

Table of Contents

Preface..... 3

Agency-Wide 3

 Purpose Statement 3

 OIG and GAO Reports 6

 Available Funds and Full Time Equivalents 8

 Permanent Positions by Grade and FTE’s..... 9

 Vehicle Fleet 10

 Shared Funding Projects..... 11

Account 1: Child Nutrition..... 13

 Appropriations Language 13

 Lead-Off Tabular Statement..... 13

 Project Statements 14

 Justification of Increases and Decreases 17

 Current Law Proposals 23

 Proposed Legislation 26

 Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTE’s 27

 Classification by Objects..... 28

 Status of Programs..... 29

Account 2: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) 77

 Appropriations Language 77

 Lead-Off Tabular Statement..... 77

 Project Statements 78

 Justification of Increases and Decreases 79

 Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTE’s 80

 Classification by Objects..... 80

 Status of Programs..... 81

Account 3: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) 91

 Appropriations Language 91

 Lead-Off Tabular Statement..... 92

 Project Statements 93

 Justification of Increases and Decreases 96

 Current Law Proposals 99

 Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTE’s 105

 Classification by Objects..... 106

 Status of Programs..... 107

Account 4: Commodity Assistance Program (CAP) 129

Appropriations Language	129
Lead-Off Tabular Statement.....	129
Project Statements	130
Justification of Increases and Decreases	132
Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTE’s	133
Classification by Objects.....	133
Status of Programs.....	135
Account 5: Nutrition Programs Administration (NPA).....	155
Appropriations Language	155
Lead-Off Tabular Statement.....	155
Project Statements	155
Justification of Increases and Decreases	156
Current Law Proposals	156
Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTE’s	160
Classification by Objects.....	161
Status of Programs.....	163
Summary of Performance.....	179

PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the “Budget” is in regard to the 2024 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2021 and 2022, enacted levels for 2023, and the President’s Budget request for 2024. Amounts for 2023 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels.

Throughout this publication, the “2018 Farm Bill” is used to refer to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Most programs funded by the 2018 Farm Bill are funded through 2023. Amounts shown in 2024 for most Farm Bill programs reflect those confirmed in the baseline.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

AGENCY-WIDE**PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) was established August 8, 1969, by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1659 and Supplement 1 pursuant to the authority contained in 5 U.S.C. 301 and the Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953. FNS is the Federal agency responsible for managing the 16 domestic nutrition assistance programs. Its mission is to increase food security and reduce hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and other low-income Americans access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition education.

Over the past half-century – beginning with the National School Lunch Program in 1946 – the Nation developed nutrition assistance programs to help the most vulnerable populations meet their food needs. These essential programs promote food security and healthier diets among low-income families and individuals seeking self-sufficiency. Currently, the programs administered by FNS touch the lives of one in four Americans annually.

FNS develops dietary guidance and promotes healthier dietary behaviors based on the latest body of scientific research to meet the nutrition needs of consumers. FNS leads food, nutrition, and economic analyses that inform Federal and State programs; translates science into actionable food and nutrition guidance for all Americans; and leads national communication initiatives that help advance consumers’ dietary and economic knowledge and inform choices.

The nutrition assistance programs described below work both individually and in concert with one another to improve the nutrition and health of the Nation’s children and other low-income Americans.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP): Authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, SNAP is the cornerstone of the Nation’s nutrition assistance safety net, touching the lives of approximately 42 million Americans each month. It provides nutrition assistance to participants, the majority of whom are children, the elderly, or people with disabilities, helping them put food on the table using benefits that can be redeemed at authorized food retailers nationwide. State agencies are responsible for the program’s administration according to national eligibility and benefit standards set by Federal law and regulations. The Food and Nutrition Service is responsible for authorizing and monitoring participating retailers. Benefits are 100 percent federally financed, while administrative costs are shared between the Federal and State Governments.

SNAP provides the basic nutrition assistance benefits for low-income people in the United States of America. Other FNS programs supplement this program with benefits targeted to special populations, dietary needs, and delivery settings. (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands receive grant funds to provide food and nutrition assistance in lieu of SNAP).

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (FDPIR): FDPIR provides USDA Foods to income-eligible households living on Indian reservations, and to American Indian households residing in approved areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. Many households participate in FDPIR as an alternative to SNAP because they do not have easy access to SNAP offices or authorized food stores. Dual participation in SNAP and FDPIR is not permitted. State agencies and Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) that operate the program are responsible for eligibility certification, nutrition education, local warehousing and transportation of food, and distribution of food to

recipient households, and program integrity. USDA purchases and ships the USDA Foods distributed through the program. USDA also provides ITOs and State agencies administering the program with funds for program administrative expenses.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS (CNP): The Child Nutrition Programs - National School Lunch (NSLP), School Breakfast (SBP), Special Milk (SMP), Child and Adult Care Food (CACFP), and Summer Food Service (SFSP) are authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966. These programs provide reimbursement to State and local governments for nutritious meals and snacks served to children in schools, childcare institutions, summer sites and after school care programs. CACFP also supports meal service in adult day care centers. FNS provides cash and USDA-purchased foods on a per-meal basis to offset the cost of food service at the local level and a significant portion of State and local administrative expenses, and provides training, technical assistance, and nutrition education. Payments are higher for meals served free or at a reduced price to children from low-income families.

