

Connecticut State Department of Education

Summer Meal Programs Training 2024



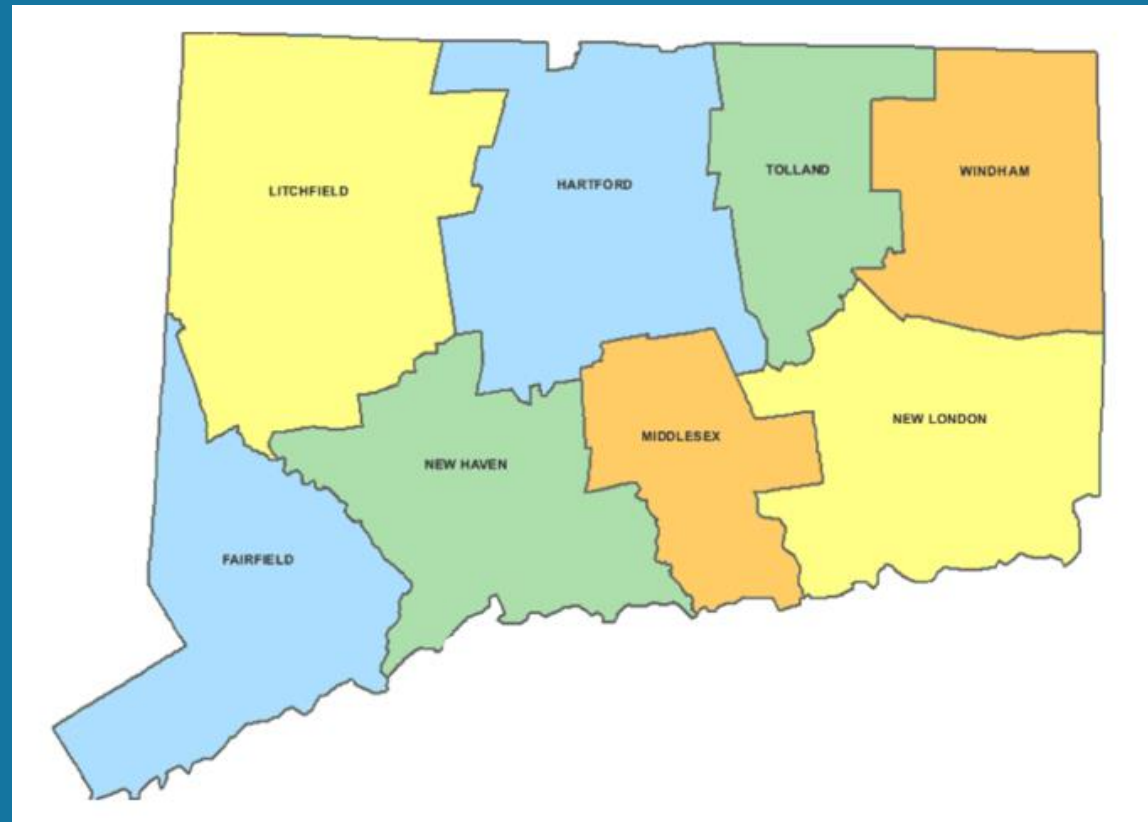
Shannon Yearwood, Bureau Chief
Caroline Cooke, Education Consultant
Terese Maineri, Education Consultant
March 28, 2024



CSDE Summer Meal Programs Team Members



Caroline: Northern CT
Terese: Southern CT



<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CNstaff/countyassign.pdf>



CSDE Summer Meal Programs Outreach Materials



- End Hunger Connecticut! (EHC!), a nonprofit partner in statewide promotion of the free Summer Meals program in CT, is now accepting pre-orders for CT Summer Meals outreach materials.
- All outreach materials are free, available in Spanish and English, and come in multiple sizes.
- Please submit your pre-order **NO LATER THAN APRIL 5, 2024.**
- End Hunger CT! will schedule multiple pick updates and times in the future, and anyone with a pre-order form will be contacted with those details.



Access Pre-order forms here: <https://forms.office.com/r/xuq4Fr8F7F>



Annual Summer Meal Programs Training



- Next training is the SFSP application and administrative review processes
 - Recorded webinars will be available but CSDE expects sponsors to attend as many live webinars as possible
 - All trainings are Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:00 pm
- March 28, 2024
 - April 11, 2024
 - May 9, 2024
 - May 23, 2024
 - June 6, 2024
 - June 20, 2024

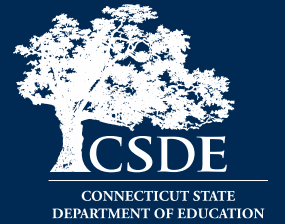




Annual Summer Meal Programs Training

Thursday, March 28, 2024

2:00 to 3:00 PM



Federal Regulation Updates

- Interim Final Rule (IFR): Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs
- Clarifying performance standards for evaluating sponsor viability, capability, program accountability (VCA)
- Proposed Rule: Serious Deficiency process in the SFSP and CACFP

General Program Status Updates

- Area Eligibility
- 'SUN' Rebranding





Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023; also known as Omnibus Appropriations Act



Background

- In December 2022, congress permanently authorized two new summer nutrition operations nationwide through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023:
 - Non-congregate Summer Meals in Rural Areas: First available in summer 2023
 - Summer EBT: Starting summer 2024

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pl-117-328>





Interim Final Rule: Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs



Interim Final Regulation

Interim final rule amended the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program's Seamless Summer Option (SSO) regulations to codify the flexibility for rural program operators to provide non-congregate meal service.

This rule also establishes regulations and codifies the Summer EBT Program in the Code of Federal Regulations.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/summer/fr-122923>





Interim Final Rule: Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs



Rural Non-Congregate Summer Meals Basics

- In SFSP and SSO area eligible locations can be reimbursed for all non-congregate meals
- Under the IFR non-congregate meals are available only in:
 - Rural areas
 - With no congregate meal service
- Option for usual area eligibility rules or “conditional sites”





Rural Non-congregate Summer Meals Integrity Assurance



- Congregate and non-congregate sites will not serve the same population of children for the same meal service on the same day.
- Sponsors opting to distribute meals to parents or guardians on behalf of their children must ensure through documented procedures that meals are only distributed to parents or guardians of eligible children and that duplicate meals are not distributed to any child.



