

# SY 21-22 SFSP-SSO

Q&A



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## SFSP/SSO Summer Feeding

- 1. When do sponsors need to update SSO or NSLP application packets in MyIdahoCNP for SY21-22?**

The renewal process for SY21-22 is scheduled to open on June 7, 2021.

- 2. If a school district will not be operating SSO for summer 2021, and has already filled out the survey stating no operations will occur, is there anything else to complete at this time? Will training for SSO operations for SY21-22 be required?**

The *2021 Seamless Summer Option (SSO)* training is only required for those SFAs who are choosing to operate SSO during summer 2021. If a sponsor is not operating during the summer months and has already completed the Summer 2021 SFSP/SSO Waiver Extension Form indicating no plans to operate, then no additional steps are needed at this time. Instructions for completing the renewal process and training requirements for SY21-22 are under development and will be shared in June. Please watch for emails announcing the required SY21-22 training.

- 3. Is the new SSO training in the CNP Training Portal for those operating a 2021 summer program or for SY21-22 operations?**

The *2021 Seamless Summer Option (SSO)* in the CNP Training Portal is for summer 2021 operations only. Additional training that addresses operating SSO during SY21-22 is forthcoming. Please watch for emails announcing the required SY21-22 training.

- 4. What is the deadline to submit the SFSP renewal packet in MyIdahoCNP?**

The deadline for SFSP packet submission was April 30, 2021, however if a sponsor plans to operate SFSP for summer 2021, please complete and submit the packet promptly to ensure timely approval.

- 5. What is the deadline to submit the SSO renewal packet in MyIdahoCNP?**

The deadline for SSO packet submission is May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

- 6. Has USDA issued the reimbursement rate for SFSP for SY21-22?**

The State agency is waiting for further guidance from USDA on which SFSP rate will be applied for those operating SSO during SY21-22.

- 7. How do sponsors opt-in to the new SFSP waivers for summer 2021?**

The link to opt-in to SFSP waiver flexibilities for summer 2021 was on the handout provided on the webinar. For convenience the link is provided here [2021 Summer Operations Waiver Opt-in Form](#)

- 8. Should we update our 2020-2021 SSO Application Packet now?**

Yes, you may update the 2020-2021 Application Packet now.

## Operating SSO in SY21-22

- 9. If a sponsor did not operate SSO prior to SY21-22, are they able to transition to SSO under the newly released waivers? If so, does that mean that meals are served as free and reduced meals?**

All approved sponsors can choose to operate under SSO regardless of program operations during SY20-21 (i.e., NSLP/SFSP). A sponsor who opts to participate in SSO will provide free meals for all students. Only if a sponsor chooses to operate under NSLP/SBP will they be required to charge students based on individual eligibility (free, reduced, or paid).

- 10. Will funding for SSO for SY21-22 be available for the entire school year?**

Yes. USDA has provided clarification that meals served through SSO for SY21-22 will be eligible for the SFSP free reimbursement rate for the entire school year.

**11. If a school is not area eligible, can sponsors operate SSO for SY21-22?**

Yes. Sponsors can participate in SSO for SY21-22 using Nationwide Waiver #85, which provides flexibility to all school food authorities in States that opt to participate under this waiver, and may be used at any school, regardless of its location or the type of SSO site it is operating.

**12. Will the SFSP reimbursement rate SSO operators receive in SY21-22 change?**

The current SFSP rate of \$4.3175 is in effect until December 31, 2021. This rate will be updated by USDA beginning January of 2022.

**13. Do I need to submit two packets, one for August and one for the remainder of the year when starting SSO operations for school year 21-22?**

Yes. Any SFA that elects to operate SSO during SY21-22 will need to update both the 2020-2021 SSO Site Applications and enroll in the 2021-2022 Application Packet and update the SSO Site Applications to operate under SSO.

**14. Will schools operating SSO still be serving the public from 1 through 18 years of age?**

USDA has provided verbal guidance that SSO operators for SY21-22 can be "Closed enrolled" sites, meaning you may serve enrolled students only.

**15. When are SY21-22 applications due?**

Application due dates vary depending on program operations and start date, please reference *Due Date for Renewal in SY21-22*, which can be found in Download Forms in MyIdahoCNP.

