

## March 10, 2021 Board Report

### Food & Nutrition Division

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#### Division Overview

- Community and School Nutrition
  - USDA released the new Child Nutrition Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program intended to provide financial relief to operators of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) that experienced lower revenues during the early stages of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
    - NDA submitted a state application for relief funds.
  - USDA Nationwide Waivers are set to expire June 30, 2021.
    - Regional offices have been collecting State Agency comments to present to the National office.
    - The Food and Nutrition Division (FND) is participating in a waiver impact survey with USDA vendor, Mathematica.
- Community Nutrition (CN)
  - USDA approved the NDA Monitoring Waiver Request. CN staff developed an integrity plan to ensure program compliance. The Western Region Office will be observing virtual town hall meetings and virtual program administrative reviews.
- Partnership activities
  - Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) and Nevada Department of Education (NDE)
    - USDA released a second round of Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) funds available for students in the 2020-2021 school year. Community and School Nutrition are working with DWSS and NDE to develop a plan to submit to USDA for approval to participate in this program. The plan is under the purview of DWSS.
    - The new plan will include children 6 years of age and younger receiving P-EBT benefits who are enrolled in childcare facilities.
  - DHSS and Children's Cabinet (private non-profit)
    - CN is collaborating with the Children's Cabinet to utilize the 5 CACFP fact sheets in a train-the-trainer event. This training will be conducted by Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) trainers and funded by DHHS. CN is also providing QRIS trainers with talking points to overcome misconceptions or barriers of getting started on the program. We anticipate this will improve childcare center and day care home provider awareness of the benefits of the program to increase program participation.

#### Program Updates

- Food Distribution Program
  - The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) clients continue to receive food. Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) and Three-Square Food Bank (TS) have both seen increased need since the pandemic began in March 2020 and

TEFAP foods have been a crucial resource. Participation numbers reflecting number of individuals served:

- July 1-31: FBNN 81,023 individuals; TS 220,231 individuals
- Aug 1-30: FBNN 72,908 individuals; TS 216,787 individuals
- Sept 1-31: FBNN 62,803 individuals; TS 200,551 individuals
- Oct 1-31: FBNN 67,057 individuals; TS 241,078 individuals
- Nov 1-30: FBNN 66,912 individuals; TS 252,457 individuals
- Dec 1-31: FBNN 49,033 individuals; TS 202,862 individuals
- State-wide: 12.7M pounds of food distributed to families in need from July 1 through December 31, 2020.

- CARES Act Grants: The NV CARES grants ended on December 30, 2020. The two grants complemented existing food assistance efforts and addressed the elevated need by providing over 3.4 million pounds of food to over 350,000 individuals\* over a six-month period.

*\*The total number of individuals reflects the number of clients that received food every month and may include repeated people.*

- NV CARES Community Food Response Grant: 14 community organizations received grants totaling \$3.25M to support home deliveries, expanded food access, and food distribution infrastructure. From July through December, the grantees purchased and distributed over 2.3 million pounds of food to 233,000 individuals and conducted home delivery of food to over 13,000 high-risk Nevadans. The grant also supported the purchase of over \$450,000 in food distribution infrastructure, including coolers, freezers, delivery trucks, and warehouse racking.
- NV CARES Food Security Initiative Grant: Nevada's two food banks, Food Bank of Northern Nevada and Three Square, each received grants to support expanded operations, home deliveries, and infrastructure needs totaling \$3.5M. From July through December, the two food banks purchased and distributed over 1.1 million pounds of food to 120,000 individuals and conducted 22,000 home deliveries of food to high-risk Nevadans. The grant also supported \$160,000 in food distribution infrastructure and provided for the expansion of the Food Bank of Northern Nevada's food storage capacity to meet elevated needs.

- School Nutrition (SN) Program

- Scheduled sponsor Administrative and Procurement Reviews for school year 2020-21 to be completed remotely via a desk audit and use of virtual technology such as videos and pictures in place of onsite observation due to COVID-19 restrictions.
  - 7 of the 21 reviews have been completed.
- USDA SN grants have been released for school year 2020-21:
  - Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) enables schools to serve more fresh produce and now allows products to be included in non-congregate

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- feeding/pick up service and service alongside a Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) operation.
  - NSLP Equipment Assistance grant allows NSLP program sponsors to apply to receive free (reimbursed) food service equipment up to \$20,000 per school site. SN awarded 15 School Food Authorities (SFA) a total of \$243,558 in funds for new equipment.
- School year (SY) 2020-21 approved program sponsors: 62
  - 41 NSLP SFA sponsors
  - 10 sponsors are now operating the SFSP
  - 29 sponsors are now operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO)
  - 2 sponsors have elected to continue operating NSLP/SBP
  - 11 Residential Child Care Institution (RCCI) sponsors
  - 10 Special Milk Program (SMP) sponsors (only 8 have been operational and serving in SY2020-21 due to COVID-19)
- Number of school meals served year-to-date:
  - Lunches = 939,750
  - Breakfasts = 616,319
  - Snacks = 73,159
  - Milks = 32,285
  - Fresh Fruit and Vegetable (FFVP) program: \$17,754.78 has been reimbursed YTD to school districts operating the program.
- Community Nutrition
  - Nutrition Program Systems (NPS), a new web-based system purchased through a USDA one-shot reallocation will be used by both CACFP and SFSP for applications and claims. The program additionally has a compliance module for administrative/compliance reviews and provides storage for documents and correspondence.
  - Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
    - Administrative Reviews: 3 have been conducted virtually thus far in federal FY21. 10 more are scheduled between now and the end of May 2021.
    - Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe is not participating in CACFP for FFY21 yet due to COVID-19.
    - CACFP Week is March 14-20, 2021. NDA provided a link to CACFP sponsors to share their CACFP stories to be recognized on the National CACFP Sponsors Association website and/or social media.
  - Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
    - Administrative Reviews: 5 have been conducted virtually since October 1.
    - The SFSP Annual Management Administration Plan (MAP) is being developed to incorporate system enhancements to assure program integrity, simplified applications, house all resources in one place, and improve the ability to upload accurate meal counts directly to the new NPS system. An increase in SFSP State Administrative Funding (SAF)

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enabled these enhancements to be funded. The MAP was submitted to USDA at the end of February.

- Annual required sponsor training will be held virtually via ZOOM.
- Program data July 1-January 21, 2021:
  - CACFP - 33 Sponsors; number of Meals served to date = 1,232,721
  - SFSP - 38 Sponsors, including 10 school food authorities that decided to continue serving meals to school age children and younger until the end of the school year; number of Meals served to date = 14,830,979