



Child Nutrition Programs: COVID-19 Updates

September 3, 2020



Supporting Schools and Students to Achieve

SHERRI YBARRA, ED.S., SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Agenda



- P-EBT
- Idaho Rebounds
- USDA Announcement
- CACFP
- SFSP Reminders
- SFSP/SSO Waivers
- Sponsor Questions
- Q&A
- Next CNP Webinar – September 17



P-EBT



- The first phase of letters has gone out to the families.
- USDA unveiled an extension P-EBT program through the month of September 30, 2020.
- The revised plan should be going to USDA today and once approved, those families that are eligible will receive information on this extended process through September this year.



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

Pandemic Electronic Benefit

P-EBT

GET HELP BUYING GROCERIES FOR IDAHO KIDS



Idaho Rebounds



- To be eligible for this money your school district must meet all three of the below criteria:
 1. The expenditure is necessary and was incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
 2. The expenditure is not accounted for in the LEA's budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act).
 3. ***NOTE NEW EXPANDED TIME FRAME.*** The time frame for unbudgeted expenditures has been changed from April 1, 2020 – May 31, 2020 to **March 16, 2020 thru the last day your school was originally scheduled to be opened Pre-COVID-19.**
- Idaho State Department of Education Child Nutrition and Accounting divisions hosted a statewide training on August 19th. This training was recorded and can be found at: <https://youtu.be/K1djM28bSxM>
- Please note when listening to the recorded training, that the time frame for unbudgeted expenditures has been expanded. See #3 above.



USDA Announcements



U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will extend several flexibilities through as late as December 31, 2020, *contingent upon the continued availability of the funds that Congress had allocated for summer feeding through last June.*

- Here is the link to the USDA Facebook page that has the recorded press conference with Sonny Perdue: www.facebook.com/USDA
- This link will take you to the full press release: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/08/31/usda-extends-free-meals-kids-through-december-31-2020>



At Risk Afterschool Program



SFSP Reminders



- Eligible sponsors
- Eligible participants
- Meal Pattern requirements
- SFSP packet approval
- Required monitoring



SFSP/SSO Waivers



9 Waivers were issued:

- Allow SFSP and SSO Operations through December 2020
- Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites in the SFSP & SSO
- Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions in SFSP & SSO
- Extend Area Eligibility
- Meal Pattern Flexibility in SFSP & SSO
- Allow Non-Congregate Feeding in SFSP & SSO
- Parent/Guardian Pick-up in SFSP/SSO
- Waive First Week Site Visits in SFSP
- Allow OVS in SFSP

Fall 2020 SFSP/SSO COVID-19 Waivers

- #56 Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Operations through December 2020**
This waiver allows the SFSP and the SSO to continue to operate through December 31, 2020, or until funding runs out, whichever comes first.
- #48 Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites in the SFSP & SSO**
Waives the requirement of collecting income applications for closed enrolled sites when eligibility can be determined through other means.
- #50 Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions in the SFSP & SSO**
Waives the requirements that place Federal limits on the amount of time that must elapse between the beginning of one meal and the beginning of the next, and the duration of a meal service. This also waives requirements that set meal time parameters for SSO.
- #52 Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers**
Extends the ability for States to continue operating open sites in areas that are not located in "areas in which poor economic conditions exist."
- #53 Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the SFSP & SSO**
Waives the requirements at 7 CFR 210.10(b) and (c), 220.8(b) and (c), and 7 CFR 225.16(d) to serve meals that meet the meal pattern. This waiver also waives the requirement at 7 CFR 210.10(d)(1) and 220.8(d) that schools must offer students a variety (at least two different options) of fluid milk. All other fluid milk requirements remain in effect.
- #91 Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the SFSP & SSO**
Waives the requirements at 42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(1)(A), 42 U.S.C. 1761(a)(1)(D) and 7 CFR 225.6(e)(15) to serve meals through the SFSP and SSO in a congregate setting.
- #55 Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children**
Waives the requirements at 42 U.S.C. 1761(f)(3), 7 CFR 210.10(a), 7 CFR 225.2 (defining meals), and 7 CFR 225.9(d)(7) that meals may only be served directly to children.
- #19 Nationwide Waiver to Waive First Week Site Visits in the SFSP**
Waives the requirement of at least one visit to each SFSP site during the first week of operation for those sponsors in good standing who operated SFSP successfully during summer 2019.
NOTE: This flexibility does not apply to new SFSP sites.
- #51 Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities in the SFSP**
Waives those requirements at 42 U.S.C. 1761(f)(7) and 7 CFR 225.16(f)(1)(ii), which limit the use of OVS to SFAs and require sponsors to apply OVS under the rules followed for the NSLP. To implement OVS under this waiver during the current pandemic, sponsors must be able to follow the SFSP OVS meal service requirements. Serving sizes for all food items must adhere to the SFSP meal pattern at 7 CFR 225.16(d).