<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/best-practices-determining-site-proximity>



Interim Final Rule: Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs



Congregate or Non-congregate Meal Considerations

When determining if an area is served by a congregate site, the following considerations need to be considered:

- Any physical conditions or other barriers;
- Limited capacity of a congregate site that prevents it from serving the community at large;
- Sites serving the same children on different days, different weeks, or for different meals on the same day; and
- Sites appealing to specific age groups or to children with unique dietary requirements.





Interim Final Rule: Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs



Congregate or non-congregate meal considerations

Program regulation contains the following stipulation to approve meal sites to operate both congregate and non-congregate meal services:

- The proposed site will only conduct a non-congregate meal service when the site is not providing a congregate meal service (7 CFR 225.6(h)(4)(ii)); and
- The sponsor proposes an organized and supervised system to prevent overlap between meal services and reasonably ensures children are not receiving more than the daily maximum allowance of meals as required in 7 CFR 225.16(b)(3) (7 CFR 225.6(h)(4)(iii)).





Interim Final Rule: Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs



The IFR expands the definition of “Rural,” to include:

1. Any area in a county not part of a Metropolitan Statistical Area based on the Office of Management and Budget’s Delineations of Metropolitan Statistical Areas;
2. Any area in a county classified as a non-metropolitan area based on USDA Economic Research Service’s Rural-Urban Continuum Codes and Urban Influence Codes;
3. Any census tract classified as a non-metropolitan area based on USDA Economic Research Service’s Rural-Urban Commuting Area codes;





Interim Final Rule: Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs



The IFR expands the definition of “Rural,” con’t:

4. Any area of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which is not part of a Census Bureau defined urban area;
5. Any area of a State which is not part of an urban area as determined by the Secretary;
6. Any subsequent substitution or update of the classification schemes that Federal governing bodies create; or





Interim Final Rule: Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs



The IFR expands the definition of “Rural,” con’t:

7. Any “pocket” within a Metropolitan Statistical Area which, at the option of the State agency and with FNSRO approval, is determined to be rural in character based on other data sources.





Interim Final Rule: Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs



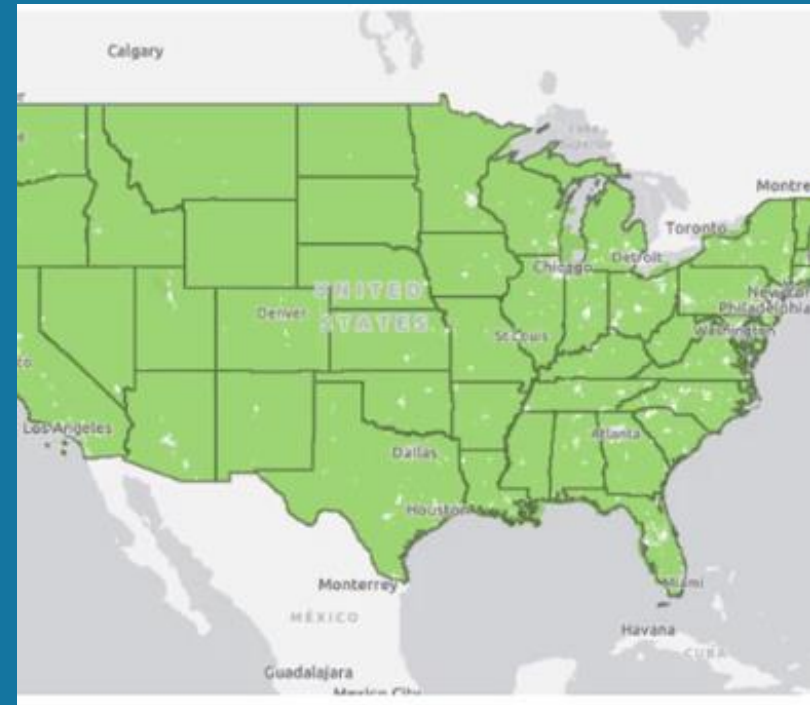
USDA Rural Designation Map before the Interim Final Rural



