs by growing their own." Rahall went on to say, "Gardening enables low income families to increase their supply of food for a modest monetary investment and a major investment of time."

The fiscal year 1977 Community Food and Nutrition Program guidelines issued by the Community Services Administration limit the flexibility of states to develop food and nutrition program responsive to the individual needs of each state.

Congressman Rahall, in a letter to the Community Service Administration in Washington stated that, "The interest of low-income families in West Virginia would be better served if 90% of the \$188,000 allocated the State would be spent on individual gardens instead of \$47,000 which is the present allocation." Rahall went on, "The net result of the present allocation of \$47,000 would so diffuse the nutrition program that it would be completely ineffective in meeting the nutritional needs of low income people."