
Division Overview

- Community Nutrition and School Nutrition
 - USDA Waivers: the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Food and Nutrition Division (FND) elected 13 nationwide waivers released on April 20, 2021 to provide additional flexibilities to School Food Authorities (SFAs) and program sponsors for School Year 21-22 and extend off-site monitoring for State Agencies and sponsors.
 - USDA Emergency Operational Costs (EOC) Reimbursements: This new reimbursement program provides financial relief to operators of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), who experienced lower revenues during the early stages of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Funds will replace lost meal reimbursement revenue during the months of March-June 2020 because facilities/schools had closed or were at reduced capacity. FND's plan was submitted to USDA for approval.
 - CACFP: A total of \$1,560,438.07 funds will be distributed in August 2021 to: Sponsors – 41, Day Care Home providers – 67, Unaffiliated Centers – 26
 - FND will receive an additional 1% of the funds to distribute and track how the sponsors use their reimbursements.
 - USDA School Meal Operations (SMO) Survey: USDA contracted with Mathematica to complete an SMO survey to gather feedback on USDA waivers issued due to the pandemic. All state agencies, per congressional requirement, are to provide details about each waiver including the number of NSLP, CACFP and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors that participated, how they used the waivers, and the impact the waivers had on the children and adult meal programs in their communities. FND submitted the survey on May 14.
- Partnership activities
 - FND is collaborating with the Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Public and Behavioral Health and the Children's Cabinet on promoting the CACFP program through a social media campaign. Fact sheets and promotional videos were developed to promote sponsorship/operation of CACFP and will be provided as links for the target audience to view.
 - Community Nutrition (CN) staff is developing a Tribal Cookbook funded through SFSP. It is intended to preserve Native foods and cooking processes and incorporate them into child nutrition programs. CN staff collaborated with FND Food Distribution, The Nevada Indian Commission, and the UNR Tribal Advisory. The recipe submission deadline was May 30.
 - USDA approved the DHHS-Department of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS), the NDA and Nevada Department of Education (NDE) Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) State Plan for SY2020-21 P-EBT benefits. DWSS is projecting that benefits will be issued to eligible participants in September.

Program Updates

- Community Nutrition
 - The Western Region Office (WRO) is virtually observing CACFP and SFSP activities, training, and administrative reviews (AR) to provide state agencies with best practices and a review of areas needing regulatory changes. WRO commended the team and found the AR process to be very informative and conducted very efficiently and effectively. It was helpful for WRO to hear the sponsor's feedback on pandemic-related challenges and the resulting changes they've made to their CACFP operations. The following is a list of the site observations completed:
 - Little Peoples Head Start of Nevada - CACFP AR
 - Food for Kids, Inc. day care homes and unaffiliated centers- CACFP AR
 - White Pine County School District - SFSP AR
 - Democracy Prep Charter School - SFSP AR
 - CACFP
 - Afterschool At-Risk sponsors are resuming meal service now that schools are back to in-person instruction.
 - Administrative Reviews: as of the end of the May, CN staff has completed thirteen virtual CACFP Administrative Reviews. The new Nutrition Program System (NPS) compliance module has been used to gather and submit documents to complete the reviews.
 - SFSP
 - FFY21 SFSP Management Administrative Plan (MAP) was approved. Due to the pandemic waivers issued by USDA and year-round operation of SFSP, FND received increased State Administrative Funding (SAF): \$573,814 vs. \$76,000 in previous years.
 - Administrative Reviews: Eight have been conducted virtually since October 1, 2020.
 - CN Program Data July 1, 2020- April 30, 2021
 - CACFP 36 sponsors and meals served to date: 2,239,668
 - SFSP 39 sponsors and meals served to date: 24,334,288.
- Food Distribution Program
 - The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) clients continue to receive food. The 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 proved to be a crucial resource. Average monthly participation has started to show signs of decreasing as economic indicators improve, but is still well above pre-pandemic levels:
 - 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

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- Nov 1-30: FBNN 66,912 individuals; TS 252,457 individuals
- Dec 1-31: FBNN 49,033 individuals; TS 202,862 individuals
- Jan 1-31: FBNN 60,875 individuals; TS 141,161 individuals
- Feb 1-28: FBNN 59,534 individuals; TS 228,611 individuals
- Mar 1-31: FBNN 65,974 individuals; TS 186,400 individuals
- State-wide: 17.3M pounds of food distributed to families in need from July 1 through March 31, 2021.
- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)
 - The NDA began distributing SFMNP coupon booklets in southern Nevada the week of May 17, 2021. A total of 2,400 booklets, totaling \$108,000 in purchasing power, will be made available to our local agency partners to distribute to low-income seniors in southern Nevada. Seniors may use the coupons to purchase un-processed fruits and vegetables and honey from SFMNP-certified farmers
- School Nutrition Program
 - Administrative and Procurement Reviews (AR, PR) for school year 20-21 are being completed remotely via desk audit and use of virtual technology in place of onsite observation due to COVID-19 restrictions.
 - 20 of the 21 reviews have been completed
 - USDA released the following School Nutrition (SN) grants for school year 21-22:
 - Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) enables schools to serve more fresh produce. The NDA FY21-22 FFVP application was released by the NDA with the federal award pending.
 - NSLP Equipment Assistance grant allows NSLP program sponsors to apply to receive free (reimbursed) food service equipment up to \$20,000 per school site.
 - FY20-22: The SN Team awarded 15 School Food Authorities a total of \$303,187 in funds for new equipment through August 2022
 - FY21-23: The state award amount will be released this summer.
 - School year 20-21 approved program sponsors: 62
 - 48 NSLP School Food Authority (SFA) sponsors
 - 11 sponsors are now operating the SFSP for SY20-21
 - 28 sponsors are now operating the SSO for SY20-21
 - 2 sponsors have elected to continue operating NSLP/SBP
 - 11 Residential Child Care Institution (RCCI) sponsors
 - 10 SMP sponsors
 - NSLP/ Seamless Summer Option Meals Served:
 - Lunches = 939,750
 - Breakfasts = 616,319
 - Snacks = 73,159
 - Milks = 32,285
 - FFVP program: \$113,602.65 has been reimbursed YTD to school districts operating the FY2020-21 program.