Unshaded = Rural; Purple = Urban



USDA Rural Designation Map after the Interim Final Rural

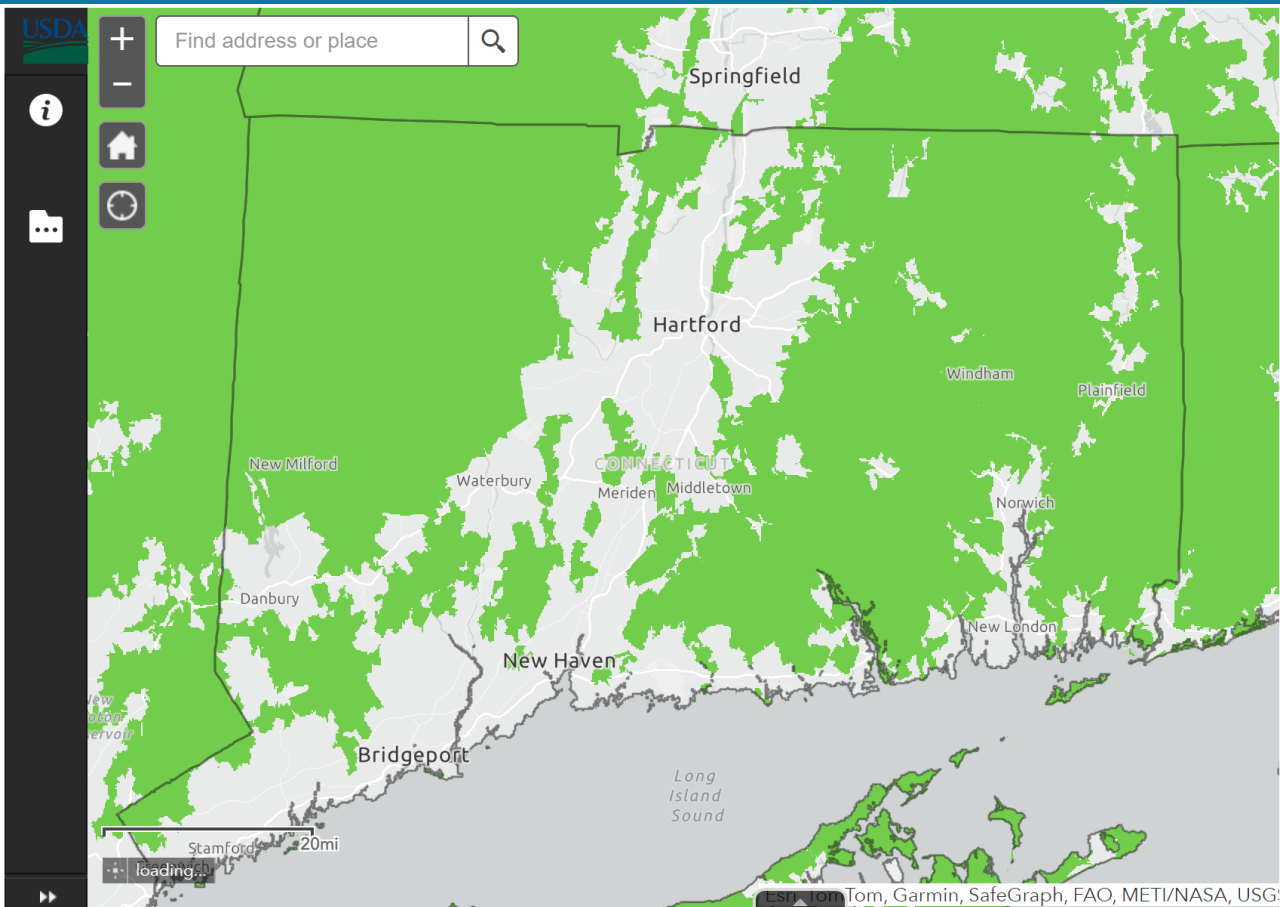
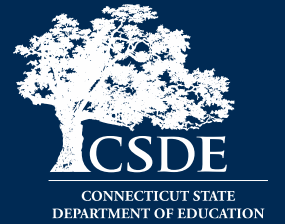


Green = Rural; White = Urban

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/rural-designation>



USDA Rural Area Map Implications for Connecticut

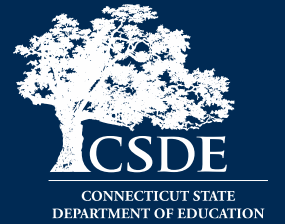


- Expands the “Rural” areas in Connecticut
- Prior to the IFR, Litchfield County was the only area in the state defined as “rural”
- With the expansion of the definition of rural in the IFR areas there are more potential rural areas in Connecticut

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/rural-designation>



Interim Final Rule: Revised “Site” Definitions



Site: A place where a child receives a Program meal.

- A site may be the indoor or outdoor location where congregate meals are served, a stop on a delivery route of a mobile congregate meal service, or the distribution location or route for a non-congregate meal service.
- Please Note: a child's residence is not considered a non-congregate site.





Rural Non-congregate Summer Meals Revised “New Site” Definition



New Site:

- A site which did not participate in the Program in the prior year,
- An experienced site that is proposing to operate a non-congregate meal service for the first time, or
- As determined by the State agency, a site which has experienced significant staff turnover from the prior year.
- Sites switching from congregate meal service to non-congregate in summer 2024, are considered new sites.
- Sites switching from congregate meal service to operating a hybrid site (operating congregate and non-congregate meal service at the same site) are considered new sites.



Rural Non-congregate Summer Meals Revised “Conditional Non-congregate Site ” Definition



Conditional Rural Non-congregate Site: a site that qualifies for Program participation because:

- it conducts a rural non-congregate meal service for eligible children,
- in an area that does not meet the definition of “areas in which poor economic conditions exist,” and
- is not a camp, as defined in the same section.





Rural Non-congregate Summer Meals “Good Standing” Definition



Good Standing:

- Good standing means the status of a Program operator that meets its Program responsibilities, is current with its financial obligations, and, if applicable, has fully implemented all corrective actions within the required time.
- Sponsors must be considered in good standing to operate a non-congregate meal service





Additional Rural Non-congregate Summer Meals Details

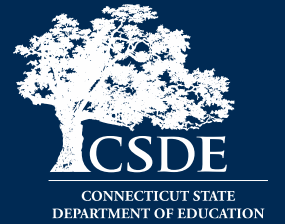


- Meal service distribution / delivery times must be specified
- Sponsors are not required to serve breakfast in the morning or allow one hour between meal service distributions
- Second meals are not permitted through non-congregate meal service
- Usual area eligibility rules apply to distribution sites unless operating a “conditional site”





Rural Non-congregate Summer Meals Prevent Meal Duplication



- State agencies must ensure that the congregate and non-congregate sites will not serve the same population of children for the same meal service on the same day.
- Sponsors opting to distribute meals to parents or guardians on behalf of their children must ensure through documented procedures that meals are only distributed to parents or guardians of eligible children and that duplicate meals are not distributed to any child.

Refer to existing site proximity guidance:

- SFSP 15-2023: Best Practices for Determining Proximity Sites in SFSP (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/best-practices-determining-site-proximity>)





Non-congregate Meal Distribution Methods



Meal pick-up:

Packaged meals are taken home for children to eat later.

- “grab and go,”
- curbside service, or
- take-home backpacks.

Home delivery:

Meals are delivered directly to homes; delivery could be completed by:

- mail or delivery service, or
- hand-delivered by the sponsor’s staff, or volunteers.