In addition, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides access to fresh fruits and vegetables for students in low-income elementary schools across the Nation. FFVP, authorized and funded under Section 19 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and expanded by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, operates in selected low-income elementary schools in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. States select schools to participate based on criteria in the law and participating students receive between \$50 and \$75 worth of fresh produce over the school year.

On December 29, 2022, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), Congress authorized a new permanent Federal child nutrition program, the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program (Summer EBT). Beginning summer 2024, Summer EBT will provide benefits for school children in low-income families that may be redeemed at authorized food retailers across the country, helping children meet their nutritional needs during summers when schools are not in session.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC): WIC addresses the supplemental nutritional needs of at-risk, low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children up to five years of age. WIC provides participants with monthly supplemental food packages targeted to their dietary needs, breastfeeding support to nursing mothers, nutrition education, and referrals to a range of health and social services – benefits that promote a healthy pregnancy for mothers and a healthy start for their children. Appropriated funds are provided to State agencies for food packages, nutrition services, and administration for the program; State agencies operate the program pursuant to plans approved by FNS.

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP): This program supports the emergency feeding network by distributing 100 percent domestically grown USDA Foods for use by emergency feeding organizations, including soup kitchens, food recovery organizations, and food banks, which work to distribute the foods directly to low-income households. TEFAP also provides administrative funds to defray State and local costs associated with the transportation, processing, storage, and distribution of USDA Foods. The allocation of both Federal food and administrative grants to States is based on a formula that considers the States' unemployment levels and the number of persons with income below the poverty level.

THE COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP): CSFP supports the health of low-income elderly persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. Participants receive a monthly food package of USDA Foods. State agencies are provided funding to cover State and local administrative costs such as nutrition education, warehousing, food delivery, and participant certification. States work with local agencies to distribute the monthly food package to participants.

SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM (SFMNP): SFMNP provides coupons to low-income seniors that can be exchanged for fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs and honey at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs.

FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM (FMNP): FMNP provides WIC participants, including women, infants older than 4 months, and children up to the age of five with special coupons to purchase fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs directly from farmers, farmers' markets and roadside stands.

PACIFIC ISLAND AND DISASTER ASSISTANCE: Pacific Island Assistance includes assistance to the nuclear-affected islands of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) in the form of cash-in-lieu of food and administrative funds through the Special Food Assistance Program and is authorized under the Compact of Free Association

Amendments Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-188). Disaster relief in the form of USDA Foods can be provided to the RMI and Federated States of Micronesia for use in Presidential Disaster Declaration.

Federal nutrition assistance programs operate as partnerships between FNS and the State and local organizations that interact directly with program participants. States voluntarily enter into agreements with the Federal Government to operate programs according to Federal standards in exchange for program funds that cover all benefit costs, and a significant portion, if not all, of administrative expenses.

Under these agreements, FNS is responsible for implementing statutory requirements that set national program standards for eligibility and benefits, providing Federal funding to State and local partners, and for conducting monitoring and evaluation activities to make sure that program structures and policies are properly implemented and effective in meeting program missions. State and local organizations are responsible for delivering benefits efficiently, effectively, and in a manner consistent with federal regulations.

CENTER FOR NUTRITION POLICY AND PROMOTION (CNPP): Through the work of CNPP, FNS serves as a Federal authority on evidence-based food guidance, nutrition and economic analyses, and consumer nutrition education. It is non-regulatory, with several initiatives that serve as the foundation for many Federal departments’ and agencies’ policies and programs. CNPP’s work includes:

- *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, mandated under the 1990 National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act to provide dietary guidance for the general public, expanded to include guidance for infants and toddlers from birth to 24 months, and for pregnant women, per the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill). Designed for professional audiences, it forms the foundation for Federal nutrition policies and programs and is a central source that nutrition programs across the Federal Government can implement “with one voice” as they tailor it for their specific program audiences;
- Healthy Eating Index (HEI), an analytic tool used to assess how well diets align with the Dietary Guidelines, used widely by Academic institutions, organizations, and Federal agencies including many agencies within the USDA, such as FNS, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the Economic Research Service;
- Nutrition Evidence Systematic Reviews (NESR) is a team of scientists who have a unique combination of experience and expertise in systematic review methodology, nutrition science, public health, and library science. NESR scientists answer nutrition questions of public health importance by conducting high-quality systematic reviews, rapid reviews, and evidence scans using up-to-date methods and technology;
- USDA Food Plans (Thrifty, Low Cost, Moderate Cost, and Liberal) that exemplify nutritious diets at four cost levels, can help Americans eat healthfully on a budget, and serve as a reference source for other Federal needs such as the Thrifty Food Plan setting the maximum allotment for SNAP. Other uses of the USDA Food Plans include being used in bankruptcy courts to ensure people are left with enough money to buy food, and serving as the source (Moderate Cost and Liberal Food Plans) for the Department of Defense to determine the Basic Allowance for Subsistence (the food allowance) paid to U.S. service members, as well as the Basic Daily Food Allowance used for reimbursement rates for dining facilities on military bases; and
- MyPlate, which is the consumer translation of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, the Federal nutrition symbol and resource that serves as the foundation for Federally funded, consumer nutrition education initiatives, providing advice and tools to consumers on how to build healthy eating solutions into their everyday lives.