OPV-in FORM

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Sponsor Question Submissions



Will schools that do not normally operate Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO) but were allowed to operate SSO for the last few months of the school year last year be eligible for this program?

- Yes. If the sponsor operated under SFSP in the last two years, the sponsor is eligible to run SFSP. If the sponsor has not operated under SFSP in the last two years, the sponsor is eligible to run SSO. Sponsors are not required to switch to SFSP/SSO and may serve meals under NSLP.



Does the COVID-19 SFSP/SSO Area Eligible Waiver allow us to serve meals in schools that have not typically served SFSP meals in the past?

- Yes. Sponsors may serve meals from sites that have not previously operated in the past.



Will meals be able to be claimed retroactively from the beginning of the school year?

- Meals can be claimed under SFSP/SSO back to September 1, 2020 if the sponsor has approval to operate under SFSP/SSO.



Do we mark the kids on the SFSP tally sheets or in the POS system we use?

- Each SFA has to come up with an integrity plan to ensure each child does not receive duplicate meals.



Is this for Brick and mortar or for all students 1-18?

- If the sponsor operates under SFSP/SSO, meals must be available to all children ages 1-18 regardless of school enrollment.



If we are running NSLP, is it free for all students?

- No. Sponsors choosing to operate under NSLP may only serve meals to enrolled students and charge by student eligibility.



If we are already signed up under NSLP and in person school has started, do we qualify for the waiver extension?

- Yes. Sponsors are able to switch from NSLP to SFSP or SSO starting September 1, 2020. Sponsors must update their site application in MyIdahoCNP as well as opt-in to the Nationwide waivers by using the [Fall 2020 SFSP & SSO Waiver Opt-in Form](#).



What about a waiver to push back, until next year, those who are up for provision 2 base year this year and planned to collect daily names and data of students?

- If you are operating under SFSP/SSO, all children will receive free meals and cannot be counted in your base year.



What if you're up for a review this year?

- Administrative Reviews (AR) have not been set at this time. Do what is best for your children in your community and we will provide AR guidance in the future.



If we are in school and operating under NSLP are we supposed to switch and start operating under SFSP and offer free meals to everyone or is this just for those who are not in school as normal?

- Sponsors are not required to change programs. Sponsors are able to switch from NSLP to SFSP or SSO starting September 1, 2020. Sponsors must update their site application in MyIdahoCNP as well as opt-in to the Nationwide waivers by using the [Fall 2020 SFSP & SSO Waiver Opt-in Form](#).



If we are in school as normal and switch to SFSP to offer free meals to all students, do we also have to provide free meals for children ages 1-4 who are not attending school like we do in the summer?

- Yes. If the sponsor operates under SFSP/SSO, meals must be available to all children ages 1-18 regardless of school enrollment.



Can we operate under NSLP for students that are in school and do SFSP for our virtual learning students or do we have to operate under one or the other?

- At this time, sponsors may only operate under one program, however, the State agency is waiting on additional guidance from USDA.



What is the application process for changing from NSLP to SFSP/SSO if we have already started school?

- Sponsors must update their site application in MyIdahoCNP as well as opt-in to the Nationwide waivers by using the [Fall 2020 SFSP & SSO Waiver Opt-in Form](#).



If we return to home delivery (if that is an option) for students that are doing virtual learning could we include Saturday and Sunday meals, delivered weekly?

- Yes, weekend meals are allowable under SFSP & SSO however additional integrity plans will be required when implementing the waiver. Additional information will be released soon. You may not serve weekend meals before having State agency approval.



How will we be submitting claims? Through SSO or NSLP?

- It depends on which program the sponsor is approved to operate under.



What happens in January when parents are upset that lunch isn't free anymore? Do we just revert everyone back to what they are now? Will we have to re-do applications?

- Currently, USDA states the SFSP/SSO programs will continue until funding runs out or December 31, 2020, whichever comes first. USDA will notify State agencies when SFSP/SSO operations are to cease. Sponsors must choose which program they would like to operate (SFSP/SSO/NSLP).