Rural Non-Congregate Meals Monitoring Requirements



- Per 7 CFR 225.15(d), monitoring requirements for rural non-congregate meal service is the same as congregate meal sites:
 - Pre-operational at new sites and sites with operational challenges in the preceding year
 - Initial Site Visit at new sites and sites with operational challenges in the preceding year
 - Foodservice Review at all meal sites, and every stop of a mobile route
- Sponsors may conduct an initial site visit and foodservice review at the same time, but within the first two weeks of operation.
- If sponsors need to conduct additional reviews after the initial site visit and full meal service review have been completed on-site, and if no further on-site observation is needed, the State agency may establish off-site monitoring criteria.

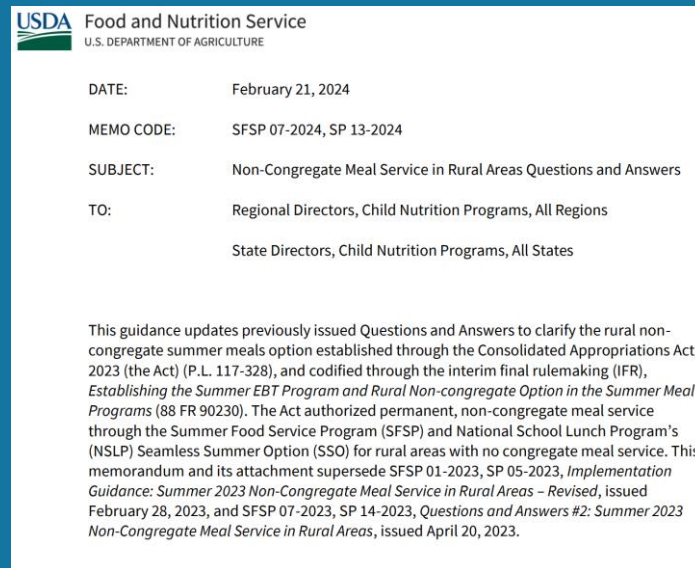




USDA OM SFSP 07-2024 Non-Congregate Summer Meal Service in Rural Areas



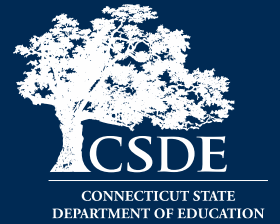
- Issued on February 21, 2024. updates earlier guidance originally issued for Summer 2023 operations, and to ensure consistency with the provisions of the IFR.
 - Contains 24 pages of revisions and clarifications on previously provided guidance.



- Areas covered in the memorandum include:
 - State Agency Approval of Non-congregate Meal Service;
 - Sponsor, Site, and Participant Eligibility;
 - Monitoring;
 - Bulk Meal Distribution; and
 - Reporting



USDA OM SFSP 08-2024, SP 15-2024: Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas: Questions and Answers #2



- Issued on March 27, 2024. This memorandum is the second set of questions and answers on the rural non-congregate summer meals option established through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023

- Areas covered in the memorandum include:
 - Sponsor, site, and participant eligibility;
 - Rural designations;
 - State agency approval of non-congregate meal service;
 - Conditional non-congregate sites;
 - Parent or guardian meal pick-up;
 - Meal service;
 - Monitoring;
 - Reporting;
 - Management and administration plans (MAP); and
 - General/Miscellaneous.

USDA Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Date: March 27, 2024

Memo Code: SFSP 08-2024, SP 15-2024

Subject: Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas: Questions and Answers #2

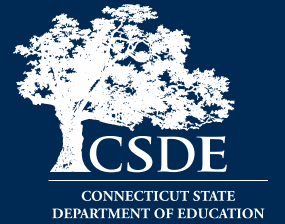
To: Regional Directors, Child Nutrition Programs, All Regions
State Directors, Child Nutrition Programs, All States

This memorandum is the second set of questions and answers on the rural non-congregate summer meals option established through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (the Act) (P.L. 117-328), and codified through the interim final rulemaking (IFR), [Implementing Provisions from the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023: Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs \(88 FR 90230\)](#). The Act authorized permanent, non-congregate meal service through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program's (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for rural areas with no congregate meal service.

The purpose of this memorandum is to address additional implementation topics based on feedback received by State agencies and program stakeholders. The first memorandum in this series, [SFSP 07-2024, SP 13-2024, Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas Questions and Answers](#), February 21, 2024, updates earlier guidance originally issued for Summer 2023 operations and ensures consistency with the provisions of the IFR. The following operational topics are addressed in this guidance:



Final Rule: Streamlining Program Requirements and Improving Integrity in SFSP



- On Sept.19, 2022, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published the Final Rule: Streamlining Program Requirements and Improving Integrity in the SFSP.
- 7 CFR 225.6(d) clarified existing SFSP requirements and provided support and guidance to state agencies when evaluating sponsor applications.
- As part of their application, sponsors must demonstrate compliance with the performance standards in their management plan.

AUTHENTICATED U.S. GOVERNMENT INFORMATION GPO
57304 Federal Register / Vol. 87, No. 180 / Monday, September 19, 2022

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Food and Nutrition Service
7 CFR Parts 210, 215, 220, 225, and 226
RIN 0584-AE72
Streamlining Program Requirements and Improving Integrity in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.
ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rulemaking amends the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) regulations to strengthen program integrity by clarifying, simplifying, and streamlining program administration to facilitate compliance with program requirements. Through this final rule, USDA is codifying changes to the

iii. Requirements for Media Release
 iv. Annual Verification of Tax-Exempt Status
 F. Important Definitions in the SFSP
 i. Self-Preparation Versus Vended Sites
 ii. Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites
 iii. Roles and Responsibilities of Site Supervisors
 iv. Unaffiliated Sites
 v. Unanticipated School Closure
 vi. Nonprofit Food Service, Nonprofit Food Service Account, Net Cash Resources
 G. Miscellaneous
 i. Authority To Waive Statute and Regulations
 ii. Duration of Eligibility
 iii. Methods of Providing Training
 iv. Meal Preparation Facility Reviews
 v. Technical Changes
 IV. Procedural Matters

I. Background
 The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is authorized under section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School



Final Rule: Streamlining Program Requirements and Improving Integrity in SFSP



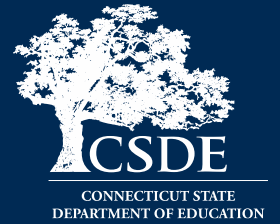
- The final rule does not introduce new program requirements, but instead further aligns SFSP requirements with other integrity measures used in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).
- Child nutrition program performance standards are commonly referred to as “VCA,” which stands for viability, capability, and accountability.