FNS Staff: FNS employees are an important resource for advancing the key outcomes sought through the nutrition assistance programs. The agency staff serves to ensure and leverage the effective use of program appropriations.

About half of FNS staff is funded by the Nutrition Programs Administration account, which represents less than two-tenths of one percent of the total FNS budget. The agency employment level represents less than two percent of the total employment within USDA and is similarly small in proportion to the total State-level staff needed to operate the programs. The agency employs people from a variety of disciplines, including policy and management analysts, nutritionists, computer experts, communication experts, communications professionals, accountants, investigators, and program evaluators. Because of the small size of the agency’s staff relative to the resources it manages, FNS has created clear and specific performance measures and must focus its management efforts on a limited number of high-priority areas.

Program operations are managed through FNS’ seven regional offices and 13 field offices/satellite locations. A regional administrator directs each regional office. These offices maintain direct contact with State agencies that administer the FNS programs and conduct on-site management reviews of State operations. The Retailer Operations

Division monitors 258,589 stores and other outlets as of September 30, 2022, that are authorized to redeem SNAP benefits.

As of September 2022, there were approximately 1,638 full-time permanent employees in the agency. There were 681 employees in the Washington headquarters office and 957 in the field. The chart below displays staff year utilization.

Full Time Equivalent Distribution

Table FNS-1. Full Time Equivalent Distribution (From All Sources of Funds)

FNS Projects and CNPP	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	Change	2024 President's Budget
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	374	397	551	17	568
Child Nutrition Programs	265	262	396	45	441
Commodity Assistance Program	3	3	3	0	3
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children	41	47	83	0	83
Nutrition Programs Administration	708	751	872	8	880
Total Available	1,391	1,460	1,905	70	1,975

OIG and GAO Reports of National Significance

Table FNS-2. Completed OIG Reports*

Area	Number	Date	Title	Status
CN, FM, SNAP	27801-0001-23(1)	6-2022	COVID-19: FNS Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (Interim Report #1)	Closed – no recommendations for FNS
ROS, SNAS	27801-0001-21	8-2022	COVID-19: Oversight of The Emergency Food Assistance Program	Final action pending on 4 of 4 open recommendations
SNAP	27601-0006-41	1-2023	SNAP Waiver Process	Final action pending on 2 of 2 open recommendations

*Includes only those audits where FNS is the lead agency.

Table FNS-3. Completed GAO Reports*

Area	Number	Date	Title	Result
All Programs	GAO-22-105291	1-2022	COVID-19: Significant Improvements Are Needed for Overseeing Relief Funds and Leading Responses to Public Health Emergencies	Closure pending on 2 of 2 open recommendations
SNAP	GAO-22-104740	4-2022	Nutrition Assistance Programs: Federal Agencies Should Improve Oversight and Better Collaborate on Efforts to Support Veterans with Food Insecurity	Closure pending on 1 of 1 open recommendation
CNPP, OPS	GAO-23-105450	12-2023	Thrifty Food Plan: Better Planning and Accountability Could Help Ensure Quality of Future Reevaluations	Closure pending on 8 of 8 open recommendations

*Includes only those audits where FNS is the lead agency.

Table FNS-4. In Process OIG Reports*

Area	Number	Start Date	Title	Current Audit Stage
P-EBT	27801-0001-23	4-2021	COVID-19: FNS Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (Interim Report #2)	Fieldwork

*Includes only those audits where FNS is the lead agency.

Table FNS-5. In Process GAO Reports*

Area	Number	Start Date	Title	Current Audit Stage
FM, OPS, SNAP	105458	11-2021	Hunger and Homelessness	Fieldwork
CN, SNAS	105697	1-2022	USDA Foods in Schools Programs	Fieldwork
CN, ROS, SNAS	105884	3-2022	School Meals Buy American Provision	Fieldwork
SNAP	106000	5-2022	College Student Food Insecurity	Fieldwork
All Programs	106130	7-2022	Dietary Guidelines for Americans	Fieldwork
All Programs	106218	10-2022	Tribal Food Security	Fieldwork
SNAS	106503	2-2023	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Infant Formula Pricing	Fieldwork
All Programs, OPS	106539	2-2023	Food Insecurity and the Charitable Food Assistance Network	Fieldwork

*Includes only those audits where FNS is the lead agency.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FULL TIME EQUIVALENT'S**Table FNS-6. Total Obligations and FTE's (thousands of dollars)**