Can special milk students have lunch and not do the special milk program?

- Students participating in any meal program are ineligible to participate in the special milk program.



Can unitized breakfast and lunch be sent home with siblings?

- The State agency needs further clarification.



Will we need to take the required training to be able to participate in SFSP or SSO?

- SFSP sponsors should have already completed their annual training earlier in the year. SSO sponsors do not need to complete additional training and should have completed their NSLP training prior to the start of SY20-21.



Do we collect racial and ethnic data for new SFSP sites?

- Yes. These requirements are still in place.



Do we still collect F&R applications?

- Yes, if the sponsor decides to operate under the NSLP.



What happens to verification?

- The State agency is waiting on additional guidance from USDA.



If we are operating under SFSP does that mean we are using that meal pattern?

- Yes. Sponsors must use the meal pattern associated with the program they choose to operate under.



Would we need to re-apply for the SSO waiver since we have not done SFSP in the past?

- If the sponsor has not operated under SFSP in the last two years, the sponsor is eligible to run SSO. Sponsors are not required to switch to SFSP/SSO and may serve meals under NSLP. To re-apply, sponsors must update their site application in MyIdahoCNP as well as opt-in to the Nationwide waivers by using the [Fall 2020 SFSP & SSO Waiver Opt-in Form](#).



If our school does not operate the SSO or SFSP can we still use the waiver for our students?

- Child Nutrition Responses #48-56 are only available to sponsors choosing to operate under SFSP/SSO. However, sponsors choosing to operate under the NSLP may continue to utilize waivers issued by USDA on June 25, 2020.



How quickly can we start offering free meals?

- Sponsors are able to switch from NSLP to SFSP or SSO starting September 1, 2020. Sponsors must update their site application in MyIdahoCNP as well as opt-in to the Nationwide waivers by using the [Fall 2020 SFSP & SSO Waiver Opt-in Form](#).



Prior to the end of carryover, I usually send letters to families that their eligibility status will expire and turn in a new free and reduced lunch application. How should I proceed with the end of carryover? If everyone is free, it is going to be hard to have patrons fill out an application.

- Guidance regarding 30-day carryover has not changed at this time.



Can we use a hand counter to count the students?

- It depends. Using a hand counter would be allowable under SFSP/SSO. Meals should be counted by student name and eligibility in the NSLP.



Will there be an area eligibility waiver?

- Yes. Please refer to *COVID–19: Child Nutrition Response #52 - Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers Extension 2.*



What about other programs/grants? (CACFP, FFVP)

- The State agency is waiting on additional guidance from USDA.



Our school is opening up on September 8th. My meal plans are ALL NSLP. How is this going to affect my school?

- Sponsors are not required to switch to SFSP/SSO and may serve meals under NSLP.



If I get an application for a family that was free last year but does not qualify this year, but they got a P-EBT notice, what do I do? What happens to the P-EBT program with all of this new information?

- P-EBT is issued based on the eligibility information from March 23, 2020. If the family qualified for free meals last year, they would be eligible for a P-EBT card. No further steps are needed. These waivers will not impact P-EBT.



Do I need to advertise that WE are part of the SSO or SFSP for the other children that live near our school that may be staying home due to the COVID-19 Pandemic?

- Yes. Each sponsor must annually announce in the media servicing the area the availability of free meals
7 CFR 225.15(e)



Please enter any questions you may have at this time.

Contact Us



Dr. Colleen Asumendi Fillmore
Director
(208) 332-6823

Jamie Gibson
Administrative Assistant
(208) 332-6821

Kathrine Forstie
Financial Specialist
(208) 332-6834

Melissa Cook
Financial Specialist, Sr.
(208) 332-6830

Brian Elwood
USDA Foods Program Specialist
(208) 332-6831

Shawn Charters
Contracts & Grants Program Specialist
(208) 332-6822

Kim Sherman
CACFP Coordinator
(208) 332-6935

Domonique Ayarra-Sykes
CACFP & SFSP Coordinator
(208) 332-6819

Mary Ann Liby
SFSP & CACFP Coordinator
(208) 332-6828

Lynda Westphal
NSLP Coordinator
(208) 332-6825

Heather Blume
NSLP & Art Grant Coordinator
(208) 332-6902

Jennifer Butler
NSLP & FFVP Coordinator
(208) 332-6929



Teresa Goodsell
NSLP & USDA Foods Coordinator
(208) 332-6805

Jessica Spoja
NSLP Coordinator
(208) 332-6829

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