[https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-A/part-225#p-225.6\(d\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-A/part-225#p-225.6(d))



Final Rule: Streamlining Program Requirements and Improving Integrity in SFSP



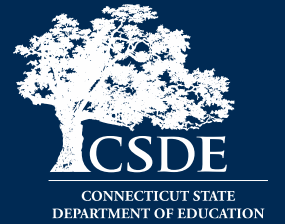
- Regulations at 7 CFR 225.6(d) mirror the CACFP regulations by defining and explaining the requirements for the three standards:
 - Performance Standard 1 – Financial Viability and Management
 - Performance Standard 2 – Administrative Capability
 - Performance Standard 3 – Internal Controls for Program Accountability



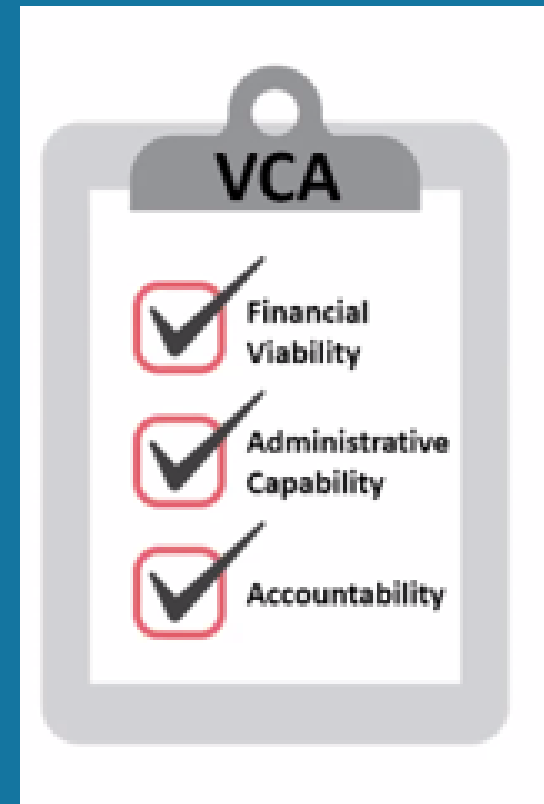
[https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-A/part-225#p-225.6\(d\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-A/part-225#p-225.6(d))



Financial Viability and Management

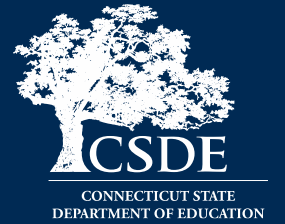


- To **demonstrate** financial viability, the sponsor's management plan must meet the following criteria:
 - describe the community's need for summer meals and the sponsor's strategy for the recruitment of sites;
 - describe the sponsor's financial resources and financial history and submit supporting documentation;
 - comply with meal service, recordkeeping, and all other operational requirements; and
 - and ensure that all costs in the sponsor's budget are reasonable, allocable, and necessary.

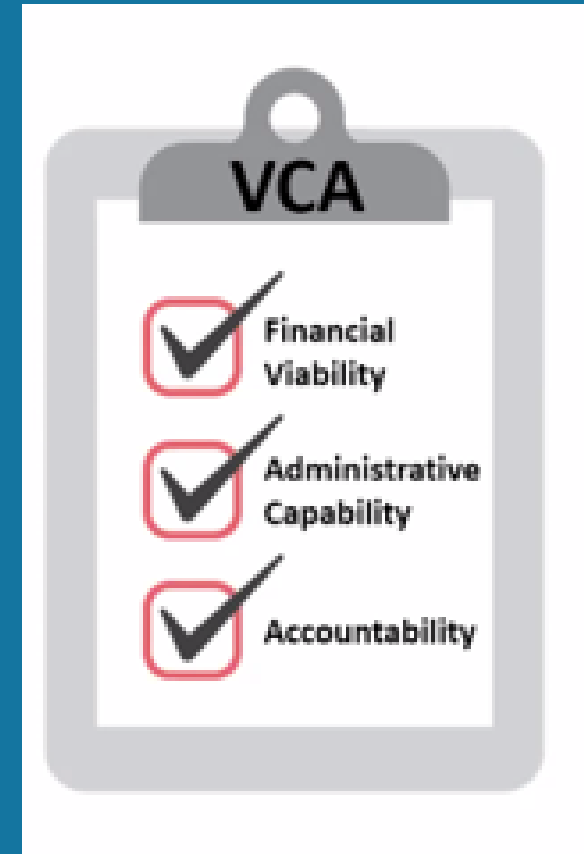




Financial Viability and Management Documentation



- To **document** financial viability, records of income to the sponsor or the program, such as grant award notices, single audit reports, and designated funds from the board must be maintained. These records must demonstrate the sponsor is financially solvent.
- Financial viability includes the sponsor's ability to:
 - maintain sufficient contingency funds;
 - document and practice appropriate fiscal activities; and
 - communicate policies and procedures to staff with fiscal management responsibilities.

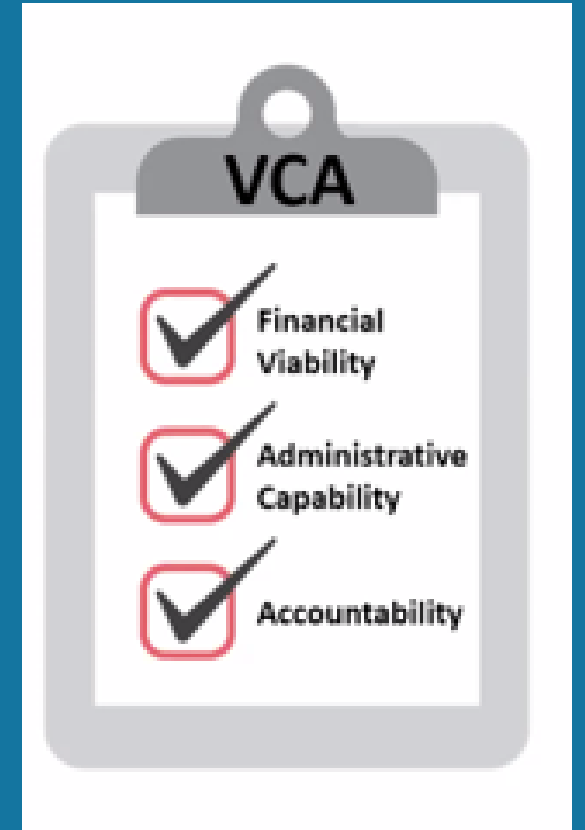




Administrative Budgets

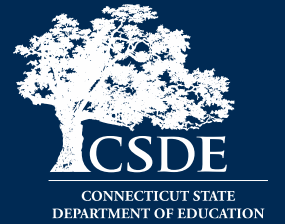


- Sponsors must submit a complete administrative budget for state agency review and approval, per 7 CFR 225.6(c)(2)(vii).
- The administrative budget is the sponsor's financial plan for operating the program for the program year.
 - The budget must reflect the sponsor's anticipated needs and financial resources to operate the SFSP for the program year.
 - The sponsor's budget must include sufficient detail of the administrative earnings and expenses and non-program funds that may be used for program administration.
- Sponsors must ensure that all reported costs are **reasonable, allocable, and necessary**.





Administrative Capability



- The sponsor must be administratively capable, as described at 7 CFR 225.6(d)(2).
- To **demonstrate and document** administrative capability, applying sponsors must:
 - Hire qualified staff;
 - Employ sufficient staff to ensure successful operation of the program;
 - Develop and implement written policies and procedures that assign program responsibilities and duties and ensure compliance with civil rights requirements; and
 - Train staff and hold them accountable to fulfill program responsibilities.





Internal Controls for Program Accountability



What is Program accountability?

- Per 7 CFR 225.6(d)(3), Program accountability is the sponsor's demonstration of having internal controls to ensure integrity and program compliance.
- Internal controls and management systems include written policies and procedures, edit checks, recordkeeping procedures, and safeguards for program funds.
- This means the sponsor must have appropriate oversight of their business and the program.





Internal Controls for Program Accountability



To **demonstrate and document** having internal controls for Program accountability:

- Develop, implement, and maintain a financial system compliant with program requirements, including checkpoints and safeguards to prevent errors and fraud; and
- Conduct monitoring activities and maintain records to show compliance with program requirements and organizational policies





Management Plan Schedule



- Management plans are required to be submitted **annually**.
 - A full management plan must be submitted at least every 3 years for all sponsors.
 - Regulations at 225.6(e)(2) describe the management plan requirements for new sponsors and sponsors that have experienced significant operational problems in the prior year.
 - Per 7 CFR 225.6(e)(3), experienced sponsors may submit a full management or a simplified management plan.





Management Plans



A complete management plan includes sufficient detail to demonstrate the sponsor's financial viability and financial management.

The sponsor must show that the resources available will ensure employee salaries and suppliers will be paid, even during periods of temporary reimbursement interruptions.

Non-federal funds must be available to pay debts when fiscal claims are assessed against the sponsor.