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimate	FTE	Estimate	FTE
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:								
SNAP.....	\$98,163,901	374	\$118,070,961	397	\$135,867,723	551	\$119,133,239	568
SNAP Other Supplement Funds	17,595,416	-	4,634,523	-	3,500,000	-	-	-
Pandemic EBT Benefits.....	31,228,649	-	18,886,199	-	20,000,000	-	-	-
Total, SNAP.....	146,987,966	374	141,591,683	397	159,367,723	551	119,133,239	568
Child Nutrition Programs:								
Appropriation.....	4,036,851	234	15,846,682	262	3,119,869	366	3,247,215	411
Transfer from Section 32	21,040,058	-	19,968,082	-	25,215,313	-	28,555,432	-
Permanent Appropriation.....	226,837	31	249,704	30	210,250	30	228,250	30
CARES Act Supp. Funding	2,316,587	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Supplemental Funding	1,477,489	-	2,754,414	-	2,117,000	-	-	-
Total, Child Nutrition.....	29,097,812	265	38,818,882	292	30,662,432	396	32,030,897	441
WIC (including Supplemental funds)	6,502,029	41	7,209,327	47	6,712,023	83	6,810,699	83
CAP (including Supplemental funds)	1,169,162	3	489,063	3	484,275	3	541,442	3
Nutrition Programs Admin	147,774	708	160,230	751	187,348	872	219,193	880
Congressional Hunger Center.....	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-
Total, Food & Nutrition Service Funds.	183,906,743	1,391	188,271,185	1,490	197,415,801	1,905	158,737,470	1,975
Obligations under other USDA								
Appropriations:								
Office of Hearing and Appeals	28	-	29	-	22	-	-	-
Office of the Chief Info. Officer	11	-	11	-	12	-	-	-
Office of the Secretary.....	35	-	42	-	-	-	-	-
Office of Cong Relations	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Safety and Insp. Service.....	10	-	11	-	11	-	-	-
Agricultural Marketing Service	22	-	40	-	70	-	-	-
Farm Service Agency.....	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rural Development.....	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
Department Administration	-	-	210	-	-	-	-	-
Office of the Chief Economist	-	-	62	-	-	-	-	-
Office of Civil Rights	-	-	30	-	225	-	-	-
Homeland Security	-	-	40	-	750	-	-	-
Other.....	-	-	115	-	150	-	-	-
Total, Agriculture Appropriations	140	-	602	-	1240	-	-	-
Obligations under other Federal								
Appropriations:								
Health and Human Services.....	1,043	-	1,000	-	750	-	-	-
Total, Food & Nutrition Service Obligations	\$183,907,926	1,391	\$188,272,787	1,490	\$197,417,791	1,905	\$158,737,470	1,975

Note: For additional explanation of specific program figures, please see the supporting project statements.

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTE'S*Table FNS-7. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTE's*

Item	2021 Actual			2022 Actual			2023 Estimated			2024 Estimated		
	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total
SES	9	8	17	8	8	16	9	9	18	9	9	18
GS-15.....	48	32	80	63	36	99	72	42	114	75	40	115
GS-14.....	120	83	203	147	103	250	168	121	289	175	125	300
GS-13.....	275	229	504	312	266	578	358	312	670	372	323	695
GS-12.....	64	392	456	64	359	423	73	422	495	76	437	513
GS-11.....	27	54	81	46	123	169	53	145	198	55	150	205
GS-9.....	11	8	19	25	52	77	28	61	89	29	64	93
GS-8.....	7	0	7	5	0	5	6	0	6	6	0	6
GS-7.....	2	10	12	3	7	10	3	8	11	4	8	12
GS-6.....	3	3	6	3	3	6	3	4	7	4	4	8
GS-5.....	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
GS-4.....	2	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
GS-3.....	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
GS-2.....	0	1	1	3	1	4	3	2	5	4	1	5
Total Permanent	569	822	1,391	681	957	1,638	781	1,124	1,905	810	1,165	1,975
Unfilled, EOY	84	64	148	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Perm. FT EOY	653	886	1,539	681	957	1,638	781	1,124	1,905	810	1,165	1,975
FTE	653	886	1,539	681	957	1,638	781	1,124	1,905	810	1,165	1,975

VEHICLE FLEET

MOTOR VEHICLE FLEET

The FNS General Services Administration (GSA) vehicles consists largely of sedans and minivans. Fleet vehicles are used by the National Office and Regional Offices. Vehicles assigned to the Regional Offices shared vehicles are used for travel within their area of responsibility. The four (4) fleet vehicles at the National Office in Alexandria, Virginia are used for shuttle service to transport employees to/from the Department and to transport the FNCS Deputy Under Secretary and FNS Administrator.

Replacement Criteria

Leased vehicles are replaced according to the respective GSA guidelines for years and/or miles driven. Vehicles are not automatically replaced without evaluating use/benefits and cost effectiveness in support of the mission. Utilization rates are also reviewed prior to requesting replacements.

Reductions to Fleet

In FY 2022, fleet size decreased from 23 to 21 vehicles. FNS currently has 21 GSA leased vehicles. Mountain Plains Regional Office (MPRO) turned in two (2) GSA lease vehicles (sedans and SUV) in FY 2022, due to vehicle underutilization.

Table FNS-8. Size, Composition, and Annual Costs of Motor Vehicle Fleet

	Sedans and Station Wagons	Vans	SUVs	Light Trucks 4X2	Light Trucks 4X4	Medium Duty Vehicles	Buses	Heavy Duty Vehicles	Total Vehicles	Annual Operating Costs
2021 EOY Operating Inventory	12	6	2	0	0	3	0	0	23	\$113,274
2022 Planned Acquisitions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2022 Planned Disposals	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	
2022 EOY Operating Inventory	11	6	1	0	0	3	0	0	21	\$118,937
2023 Planned Acquisitions	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
2023 Planned Disposals	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
2023 EOY Operating Inventory	11	6	1	0	0	3	0	0	21	\$124,884
2024 Planned Acquisitions	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
2024 Planned Disposals	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
2024 EOY Operating Inventory	11	6	1	0	0	3	0	0	21	\$137,022

Note: Number of vehicles by type include vehicles owned by the agency and leased from commercial sources or GSA.

Note: Annual Operating Costs excludes acquisition costs and gains from sale of vehicles as shown in FAST.

Table FNS-9. Statement of Proposed Purchase of Passenger Motor Vehicles

Fiscal Year	Net Active Fleet, SOY	Disposals	Replacements	Additions	Total Acquisitions	Net Active Fleet, EOY
2021	12	1	1	0	0	12
2022	12	1	0	0	0	11
2023	11	3	3	0	0	11
2024	11	2	2	0	0	11

Note: FNS no longer has purchased vehicles or owned vehicles in the fleet. The FY 2021 numbers are a correction of what was reported in the FY 2023 Explanatory Notes.

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS**Table FNS-10. Shared Funding Projects (dollars in thousands)**

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Working Capital Fund:				
Administration:				
Material Management Service Center.....	\$83	\$95	\$90	\$95
Ask USDA Contact Center.....	-	-	1,223	1,283
Mail and Reproduction Services.....	24	146	143	148
Integrated Procurement Systems.....	246	227	220	226
Procurement Operations Division.....	73	130	143	272
Personnel and Document Security.....	-	-	72	77
HR Enterprise System Management.....	18	23	20	23
Subtotal.....	444	621	1,911	2,124
Communications:				
Creative Media and Broadcast Center.....	1,884	281	541	1,250
Finance and Management:				
National Finance Center.....	1,533	1,788	933	976
Internal Control Support Services.....	156	158	174	184
Financial Shared Services.....	1,410	1,468	1,403	1,509
Subtotal.....	5,003	3,414	2,510	3,919
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center.....	9,382	8,629	8,496	9,012
Dept. Admin. Information Technology Office.....	1,653	1,882	1,898	1,898
Digital Infrastructure Services Center.....	4,804	5,559	6,470	6,763
Enterprise Cyber Security.....	-	-	532	555
Enterprise Data Analytics.....	-	-	2,770	2,795
Enterprise Network Services.....	1,111	956	1,998	1,910
Subtotal.....	16,950	17,026	22,164	22,933
Office of the Executive Secretariat.....	209	264	422	441
Total, Working Capital Fund.....	22,606	21,606	27,007	27,517
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Advisory Committee Liaison Services.....	3	4	-	-
Agency Partnership Outreach.....	104	95	119	119
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility.....	-	-	32	32
Human Resources Priority Goals Program.....	1	-	60	60
Medical Service.....	2	-	-	-
National Capital Region Interpreting Services.....	0	76	103	103
Office of Customer Experience.....	146	132	47	47
Personnel and Document Security.....	51	51	-	-
Physical Security.....	65	65	67	67
Security Detail.....	70	68	76	76
Security Operations.....	98	94	104	104
TARGET Center.....	18	19	26	26
USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Services.....	82	66	-	-
Total, Departmental Shared Cost Programs.....	639	670	686	686
E-Gov:				
Budget Formulation and Execution LOB.....	12	14	8	8
Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan.....	32	13	13	13
E-Rulemaking.....	224	204	193	162
Financial Management LOB.....	1	1	1	1
Geospatial LOB.....	13	13	13	13
GovBenefits.....	125	103	95	100
Grants.gov.....	26	19	27	27
Hiring Assessment Tool.....	-	3	-	-
HR Management LOB.....	5	4	4	4
Integrated Acquisition Environment.....	-	65	54	48
Total, E-Gov.....	438	439	408	376
Agency Total.....	23,663	22,715	28,101	28,579

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CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

1 For necessary expenses to carry out the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.),
 2 except section 21, and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), except sections 17 and 21;
 3 ~~[\$28,545,432,000]~~\$32,030,897,000, to remain available through September 30, ~~[2024]~~2025, of which such sums as
 4 are made available under section 14222(b)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-
 5 246), as amended by this Act, shall be merged with and available for the same time period and purposes as provided
 6 herein: *Provided*, That of the total amount available, \$20,162,000 shall be available to carry out section 19 of the
 7 Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1788): *Provided further*, That of the total amount available,
 8 ~~[\$21,005,000]~~\$21,876,000 shall be available to carry out studies and evaluations and shall remain available until
 9 expended: [*Provided further*, That of the total amounts available, \$14,000,000 shall remain available until expended
 10 to carry out section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g):] *Provided*
 11 *further*, That notwithstanding section 18(g)(3)(C) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
 12 1769(g)(3)(c)), the total grant amount provided to a farm to school grant recipient in fiscal year ~~[2023]~~2024 shall not
 13 exceed \$500,000: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$30,000,000 shall be available to provide
 14 competitive grants to State agencies for subgrants to local educational agencies and schools to purchase the
 15 equipment, with a value of greater than \$1,000, needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help
 16 support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the school breakfast program: [*Provided further*, That of
 17 the total amount available, \$40,000,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out section 749(g) of the
 18 Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-80):][*Provided further*, That of the total amount available
 19 \$2,000,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out activities authorized under subsections (a)(2) and
 20 (e)(2) of section 21 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769b-1(a)(2) and
 21 (e)(2)):][*Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$3,000,000 shall be available until September 30,
 22 2024 to carry out section 23 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1793), of which \$1,000,000 shall be for
 23 grants under such section to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
 24 Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa:] *Provided further*, That section 26(d) of the
 25 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769g(d)) is amended in the first sentence by striking
 26 "2010 through ~~[2023]~~2024" and inserting "2010 through ~~[2024]~~2025": *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(3) of the
 27 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(3)) is amended in the first sentence by striking
 28 "For fiscal year ~~[2022]~~2023" and inserting "For fiscal year ~~[2023]~~2024": *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(4) of
 29 the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(4)) is amended in the first sentence by
 30 striking "For fiscal year ~~[2022]~~2023" and inserting "For fiscal year ~~[2023]~~2024".