**16. Is the non-congregate waiver required for classroom delivery or grab-n-go carts outside the school?**

**What about high schoolers leaving campus with their meals from a grab-n-go cart?**

For school districts operating SSO for SY21-22, it's important to note that SSO is a summer program being implemented during a school year, the summer program regulations require congregate feeding. Therefore, school districts must opt-in for the non-congregate feeding waiver if the site staff are not able to supervise the consumption of the meals. This may include students leaving the cafeteria to eat meals at other locations within the school or off campus.

**17. Does a SFA need prior SA approval before announcing to families that all students eat free during SY21-22 if currently operating SSO?**

The State agency needs to be notified that an SFA will be operating under the USDA Nationwide Waivers by completing the waiver opt-in form. Advertising to the community that all students will eat free must occur prior to the new school year (after July 1, 2021). The link to the SY21-22 School Meals Waiver Opt-In Form is: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/IdahoSDE/SY2122SchoolMealsWaiverOptInForm>

## NSLP

**18. Will the sites that would have been reviewed under NSLP, and were reviewed in 2021, still be reviewed in the 2022 school year?**

We are awaiting further guidance from USDA on requirements for reviews.

**19. If a sponsor operates NSLP, rather than SSO for SY21-22, will all students receive free meals?**

No. A sponsor who chooses to operate NSLP will be required to collect applications and claim the meals served under each student's eligibility as determined (free, reduced and paid). However, if a sponsor chooses to operate SSO, then all meals are free. Please reference the *SY21-22 Nationwide Waivers* handout to identify the difference.

## Parent / Guardian Pick Up

- 20. Does the State agency have suggestions for ensuring integrity when parents are allowed to pick up meals for offsite students, since collecting names of parents/children is typically not allowed during summer operations?**

USDA defined several integrity options to ensure meals picked up by parents/guardians go to eligible children and that duplicate meals are not provided. Options include: scanning children's meal cards, asking for children's personal identification numbers used for meal service, requesting children's names, ages or dates of birth, or grade levels when meals were picked up, requesting children's school names or a copy of school correspondence when meals were picked up, requesting the number of children for which the parent/guardian was picking up meals, providing parents/guardians with rear view mirror hangers, placards, or QR codes, posting signage to indicate who is eligible to pick up and receive meals, and any other method to ensuring meals are distributed only to parent/guardians of eligible children.

- 21. How do I submit a request for extension for Provision 2 which is due by May 15, 2021?**  
Please upload the extension request in the SY20-21 application packet in MyIdahoCNP.

## Free and Reduced Applications and Verification

- 22. Will sponsors need to collect free/reduced lunch applications and complete verification next year?**

If a sponsor chooses to operate SSO for SY21-22, applications will not be required. However, if a household submits a free/reduced application, the sponsor must determine student(s) eligibility for the application(s) and will be required to complete verification and the verification report. USDA has not yet provided additional guidance for the SY21-22 verification process.

- 23. If a sponsor operates under NSLP for SY21-22, will student meals be entered into the point of service based on free/reduced/paid eligibility status or will a sponsor be able to tally mark students receiving meals?**

If a sponsor chooses to operate under NSLP, all students will need to be counted and claimed at their eligibility status based on free/reduced applications. If an SFA elects to operate SSO, students can be counted using a tally mark and the meals served are claimed as free and reimbursed under the SFSP reimbursement rate, based on USDA Nationwide waiver (#86) due to COVID. The SFSP rate is higher than NSLP/SSO reimbursement rates.

- 24. Do sponsors need to ask for free and reduced applications from households with enrolled students?**

Sponsors who choose to operate under NSLP for SY21-22 will need to request applications. If a sponsor chooses to operate SSO, all students will receive free meals, however a school district may find it beneficial to accept free/reduced applications if P-EBT benefits are extended to eligible schools.

- 25. How will sponsors complete the verification process if free/reduced applications are not submitted by households for SY21-22?**

If a sponsor receives any F/R applications, the determination process must be followed and those applications will be used to complete the verification process and the subsequent verification report. The State agency expects USDA will provide further

guidance for SY21-22 verification requirements.

