



Summer Food Service Program



Child Nutrition Programs
Finance and Support Services
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Program Bulletin

To: SFSP Sponsors
Program Reviewers

Bulletin: 2021-06

From: Rhonda Biles
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Subject: 2021 SFSP July Bulletin

Date: July 16, 2021

USDA Policy Memos, Information, and Guidance:

To view current USDA SFSP policy memos, visit the following:

- CNPWeb SFSP Welcome page (after logging in), or the [link to USDA Policy Memorandum webpage](#) and the [SFSP USDA Policy Memo webpage](#).

Additional Topics:

- 1) **New!** SFAs only: NSLP Annual Training
- 2) **News!** Farm to School Grantees
- 3) **Reminder!** Farm to Summer Celebration Week
- 4) **Reminder!** Turnip the Beet 2021
- 5) **Reminder!** Procurement Thresholds
- 6) **Reminder!** Unavailability of Milk
- 7) **Resource!** Find Open SFSP Sites Near You

Attachments

- Alaska Farm to Summer Toolkit 2021 (attachment)

Program changes as a result of USDA Policy Memos are to be implemented immediately. Please file this bulletin for reference, guidance, and compliance with the Summer Food Service Program. Feel free to call the Child Nutrition Programs office if you need further clarification.

USDA Policy Memos, Information, and Guidance:

No new Policy Memos issued since 6/11 and 5/24. Details on previously released Policy Memos can be found in prior SFSP Bulletins, and at the links above.

Additional Topics:

1. **NEW!** SFAs Only – NSLP Annual Training

NSLP Annual Training will be July 27-29, 2021.

- **Where: Virtually**
- **When: July 27-29, 2021**

Please review the training agenda under the NSLP May Bulletin to determine which sessions you or your staff may want to attend.

ZOOM invites have been sent for each session so you may accept or decline any session you want. If you didn't receive the invites please contact Debbie Soto at Debbie.Soto@alaska.gov

The below Registration forms are for the three sessions ICN are hosting for the annual training, so please be sure you register for any of them that look interesting.

REGISTRATION FORMS for ICN Sessions (click on link)

Workplace Safety: 7/28/21, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/2e1f50ad20d04ea09d8ab954c6a97b18>

Food Production and Operation Management: 7/28/21, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/41cbf6682a7c469fb1910e147ba53d03>

Food Safety Basics: 7/29/21, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/755fd6b6eaa84b5f8fddf8424dd30e75>

2. NEWS! USDA Issues Record-Breaking Farm to School Grants

The USDA has announced the FY 2021 Farm to School Program recipients – and two are in Alaska! USDA awarded \$12 million for the FY 2021 Farm to School Grant Program to support a record 176 selected projects serving over 6,800 schools nationwide. This is the most grantees awarded in one year since the program's inception in 2013. This is also the first year the grants were awarded to a handful of CACFP and SFSP operators. Below is more information on the Alaska recipients. Congratulations to the cities of Copper River and Sitka!

Copper River Watershed Project, Inc. - \$22,317

Cordova's Farm to School partnership, consisting of non-profit organizations, dedicated food service professionals, and numerous volunteer contributors, are collaborating to develop a greenhouse structure on Cordova School District property. This project will benefit the Cordova School District's 350 K - 12 students with hands-on horticulture learning opportunities and a true "farm to table" source of local produce. Need for this educational greenhouse project is evident when considering Cordova's remote, rural setting on the eastern edge of Prince William Sound where their primary way of procuring goods is through airfreight and barge shipments.

Sitka School District - \$ 50,000

The Pacific High School (PHS) Edible Garden project will support the installation of an edible garden, adjacent to both PHS and Baranof Elementary School (BES). PHS is a school of choice, serving high-needs students who have been underserved in the traditional system, and BES serves all of the district's grades K-1 students. The edible garden will be used as an experiential outdoor classroom and integrated into both

schools' curriculum. Food produced will supply the Pacific High School meal program and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska summer meal program, in addition to being consumed as part of school and partner agency learning experiences.