Change Description

The first change (line 9) removes funding for Farm to School Grants. This item was funded in 2023 through the appropriations language. President's Budget 2024 requests this funding through a General Provision.

The second change (line 16) removes funding for summer demonstrations.

The third change (line 18) removes funding for the Institute of Child Nutrition. This item was funded in 2023 through the appropriations language. President's Budget 2024 requests this funding through a General Provision.

The fourth change (line 21) removes funding for school breakfast expansion grants.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**Table FNS-11. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)**

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2023.....	\$28,545,432,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+3,485,465,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>32,030,897,000</u>
Budget Estimate, Current Law 2024.....	\$32,030,897,000
Change Due to Proposed Legislation.....	+234,000,000
Net 2024 Request.....	<u>32,264,897,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS**Table FNS-12. Project Statement Appropriated Funding (thousands of dollars, FTE)**

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc/ Dec	FTE Inc/Dec	Chg Key
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE			
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Team Nutrition/HUSSC	\$18,004	26	\$18,004	29	\$20,162	35	\$20,162	35	-	-	
Summer Demonstration.....	42,000	-	45,000	-	40,000	-	-	-	-\$40,000	-	(1)
School Meals Equipment Grants	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000	-	-	-	
School Breakfast Expansion Grants	6,000	-	6,000	-	3,000	-	-	-	-3,000	-	(2)
Institute of Child Nutrition	1,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-2,000	-	(3)
Farm to School Grants.....	12,000	-	17,000	-	14,000	-	-	-	-14,000	-	(4)
Subtotal	109,004	26	118,004	29	109,162	35	50,162	35	-59,000		
Mandatory Appropriations:											
National School Lunch Program	13,539,797	-	14,665,855	-	15,404,530	-	16,427,651	-	+1,023,121	-	(5)
School Breakfast Program.....	5,039,086	-	5,188,750	-	5,453,240	-	6,045,213	-	+591,973	-	(6)
Child and Adult Care Food Program...	4,015,116	-	4,314,605	-	4,659,778	-	4,185,721	-	-474,057	-	(7)
Summer Food Service Program.....	551,944	14	581,074	14	655,333	20	846,331	20	+190,998	-	(8)
Special Milk Program.....	7,309	-	6,250	-	7,817	-	6,651	-	-1,166	-	(9)
Summer EBT (Benefits).....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,700,000	-	+1,700,000	-	(10)
Summer EBT (50% Admin.).....	-	-	-	-	-	-	170,000	-	+170,000	-	(11)
State Administrative Expenses	317,044	-	332,000	-	339,000	-	491,591	-	+152,591	-	(12)
Commodity Procurement	1,460,769	25	1,567,663	24	1,788,389	33	1,948,518	33	+160,129	-	(13)
Food Safety Education	2,988	6	3,048	6	4,196	8	4,378	8	+182	-	(14)
Coordinated Review.....	10,000	61	10,000	58	10,000	80	10,000	80	-	-	
Computer Support	19,366	-	26,753	17	28,238	24	34,912	24	+6,674	-	(15)
Training and Technical Assistance.....	34,214	42	41,498	41	45,996	59	61,291	82	+15,295	+23	(16)
CN Studies	15,299	9	15,607	9	21,005	13	21,876	13	+871	-	(17)
CN Payment Accuracy	11,427	51	11,656	49	12,315	72	17,069	80	+4,754	+8	(18)
Farm to School Team	4,077	-	6,159	15	6,433	22	9,533	36	+3,100	+14	(19)
Subtotal	25,028,436	208	26,770,918	233	28,436,270	331	31,980,735	376	+3,544,465		+45
Supplemental Appropriations:											
CARES Act:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CNP Covid-19 #3 Emergency Costs ...	1,800,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
School Food / CN Support for Local	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Procurement & Mgt.....	1,000,000	-	1,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keep Kids Fed Act	-	-	1,039,000	-	2,117,000	-	-	-	-2,117,000	-	-
Subtotal	2,800,000	-	2,539,000	-	2,117,000	-	-	-	-2,117,000		-
Total Adjusted Appropriation.....	27,937,440	234	29,427,922	262	30,662,432	366	32,030,897	411	+1,368,465		+45
Sequester	-3,520	-	-89,488	-	-4,484	-	-9,829	-	-5,345	-	-
Total Available	27,933,920	234	29,338,434	262	30,657,948	366	32,021,068	411	+1,363,120		+45
Proposed Legislation	-	-	-	-	-	-	234,000	-	-	-	-

Table FNS-13. Appropriations Project Statement Permanent Funding (thousands of dollars, FTE)

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		FTE	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Inc./Dec.	Inc./Dec.
Mandatory Appropriations: ^a										
Information Clearinghouse	\$250	-	\$250	-	\$250	-	\$250	-	-	-
Institute of Child Nutrition.....	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	7,000	-	+\$2,000	-
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	183,000	5	187,000	5	191,000	5	195,000	5	+4,000	-
Technical Assistance Program Integrity .	4,000	21	4,000	20	4,000	20	4,000	20	-	-
Administrative Review	4,000	4	4,000	4	4,000	4	4,000	4	-	-
Professional Standards – Foodservice.....	1,000	1	1,000	1	1,000	1	1,000	1	-	-
Farm to School Grants	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	17,000	-	+12,000	-
Total Permanent Appropriations/ Transfers.....	202,250	31	206,250	30	210,250	30	228,250	30	+18,000	-

^a The program lines in this table are not subject to appropriation.

Table FNS-14. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTE)

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc/ Dec	FTE Inc/Dec
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE		
Discretionary Obligations:										
Team Nutrition/HUSSC	\$18,261	26	\$20,708	29	\$20,162	35	\$20,162	35	-	-
Summer Demonstration.....	16,314	-	18,772	-	40,000	-	-	-	-\$40,000	-
School Meals Equipment Grants	28,081	-	29,624	-	30,000	-	30,000	-	-	-
School Breakfast Expansion Grants	8,197	-	2,000	-	3,000	-	-	-	-	-
Institute of Child Nutrition	-	-	5,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-2,000	-
Farm to School Grants.....	-	-	9,000	-	14,000	-	-	-	-14,000	-
Subtotal	70,853	26	85,104	29	109,162	35	50,162	35	-56,000	-
Mandatory Obligations:										
National School Lunch Program	5,845,801	-	21,637,497	-	15,404,530	-	-16,427,651	-	+1,023,121	-
School Breakfast Program.....	2,520,393	-	5,619,744	-	5,453,240	-	6,045,213	-	+591,973	-
Child and Adult Care Food Program.....	3,990,124	-	5,509,481	-	4,659,778	-	4,185,721	-	-474,057	-
Summer Food Service Program.....	10,925,354	14	989,484	14	655,333	20	846,331	20	+190,998	-
Special Milk Program.....	2,780	-	5,999	-	7,817	-	6,651	-	-1,166	-
Summer EBT (Benefits).....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,700,000	-	+1,700,000	-
Summer EBT (50% Admin.).....	-	-	-	-	-	-	170,000	-	+170,000	-
State Administrative Expenses.....	327,791	-	342,609	-	339,000	-	491,591	-	+152,591	--
Commodity Procurement	1,517,864	25	1,796,700	24	1,788,389	33	1,948,518	33	+160,129	-
Food Safety Education	2,692	6	2,435	6	4,196	8	4,378	8	+182	-
Coordinated Review.....	9,672	61	8,973	58	10,000	80	10,000	80	-	-
Computer Support	18,399	-	23,235	17	28,238	24	34,912	24	+6,674	-
Training and Technical Assistance.....	45,258	42	21,681	41	45,996	59	61,291	82	+15,295	+23
CN Studies	13,763	9	8,547	9	21,005	13	21,876	13	+871	-
CN Payment Accuracy	9,871	51	9,074	49	12,315	72	17,069	80	+4,754	+8
Farm to School Team	3,121	-	3,905	15	6,433	22	9,533	36	+3,100	+14
Subtotal	25,232,883	208	35,979,364	233	28,436,270	331	31,980,735	376	+3,544,465	+45
Supplemental Obligations:										
CARES Act:	2,316,587	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CNP Covid-19 #3 Emergency Costs	1,477,489	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
School Food / CN Support for Local Food										
Procurement & Mgt.....	-	-	1,943,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keep Kids Fed Act	-	-	811,414	-	2,117,000	-	-	-	-2,117,000	-
Subtotal	3,794,076	-	2,754,414	-	2,117,000	-	-	-	-2,117,000	-
Total Obligations	29,097,812	234	38,818,882	262	30,662,432	366	32,030,897	411	+1,378,465	+45
Rescission	-	-	-	-	-80,000	-	-	-	+80,000	-
Sequestration	-3,520	-	-89,488	-	-4,484	-	-5,294	-	-810	-
Recoveries.....	-1,654,514	-	-1,202,500	-	-590,000	-	-590,000	-	-	-
Unobligated Balance, SOY	-9,000,000	-	-9,497,662	-	-1,398,690	-	-1,993,174	-	-594,484	-
Unobligated Balance, EOY	9,497,662	-	1,398,690	-	1,993,174	-	2,588,468	-	+595,294	-
Total Appropriation	27,937,440	234	29,427,922	262	30,582,432	366	32,030,897	411	+1,448,465	+45

Table FNS-15. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTE)