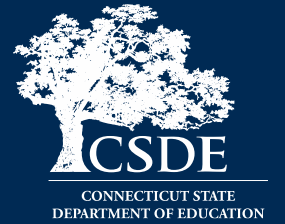


Pause for Attendance

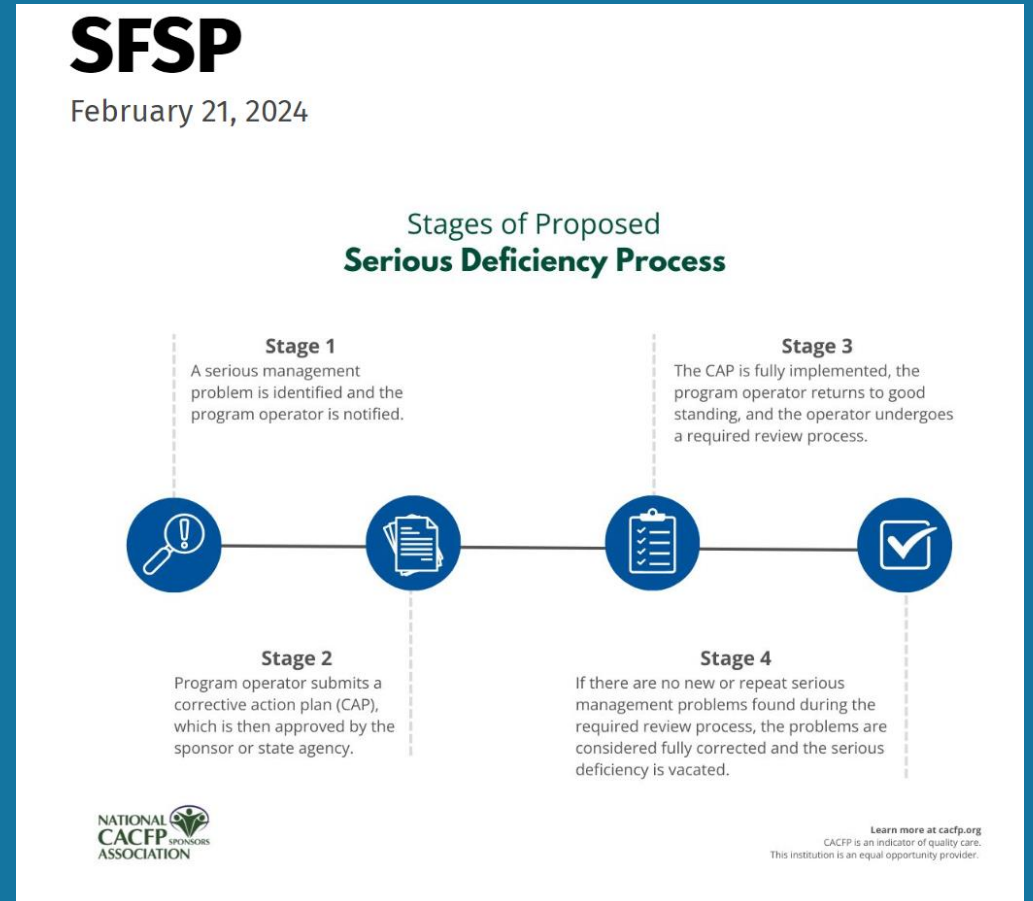




Proposed Rule: Serious Deficiency Process in the CACFP & SFSP



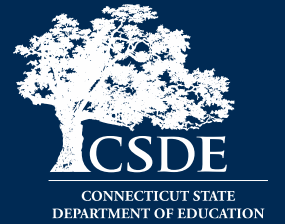
- On Feb. 21, 2024, FNS published a proposed rule Serious Deficiency Process in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program.
- Establishes a serious deficiency process for SFSP sponsors (7 CFR 225.18).



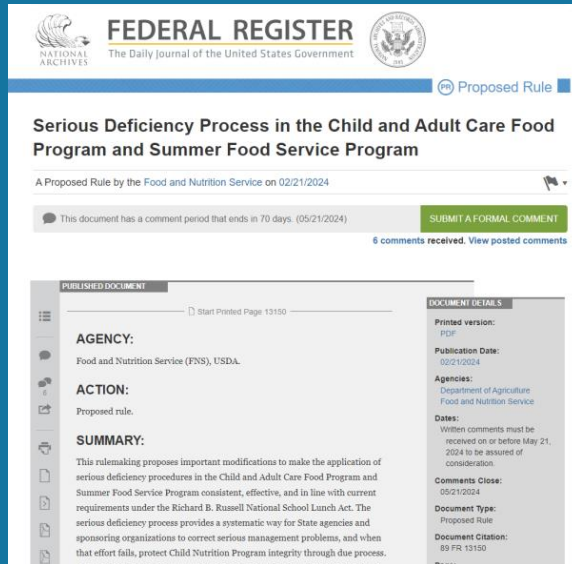
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-A/part-225/subpart-D/section-225.18>



Proposed Rule: Serious Deficiency Process in the CACFP & SFSP



Overview of Proposed Changes to the SD Process



- Establishes a serious deficiency process in SFSP
- Redefines what triggers the SD process as “serious management problems”
- Changes the point at which program operators are declared seriously deficient
- Codifies the analysis process to identify serious management problems, as described in the Serious Deficiency Handbook
- Creates a path to full correction of the serious management problems

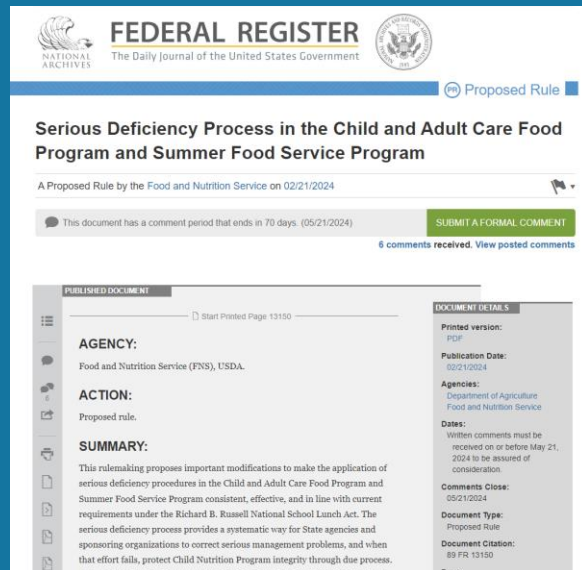


Proposed Rule: Serious Deficiency Process in the CACFP & SFSP



Proposed Six Step Requirements of the SD Process

1. Identify serious management problems
2. Issue a notice of serious management problems
3. Receive and assess the program operator's written corrective actions
4. Issue notice of successful corrective action or a notice of proposed termination with appeal rights
5. Provide a fair hearing, if requested
6. Issue notice of successful appeal if the fair hearing vacates the proposed termination, or issue a notice of termination, serious deficiency, and disqualification, if the fair hearing upholds the proposed termination or the timeframe for requesting a fair hearing has passed





Area Eligibility



A location in which 50 percent or more of the children residing in the area are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals





Area Eligibility



Area Eligibility can be conferred by:

- School Data
- Census Data
- Documentation from other approved sources, i.e., welfare or education agencies, zoning commissions, housing authorities





CSDE CNP Area Eligibility Webpage



ct.gov Connecticut's Official State Website Search Connecticut Government... Language + Settings

CT.gov Home / Department of Education / K-12 Education / Nutrition / Area Eligibility for Child Nutrition Programs

Area Eligibility for Child Nutrition Programs

- Overview
- Laws/Regulations
- Contact

Provided by: Department of Education

Overview

[School Nutrition Programs](#) | [Program Guidance](#) | [Forms](#) | [Resources](#) | [Nutrition Education](#)

Area Eligible and Site Eligible School Listings

Area Eligible Schools 2023-24

This list includes Connecticut schools with at least 50 percent of children eligible for free and reduced-price meals in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) school nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). Percentages are calculated annually by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) based on October data from the previous school year. Area eligible schools are also used in determining if other sites (located in the attendance area of an area eligible school) are eligible to participate in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP, Afterschool Snack Program (ASP), Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP), and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Area eligibility determinations made with this data will be valid for five years.