Authorized by Section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, USDA Farm to School Grant Program provides funds to eligible entities to implement farm to school activities that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. USDA is pleased to announce fiscal year 2021 Farm to School grantees. The descriptions below were adapted from grant applications. In some cases, USDA staff have edited them. Award amounts are subject to change.

3. **REMINDER! Farm to Summer Celebration Week is upon us! Now is a great opportunity to highlight all those Alaskan farm-fresh fruits and vegetables! July 18 – 24, 2021**

Let's celebrate summer locally! This year's Farm to Summer Celebration Week is July 18 -24. The Farm to Summer Celebration week encourages sponsor to serve local foods during their meal or snack programs. Does the sponsor need to have the ENITRE plate be local foods to participate? Not at all! In fact, no effort is too small. Have fun with it! Get local kids and volunteers involved!

- Sponsors can source one item for a snack or meal or all foods locally
- Sponsors can simply focus on the plate and/or offer complimentary educational activities.

Here are some suggested steps to successful local purchasing of available local food items:

Step 1 – Find out what is local and in season (see the **Local Produce Availability Chart** and the **Local Products Availability Chart** in the attached toolkit)

Step 2 – Plan ahead with your procurement process (see the **Local Food Procurement Resources** page at the end of the attached toolkit) – the key is contacting sources early to help with planning

Step 3 – Serve the local products during Farm to Summer Week (see the **Sample Menu** at the end of the attached toolkit) – try swapping in a local fruit or vegetable as a simple way to get started

A Farm to Summer Toolkit is attached to help you get started with a planning checklist and summer fun! The toolkit has participation information, local food ideas, a sample meal plan/menu, activity resources, and more!

4. **REMINDER! It is not too late to nominate a SFSP sponsor for the Turnip the Beet Award! Nominations due by August 20, 2021!**

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/turnip-the-beet>

The Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors who work hard to offer high quality meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months.

Summer meals are critical in the lives of millions of our nation's youth, whose risk for food insecurity increases during the summer months when they no longer have access to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program. Summer meal

programs, including the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) within the NSLP, present the opportunity to help alleviate summertime food insecurity and positively impact children's growth and development by offering nutritious meals and encouraging children to develop healthy habits at a young age. High quality summer meals provide daily energy and help make sure children are healthy and ready to learn when they return to school in the fall. The Turnip the Beet Award was created to showcase sponsors who are going above and beyond to ensure that children in their care are receiving high-quality meals that are both nutritious and appetizing.

FNS presented the Turnip the Beet awards annually from 2016 - 2019. Turnip the Beet is back for 2021, although the award looks slightly different this year. While the themes of the award criteria remain the same, the actual questions, timing, and scoring system have been updated based on the excellent feedback received from sponsors and State agencies. New checklists for state agencies and FNS regional offices are also included in the nomination form to streamline the evaluation of nomination packets and ensure the awards are distributed accurately. Finally, as the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to affect program operations, there are questions about COVID-related waivers used by summer sponsors. Turnip the Beet is intended to award sponsors for excellence during the summer months; thus for 2021, SFSP and SSO sponsors in good standing that serve program meals beginning May 15 and through the summer of 2021 are eligible for a nomination. Sponsors may self-nominate or be nominated by another party.

Click on the below links for more Turnip the Beet information:

[Printable one-page overview on Turnip the Beet 2021](#)

[Nomination Form](#) (due to State agency SFSP contact by August 20, 2021)

5. **Reminder! Federal Procurement Thresholds**

The federal procurement thresholds that are in the [SFSP Administration Guide \(2016\)](#) are outdated. Please refer to the following federal procurement thresholds when developing or updating your Procurement Plan and procedures:

- Micro-Purchase: Purchases between **\$0 - \$10,000** (2 CFR 200.320(a) and 200.67)
- Small Purchase: Purchases between **\$10,000 - \$250,000** (2 CFR 200.230(b))
- Formal Purchases (or competitive sealed bids): **Purchases over \$250,000** or most restrictive threshold (2 CFR 200.320(c))

As a reminder, ALL purchases of food, supplies, goods and other service that use SFSP reimbursement funds must comply with procurement standards as stated in federal regulations ([2 CFR Part 200.317-326](#) and [7 CFR Part 225.17](#)).

