

September 9, 2020 Board Report

Food and Nutrition



Division Overview

- Community Nutrition and School Nutrition
 - USDA extended the following nationwide waivers through the 20-21 school year (June 30, 2021): parent pick-up, non-congregate meals, mealtimes, and meal pattern. The following nationwide waivers have been extended through September 30, 2021: on-site monitoring requirements for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).
 - Nevada submitted the following waiver requests to USDA:
 - Request for At-Risk Afterschool Programs to allow community organizations to serve a meal and snack at the end of the school day without requiring participation in an enrichment activity.
 - Request for schools/school districts to operate summer feeding programs during 100% distance learning through school year 20-21.
 - FND received \$55M in CARES Act funding for nutrition program sponsor/operator meal reimbursements only for CACFP, SFSP, and NSLP.
- Partnership activities
 - Community Nutrition (CN)
 - Collaboration with Nevada Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health
 - CN now has a member on the Early Childhood Obesity Steering Committee. One in three children in Nevada under the age of 5 are obese. A goal of the committee is to reduce childhood obesity in young children and increase the number of childcare centers and daycare homes operating CACFP. CN is also sharing information from the steering committee about what facilities and families can do to support healthy children.

Program Updates

- Food Distribution Program
 - The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) continues to provide household foods to families and individuals in need. Food distributions are being conducted using a drive-thru model to maximize social distancing and reduced physical contact, including waiving signature requirements during distributions. Both food banks have seen an increase in need since the pandemic began in March and TEFAP foods have been a crucial resource to meet that need. Participation numbers:
 - April 1-30: Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) 109,674 individuals; Three Square (TS) 269,714 individuals.
 - May 1-31: FBNN = 99,365 individuals; TS 322,586 individuals.
 - June 1-30: FBNN = 81,559 individuals; TS = 191,317 individuals.
 - State-wide, the program distributed 5.8M pounds of food to families in need from April 1 to June 30.

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- CARES Act Grants: NDA has awarded \$5.6M through two grants to address food insecurity in Nevada during the pandemic.
 - NV CARES Community Food Response Grant: 13 community organizations received grants totaling \$2.8M to support home deliveries, expand food access, and food distribution infrastructure.
 - NV CARES Food Security Initiative Grant: Nevada's two food banks, Food Bank of Northern Nevada and Three Square Food Bank, each received grants to support expanded operations, home deliveries, and infrastructure needs totaling \$2.8M.
- Community Nutrition
 - Summer Food Service Program (SFSP):
 - Completed nine Administrative Reviews (AR) this summer throughout the state using desk audits and Zoom to meet with sponsors, receive electronic record submissions, and pictures of meal services. ARs have been successful and well received by sponsors.
 - Nevada was the first state in the Western Region of USDA to utilize a virtual process to conduct off-site reviews as permitted through a national waiver. The process was shared with USDA-Western Region Office, NDA's school nutrition division and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to help them conduct off-site reviews.
 - The number of meals served increased by 652% from SFY 2019 to SFY 2020. This was a result of SFSP filling the void of meals to low income children who normally received free and reduced-price meals during the school year.
 - Data Comparison:
 - SY20 4,233,751 meals
 - SY19 496,892 meals
 - Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP):
 - Completed three ARs off-site in August utilizing MS Teams, electronic records submissions, and pictures of meal services. They have been successful and well received by sponsors. Seven have been moved to Federal FY 2021 because locations were either closed or not allowing people into facilities earlier in the spring due to COVID-19.
 - The number of meals served decreased from SFY 2020 to SFY 2019 by 18% due to closures. Most childcare centers and emergency shelters stayed open; the adult day care centers received meals delivered to their homes; some Head Start programs were able to receive meals through a meal pick-up program. The Afterschool Programs closed, but many started serving meals through SFSP.
 - Data Comparison:
 - SY 2019: 43 sponsors, 6,435,228 meals served
 - SY 2020: 42 sponsors, 5,232,377 meals served

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- Sponsors include childcare, family daycare homes, adult centers, head starts, shelters, and after school/outside hours care.
- School Nutrition:
 - Authorized 12 Seamless Summer Option feeding sites with four school sponsors, statewide, during the planned summer break.
 - Each site is operating as an “open” site meaning they can serve all children ages 1-18 in the community a breakfast and lunch for free.
 - Meals are served in a non-congregate, grab and go model from closed schools in impoverished areas.
 - Completed 14 of the 17 scheduled Administrative and Procurement Reviews. The remaining sponsor reviews have been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions and will be performed in School Year 2020-21.
 - The 2020-21 annual National School Lunch Program (NSLP) application was released for districts/charter schools to apply to participate in the NSLP and Special Milk Program.
 - 44 of the 62 sponsor applications of our current NSLP/SMP sponsors have been approved.
 - 6 new charter schools have submitted applications to participate in NSLP.
 - Number of school meals served year-to-date:
 - Lunches = 30,049,720
 - Breakfasts = 18,332,936
 - Snacks = 211,609
 - Milks = 148,803
 - Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program: \$1,379,799.90 has been reimbursed YTD to school districts operating the program.

Industry Impact

- Due to COVID-19 unanticipated statewide school closures, school meal program operators were serving only 20%-40% of their normal volume of meals served, and this has significantly reduced their federal school meal reimbursement revenue. State and local agencies are awaiting additional guidance on how school nutrition operators will be assisted under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding.