

# December 9, 2020 Board Report

## Food and Nutrition Division

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### Division Overview

- Pending matters of significance
  - Community Nutrition (CN) and School Nutrition (SN)
    - USDA released 12 nationwide waivers extending the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) through June 30, 2021. These flexibilities remove program regulations to help program operators streamline and simplify meal distribution, maximizing the availability of nutritious meals to more children via universal free meals for children 18 and younger and allowing sponsors to retroactively claim SSO or SFSP reimbursement from the beginning of school year.
    - Nevada submitted the following waiver request to USDA
      - Allows flexibility in program sponsor monitoring and completion of administrative/compliance reviews
- Partnership activities
  - Community Nutrition (CN)
    - Collaborated with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) to develop five Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) fact sheets to increase awareness of the benefits and requirements to participate in this program. SNAP-Ed provided funding for the project that was designed to reduce childhood obesity through nutritious meals served in licensed childcare centers and family day care homes. The fact sheets will be displayed on the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) and DPBH websites and shared with other State agencies, partners, and potential new sponsors to help increase participation and understanding of the program.
  - School Nutrition (SN)
    - Collaborated with (DHHS) Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) and the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) to complete the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) in Nevada for school year (SY) 2019-20. An estimated 334,000 students statewide who were eligible for free or reduced-price school meals during March-April-May school closures were automatically eligible and issued P-EBT benefits for the value of school meals missed during this period. Though the initial benefit issuance period expired September 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, USDA recently approved an extension of the issuance deadline.

### Program Updates

- Food Distribution Program (FDP)
  - 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 when possible to maximize social distancing and reduce physical contact. NDA has waived the signature requirement for

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- TEFAP clients to receive food through the program. Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) and Three Square Food Bank (TS) have both seen increased need since the pandemic began in March and TEFAP foods have been a crucial resource. Participation numbers:
- 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
  - State-wide, the program distributed 5.4M pounds of food to families in need from July 1 – Sept 31
- CARES Act Grants: NDA has awarded \$6.9M through two grants to address food insecurity in Nevada during the pandemic.
    - 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.
    - NV CARES Food Security Initiative Grant: Nevada’s two food banks, FBNN and TS, each received grants to support expanded operations, home deliveries, and infrastructure needs totaling \$3.5M.
  - Community Nutrition (CN)
    - FND received a one-shot funding allocation from USDA to purchase new, updated, off-the-shelf module for the online CACFP-SFSP sponsor application, claiming and meal reimbursement system to replace an antiquated, ineffective system. In July, NDA began working with Colyar Technology Solutions to move our community nutrition programs from the Child Nutrition Program system to a newer, more comprehensive system used by most state agencies across the nation. By the end of September, program operators were trained and began filing applications on the Nutrition Programs System (NPS). The new system also has a compliance module for administrative reviews and an accounting module where all funding sources can be easily tracked.
    - Summer Food Service Program (SFSP):
      - Seven School Food Authorities (SFAs) have chosen to operate SFSP.
      - Completed five virtual Administrative Reviews (AR) for sponsors new to SFSP using desk audits and Zoom to meet with sponsors, receive electronic record submissions, and pictures of meal service.
      - Number of meals served year-to-date
        - July 1 – October 30: 5,791,613
        - Over 500% more than the same time last year
    - Child and Adult Care Food Program:
      - Currently scheduled to conduct 17 virtual ARs in FFY 2021, including three moved from FFY 2020 due to COVID-19. Virtual reviews take approximately three times longer than a standard review.
      - Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California are closed until November 30 due to COVID-19.

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- Childcare centers are not at the capacity they were prior to COVID which is why fewer meals are being served. Many childcare centers have, however, added more school aged children who needed a place to complete distance learning while their parents were at work.
- Number of meals served year-to-date
  - July 1 – October 30: 462,568 meals served
  - Sponsors include childcare, family daycare homes, adult centers, head starts, shelters, and after school/outside hours care.
- School Nutrition (SN):
  - Scheduled Administrative and Procurement Reviews (AR, PR) for school year 20-21 are being 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.
  - USDA SN grants have been released for school year 20-21
    - Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) enables schools to serve more fresh produce and now allows service non-congregate/pick up service and service alongside a 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.
  - School year 20-21 approved program sponsors: 61
    - 41 NSLP School Food Authority (SFA) sponsors
      - 10 sponsors are now operating the SFSP for SY20-21
      - 29 sponsors are now operating the SSO for SY20-21
      - 2 sponsors have elected to continue operating NSLP/SBP
    - 10 Residential Child Care Institution (RCCI) sponsors
    - 10 Special Milk Program (SMP) sponsors (only 8 have been operational serving in SY20-21 due to COVID-19)
  - Number of school meals served year-to-date:
    - Lunches = 353,685
    - Breakfasts = 255,886
    - Snacks = 25,663
    - Milks = 17,164
  - Fresh Fruit and Vegetable (FFVP) program: \$11,091 has been reimbursed YTD to school districts operating the program.