Need a refresher on federal purchasing? Visit the DEED eLearning website and take the following courses: www.education.alaska.gov/Elearning

- Procurement Training – *Procurement Plans*
- Procurement Training – *Informal (includes micro and small purchases)*
- Procurement Training – *Formal*
- Procurement Training – *Food Service Management Companies*

6. **Reminder! Unavailability of Milk**

If you are having difficulties meeting the milk component of the meal pattern due to delivery issues, or the unavailability of milk, read on! You may still receive reimbursement for meals served without milk. If you are having milk delivery issues, contact the State agency! However, this does not mean that if you cannot find milk at Costco that you can serve meals without milk. You will need to get your milk from a different store, like Safeway or Fred Meyer, or another local store, to meet the meal pattern requirement. This is referring to situations where there is no milk available in town, or if your food vendor is unable to access milk to deliver for your meal service.

[7 CFR 225.16\(f\)\(6\) and \(7\)](#)

(6) If emergency conditions prevent a sponsor normally having a supply of milk from temporarily obtaining milk deliveries, the State agency may approve the service of breakfasts, lunches, or suppers without milk during the emergency period.

(7) The inability of a sponsor to obtain a supply of milk on a continuing basis shall not bar it from participation in the Program. In such cases, the State agency may approve service of meals without milk, provided that an equivalent amount of canned, whole dry or nonfat dry milk is used in the preparation of the milk components set forth in paragraph (d) of this section. In addition, the State agency may approve the use of nonfat dry milk in meals served to children participating in activities which make the service of fluid milk impracticable, and in locations which are unable to obtain fluid milk. Such authorization shall stipulate that nonfat dry milk be reconstituted at normal dilution and under sanitary conditions consistent with State and local health regulations.

7. **Resource! Find Open SFSP Sites Near You**

Help kids and parents find a SFSP meal service – spread the word on social media about using the No Kid Hungry texting tool, the USDA Meals4Kids website and the USDA National Hunger Hotline. These resources will provide information about SFSP sites near the specified addresses, including meal times and dates.

No Kid Hungry – Text the word ‘food’ to 877-877 and you will receive a reply back asking for an address. Type in an address and then receive information about open SFSP sites near that location. You can even simply type in a city and state, like Kenai, Alaska, and receive a listing of all the open sites in Kodiak, Alaska. Pretty slick.

USDA Meals 4 Kids – The Meals for Kids Site Finder was developed by USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to help children, parents, and others quickly and easily find summer meal sites near them. The site finder, available for use at no charge, is a web-based application that also works on tablets, smartphones, and other mobile devices without the need to download. Link to Meals 4 Kids site finder: www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids

The mapping tool allows users to enter an address, city, state, or zip code to find up to 50 nearby locations, along with their addresses, hours of operation, and contact information, and directions.

Data, provided by states, will be updated throughout the summer to include new locations. To report incorrect data, please contact the State agency.

USDA National Hunger Hotline – The hotline remains a helpful resource for people seeking food assistance. The hotline, operated by Hunger Free America, can be reached Monday through Friday between 7AM to 10PM ET at 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479) or 1-877-HAMBRE (1-877-842-6273) (for Spanish).

Contact Information

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Commonly Used Acronyms

SFSP – Summer Food Service Program
CNP – Child Nutrition Programs
DEED – Department of Education and Early
Development
WRO – Western Region Office
FNS – Food and Nutrition Services
FNSRO – Food and Nutrition Services Regional Office
USDA – U.S. Department of Agriculture

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

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

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