Planning for Summer: Operating Without Waivers

March 30, 2022
HOUSEKEEPING
Today’s Agenda

Welcome and introductions
- Carolyn Vega, Associate Director, Policy Analysis, Center for Best Practices
- Donna Martin, Director of School Nutrition at Burke County Public School District (GA)
- Melissa Weissler, Senior Manager of Child and Community Nutrition at Operation Food Search (MO)

Summer Meals – Regulatory Update
Planning for Summer – Operation Strategies

Audience Q&A

Additional Resources
No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength. We are committed to ending childhood hunger in the United States by helping launch and improve programs that give kids the food they need to thrive.
No Kid Hungry’s Center for Best Practices provides information, tools, and resources designed to end childhood hunger.

bestpractices.nokidhungry.org
THANK YOU!
USDA Nationwide Waivers

- Support safe access to meals in & out of school
- Help address supply chain disruptions
- Streamline operations
USDA Nationwide Waivers

• Available with authority given to USDA by Congress
  • First given March 2020
  • Renewed several times since
  • Expires June 30, 2022
• Authority allows measures that increase overall costs to the government
How a Bill Becomes Law: Legislative Vehicles

• COVID relief legislation
• Child Nutrition Reauthorization
• Budget Reconciliation
  • E.g. American Families Plan or Build Back Better
• Annual Appropriations
  • E.g. Continuing Resolutions or Omnibus Appropriations Bills
What happened with waiver authority?

- Last renewed end of Sept. 2021
- Not in mid-February short-term continuing resolution
- Not in mid-March omnibus appropriations bill
What now?

- Ongoing Congressional advocacy
- Limited hope for authority to help this summer
- Working with USDA on possible flexibilities and guidance
Waiver Status

• Waivers expire June 30, 2022 (regardless of school calendar)
  • School Meal Programs & CACFP on-site monitoring waivers expire 30 days after the end of the public health emergency
  • Waiver to allow SSO operations during SY21-22 ends with the school year
• Remember:
  • No SFSP waivers currently available except for unanticipated school closures during this school year
  • CACFP At-Risk Afterschool & NSLP Snacks end with school year
• States may request CEP deadline extensions
Donna Martin
Director of School Nutrition,
Burke County Public School District, Georgia
Summer Feeding
How to plan???

Donna S. Martin, EdS, RDN, LD, SNS, FAND
Director School Nutrition Program
Burke County Board of Education
Waynesboro, GA
Waivers until June 30??

- Area Eligibility
- Parent Pickup
- Time waiver/Multiple meals
- Menu pattern
Decisions
SSO or SFSP

SSO
• Must do vegetable sub groups
• Requires 2 grains at lunch
• Require 1 cup of fruit instead of $\frac{1}{2}$ cup for SFSP at Breakfast

SFSP
• Higher reimbursement
• 1 grain at lunch
• More auditing
Self Prep or Vend Meals or be a Vendor

Self-Prep or Sponsor
- Must have own kitchen
- Higher reimbursement rate

Vend meals from School or Hospital

Vend for a local organization who is an approved sponsor
Mobile or On-site

**Mobile**

- Price of Gas
- Does mobile increase participation enough to cover gas cost?
- How many locations can you plan to feed at?
- How long do you have to stay at each site?
- Do you know where the children live?

**On-Site**

Get Permissions!

- Summer School
- Playgrounds
- Parks
- Recreation Centers
- Churches
- Migrant Centers
- Housing Projects
- Summer Camps
Area Eligibility | Food and Nutrition Service (usda.gov)

- Determining sites
- Request form

https://www.fns.usda.gov/area-eligibility
Menus

- Hot, Cold or combination?
- Commodities
- Plan menus based on supply chain issues you are having
Recruit Staff

- School Nutrition Employees
- Substitutes
- Para-Pro's
- High School Students
- Volunteers
Communicating with parents new model

- Send flyers home before school is out
- Put an article in the newspaper
- Put an article in the school newsletter
- Post it on the county website
- All call out to parents
- Text parents
- Put menu on radio
- Social Media
Increasing Participation

• 4-H
• Teachers
• Whole Punch cards
• Gift Cards
Keys to success

- Good communication on site locations and times
- Great food that children want
- Hot meals
- Cool, comfortable place to eat
- Congregate feeding
- Fun activities
- Dependability
- Support
Thermal Pads/Ice Packs

- Aluminum Foil and towels
- Newspaper
Melissa Weissler
Senior Manager of Child and Community Nutrition,
Operation Food Search, Missouri
Melissa Weissler
Senior Manager of Child and Community Nutrition
Operation Food Search - St. Louis, MO
Moving Forward in 2022

• What partnerships are still viable?

• How can you reimagine partnerships?

• Know when to cut ties and focus efforts on forging feasible partnerships.
Training

Site operators are at different levels. Meet them where they are and cater to their experience level.

Plan to spend more time than usual coaching and helping site staff execute.

Consider that we’re also reintroducing the program to those we serve, and they’ll need a refresher on the rules too!
Congregate Feeding Tips

- Pair meal service with other activities.
- Consider caregivers in your planning.
- Invest in equipment to make outdoor sites conducive to sit down service.
Scouting Locations

- Pools
- Parks
- Rec Centers
- Libraries
- Apartment Complexes
- Farmer’s Markets
- Laundromats
- Movie Theater Adjacent
- Big Box Store Adjacent
Barriers

- Transportation
- Weather
- Awareness
Thinking Outside Of The SFSP Box

Mobile Meals  Food Trucks  Meal Time
Set Your Program Up For Success

🌟 Don’t plan in vacuum
🌟 Be agile
🌟 Host a kick-off event
🌟 Start recruiting help now
New Resource!

SFSP & SSO Requirements - Comparison Chart of Usual vs. COVID-19 Waiver Operations

Available at: bestpractices.nokidhungry.org

Click “Latest Resources” on the orange navigation bar!
Additional Resources

**Staffing Up: Strategies for Working Through Labor Shortages and Challenges** (resource)

**Tips for Staffing Summer Meals Programs** (resource)

**Tips for Navigating Supply Chain Disruptions** (resource)

**Materials for Communicating with Your School Community** (sample language in English and Spanish)

**Rural Communities Leading the Way: Introducing Local Foods to Meal Service** (resource)

From SNA: [Supply Chain Resources](#) (website)

From USDA: [Planning for a Dynamic School Environment](#) (website)
School’s Out, Food’s In!  
Summer Webinar Series

March 30 @3pm EST – Planning for Summer Meals: Strategies to navigate no-waiver operations

April 13 @1pm EST – Reaching Hard to Reach Communities: Leveraging Innovation and Partnership

May – Promoting Your Summer Meals Program: Strategies and Tips to Promote Your Summer Meals Program

June – Evaluating and Incorporating Feedback into Your Summer Meals Programs: Tips and Promising Practices

July – Thinking 365: Transitioning Your Summer Meals Program to an Afterschool Program through CACFP At-risk
School’s Out, Food’s In!
Summer Webinar Series

Coming soon!

Summer Meals 101: Back to Basics
Stay in Touch!

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www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/subscribe

Visit the CBP website:

www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org
THANK YOU

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