**26. Can sponsors announce free/reduced applications are not being accepting for SY21-22 since students will already be receiving meals at no charge if operating under SSO?**

Sponsors who are operating SSO, will want to provide public notification that students are eligible to receive free meals for SY21-22. However, districts may find it beneficial to receive applications if the P-EBT benefits are extended to eligible schools. Once an application is received, the determination process should be completed since the application will be included in the verification reporting process.

**27. Are F&R applications the only way a district can determine Title program funding?**

USDA and the US DOE has provided guidance on Title program funding. USDA income applications should only be collected from families for the benefit of USDA meal programs.

## Meal Pattern

**28. What is the difference in meal pattern for SSO/NSLP/SFSP?**

The SSO meal pattern follows the NSLP and SBP meal patterns, however SFSP is a different meal pattern.

**29. Can school districts utilize grab-n-go (unitized) meals for quick serve for next school year?**

Yes. Grab-n-go meals may be provided under SSO using the NSLP meal pattern. When using OVS ensure all components are available to students in the full portion size to meet daily and weekly minimum requirements. The district must have a plan in place to ensure duplicate meals are not provided to any student.

**30. Is there a waiver for serving products that are not whole grain rich?**

*Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific School Meal Pattern Flexibility for School Year 2021-2022 (#90)* allows for whole grain rich flexibility. Sponsors needing meal pattern flexibility must submit a waiver opt-in form for State agency review and approval.

## Offer Versus Serve

**31. When serving meals in NSLP, for OVS for 6th - 12th is it possible to prepack items that make up the reimbursable meals including a 1/2 cup vegetable and 1/2 cup fruit and OVS the milk and additional vegetable and fruits required in the meal pattern?**

Under NSLP, age grades 6-8 must be offered 1/2 cup fruit & 3/4 cups vegetable while 9-12 grades must be offered 1 cup fruit & 1 cup vegetable to meet meal pattern requirements. If prepackaging meals under OVS, a reimbursable meal of at least 1/2 cup fruit or vegetable, plus two other full components may be prebagged with additional offerings on the side for selection to meet the meal pattern for each age-grade group. OVS is mandatory for high school under NSLP, but optional for other grades. Nationwide Waiver #92 removes the requirement that OVS is mandatory for HS. Meals can be prepackaged with the complete meal pattern, regardless of age-grade group. If the flexibility to serve combined age-grade groups is needed, then you may apply for Nationwide Waiver #90 and be approved on a case by case basis. SSO also has flexibility to simplify meal service and allow meals to combine age-grade groups when operating an open site.

## After School Snack Program

**32. If operating the After School Snack Program, where would packet updates be made?**

The Afterschool Snack Programs allows an SFA to serve a snack through the National School Lunch Program. Operational information for an ASSP is collected in the School Nutrition Site Applications, which list the months of operation as July – June.

**33. If an SFA has not operated the After School Snack Program in the past can SFA's operate the program for SY21-22?**

Yes, After School Snack Program has a specific meal pattern that must be followed. Training for the program can be found here <https://cnp.idiglearning.net/Catalog/Resource/3267>

## USDA Foods

**34. How will USDA Foods “cash in lieu” be handled for SY21-22?**

The State agency has not received any information on USDA Foods “cash-in-lieu” process for SY21-22.

**35. If a sponsor chooses to operate SSO for SY21-22, how will that affect USDA foods entitlement for SY22-23?**

USDA Foods entitlement values are determined based on lunch meal counts served under NSLP. SSO is an extension of the NSLP program therefore USDA Foods entitlement values will be calculated based on lunch meal counts served under SSO.

## General Questions

**36. When will the SSO application open?**

SSO Site Applications for the months of July-September are available now in the current Application Packet. The months of October – June 2022 will be available once the 2021-2022 Application Packet becomes available on June 7, 2021.

**37. If a SFA does not initially opt-in to a waiver, should the SFA opt-in when needed?**

Yes, in order to operate under any waiver flexibilities an SFA must enter a new submission by completing the waiver opt-in form again.

**38. When will the required annual mandatory training be available?**

The State agency is hoping to have the *2021 Navigating School Nutrition Programs Training* available online by mid-June.

**39. Where can we view previously recorded CNP webinars?**

The webinar will be available on the CNP YouTube channel as a recording no more than ten days after the webinar. Webinars are located on the SDE YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/SDEIdaho/videos>

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