- [Area Eligible Schools](#)

Site Eligible Schools 2023-24

This list includes Connecticut schools that are area eligible (at least 50 percent of children eligible for free and reduced-price meals). These schools cannot be used in determining if other sites participate as area eligible sites under the SFSP, SSO, and ASP. As with area eligible schools, percentages are calculated annually by the CSDE based on October data from the previous school year. Area eligibility determinations made with this data will be valid for one year.

- [Site Eligible Schools](#)

Fiscal Year 2023 CACFP and SFSP Area Eligibility Data

At the start of every fiscal year, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) releases a special tabulation of data provided by the Census Bureau that establishes area eligibility in the CACFP and SFSP. These data are effective as of October 1, 2022. The FNS mapping tools have also been updated to reflect the new data.

- [CACFP and SFSP Area Eligibility Mapper \(USDA\)](#)
- [Dataset for FY 2023 CACFP SFSP Eligibility \(USDA\)](#)

USDA Memos

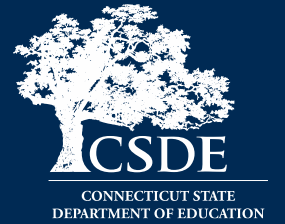
- [USDA Memo SP 08-2017, CACFP 04-2017 and SFSP 03-2017: Area Eligibility in Child Nutrition Programs](#)



<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Area-Eligibility>



Area Eligibility CSDE Area and Site Eligible School Lists



List of Area Eligible Schools (October 2023 Data)

This document provides information on Connecticut's area eligible schools for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP), and Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) effective February 1, 2024. Area eligible schools are schools where at least 50 percent of children are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

Free and reduced-price percentages are calculated annually by the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Child Nutrition Programs based on October data from the previous school year. In districts implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), the free and reduced-price percentage might not be reflective of individual children's eligibility status.

Sponsor ID	Sponsor Name	Site Number	Site Name
00200	Ansonia School District	61	Ansonia High School
00200	Ansonia School District	51	Ansonia Middle School
00200	Ansonia School District	03	Mead School
00200	Ansonia School District	08	Prendergast School
01100	Bloomfield School District	61	Bloomfield High School
01100	Bloomfield School District	52	Carmen Arace Middle School

List of Site Eligible Schools (October 2023 Data)

This document provides information on Connecticut's site eligible schools for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP), and Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) of the NSLP, effective February 1, 2024. Site eligible schools are schools where at least 50 percent of children are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. These schools cannot be used to determine if other sites under the CACFP, SFSP, SSO, FFVP, and ASP are eligible.

Free and reduced-price percentages are calculated annually by the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Child Nutrition Programs based on October data from the previous school year. In districts implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), the free and reduced-price percentage might not be reflective of individual children's eligibility status.

Sponsor ID	Sponsor Name	Site Number	Site Name	Percentage Free and Reduced
28500	Achievement First Bridgeport Academy District	02	Achievement First Bridgeport Academy Elementary	100.00
28500	Achievement First Bridgeport Academy District	01	Achievement First Bridgeport Academy, Inc.	97.25
28500	Achievement First Bridgeport Academy District	03	Achievement First Bridgeport High School	92.26

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Area-Eligibility>



Area Eligibility via Census Data



Must use most recent Census Data

- Annual projections released each October

Can use two Geographical Units

- **Census Block Groups (CBGs)**
CBGs can be combined to calculate a weighted average
- **Census Tracts**
Cannot be combined





Area Eligibility via Census Data



The screenshot shows the USDA Food and Nutrition Service website. The header includes the USDA logo and navigation links for COVID-19, CONTACT US, REPORT FRAUD, ASKUSDA, and USDA.GOV. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for HOME, DATA & RESEARCH, GRANTS, NEWSROOM, RESOURCES, OUR AGENCY, and PROGRAMS, along with a search bar. The main content area is titled "Area Eligibility" and contains a "HOME" link, a "Resource Type" section with "Technical Assistance & Guidance", and a "Resource Materials" section. The central part of the page features a welcome message: "Welcome to the CACFP and SFSP Area Eligibility Mapper. Please zoom in to the map to see the data. This map displays census data and can be used for tiering of participating CACFP day care homes and eligibility of SFSP summer sites. A guide to using this map can be found by clicking on the ⓘ and more information about area eligibility and the data can be found below the map." Below the text is a map of the United States with a search bar and various map controls. At the bottom of the map area are three buttons: "View Larger Map", "About Area Eligibility", and "Developer Tools".

USDA Food and Nutrition Services

- Area Eligibility Map
- Capacity Builder Map



Meal Site Eligibility



ELIGIBILITY DURATION

- Duration of determination for Open meal site eligibility based on school data or census data is **five years**
 - CSDE encourages sponsors to assess and reset the five-year duration of determination each year, if possible, to prevent potential loss of site eligibility
- Determination of meal site eligibility based on other sources (i.e., income eligibility applications, migrant organizations, housing authorities) must be **updated annually**



SUN Programs: USDA's Summer Nutrition Programs for Kids



This incorporates:

- SUN Meals: In-person summer meal sites; group summer meal service
- SUN Meals To-Go: To-go or home-delivered meals in certain rural areas
- SUN Bucks: Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer Program, or Summer EBT; summer grocery benefits

Sponsors can use the brand guidelines for developing materials and communications about the SUN programs:

- [Summer Nutrition Programs for Kids Brand Guidelines \(azureedge.us\)](https://www.azureedge.us)
- [E-mail signature templates; and backgrounds](#)
- [Summer EBT Outreach Toolkit | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov)



<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sun/style-guide>



Questions



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1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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