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc/ Dec	FTE Inc/Dec
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE		
Mandatory Obligations: ^a										
Information Clearinghouse	\$250	-	\$250	-	\$250	-	\$250	-	-	-
Institute of Child Nutrition.....	6,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	7,000	-	+\$2,000	-
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	203,431	5	233,523	5	191,000	5	195,000	5	+4,000	-
Technical Assistance Program Integrity ...	3,539	21	3,416	20	4,000	20	4,000	20	-	-
Administrative Review	188	4	198	4	4,000	4	4,000	4	-	-
Professional Standards – Foodservice.....	866	1	1,042	1	1,000	1	1,000	1	-	-
Farm to School Grants	12,563	-	6,275	-	5,000	-	17,000	-	+12,000	-
Subtotal.....	226,837	31	249,704	30	210,250	30	228,250	30	+18,000	-
Recoveries	-30,080	-	-68,655	-	-23,465	-	-23,465	-	-	-
Unobligated Balance, SOY	-292,544	-	-298,037	-	-323,238	-	-346,703	-	-23,465	-
Lapsing Balances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unobligated Balance, EOY.....	298,037	-	323,238	-	346,703	-	370,168	-	+23,465	-
Total Appropriation	202,250	31	206,250	30	210,250	30	228,250	30	+18,000	-

The program lines in this table are not subject to appropriation.

Table FNS-16. Direct Appropriations Authorities

Direct Appropriation and Transfer Activities	Authorization
Information Clearinghouse.....	NSLA Sect. 26(d)
Institute of Child Nutrition.....	NSLA Sect. 21(e)(1)(A)
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (transfer).....	NSLA Sect. 19(i)(1)
Technical Assistance Program Integrity.....	NSLA Sect. 21(g)(1)(A)
Grants to States (Administrative Review).....	CNA Sect. 7(h)(1)
Professional Standards – Foodservice.....	CNA Sect. 7(g)(3)(A)
Farm to School Grants	NSLA Sect. 18(g)(8)(A)

Note: National School Lunch Act (NSLA); Child Nutrition Act (CNA); the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010, P.L. 111-80; P.L. 111-296.

JUSTIFICATION OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

The numbers and letters of the following listing relate to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement, compared to 2023 Estimated. The Justification reflects an increase of \$3,485,465,000. This change includes:

- (1) A decrease of \$40,000,000 for Summer Demonstration (\$40,000,000 available in 2023).

For over a decade, FNS has run demonstration projects to develop and rigorously evaluate alternative methods of providing access to food to children in low-income households during the summer months, when schools were not in session, including summer EBT demonstration projects in partnership with several States and Indian Tribal Organizations. These demonstration funds have served their purpose, providing critical evidence to inform Congress on alternative program design options, and are no longer necessary. On December 29, 2023, Congress enacted a permanent nationwide Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children Program (Summer EBT) and non-congregate meal options for children in rural areas under the Summer Food Service Program as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328).

- (2) A decrease of \$3,000,000 for School Breakfast Equipment Grants (\$3,000,000 available in 2023).

Breakfast participation by schools has come a long way over the last several decades. In 2020, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 94 percent of schools operating the National School Lunch Program also operated the School Breakfast Program and in 2024, a similar participation rate is expected. Therefore, while school breakfast continues to be a priority, USDA believes these expansion grants are no longer needed to drive participation in the School Breakfast Program.

(3) A decrease of \$2,000,000 for Institute of Child Nutrition (\$2,000,000 available in 2023).

The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN), part of the School of Applied Sciences at The University of Mississippi, is the only federally funded national center dedicated to applied research, education and training, and technical assistance for child nutrition programs. While these funds were provided in the appropriations language in 2023, the President’s Budget requests \$2 million for this purpose as a General Provision. (See *Table FNS-13. Appropriations Project Statement Permanent Funding.*)

(4) A decrease of \$14,000,000 for Farm to School Grants (\$14,000,000 available in 2023).

Farm to School Grants play an important role in expanding USDA’s farm to school efforts across the country and strengthening the school meal programs. Each year Farm to School Grants help fund projects that will increase the amount of local foods served through child nutrition programs and help educate children about where their food comes from. Farm to school efforts can help school meal programs be more resilient in the face of recent supply chain disruptions by building connections within local communities. While these funds were provided in the appropriations language in 2023, the President’s Budget request includes \$12 million for Farm to School Grants as a General Provision. (See *Table FNS-13. Appropriations Project Statement Permanent Funding.*)

(5) An increase of \$1,023,121,000 for National School Lunch Program (NSLP) (\$15,404,530,000 available in 2023).

In 2021 and 2022, due to waivers that were established for Child Nutrition Program operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, normal obligational patterns were disrupted. In 2021, about half the meals served in schools were served and claimed under the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), while half were served and claimed under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, primarily using the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). For 2022, USDA issued a broad range of flexibilities designed to allow school meal and childcare programs to return to serving healthy meals while maintaining social distancing. As a result of these waivers, schools had the option to serve all meals free of charge throughout the school year, using the meal pattern requirements of regular school and childcare meals, while being reimbursed at the SFSP reimbursement rates. Beginning in 2023, requested funding assumes a return to more normal school lunch and school breakfast operations.

The requested increase for 2024 is to account for projected increases in participation and inflation of meal reimbursement rates. In 2024, the total number of lunches and snacks is projected to be 5.034 billion, an increase of 14 million (or 0.3% percent) over the current estimate for 2023 of 5.020 billion.

Table FNS-17. National School Lunch Program Performance Measure ^a

NSLP Performance Measure	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Lunches Served (millions):				
Above 185% of poverty	25	212	1,210	1,213
130% - 185% of poverty	4	28	231	231
Below 130% of poverty	1,514	4,613	3,428	3,437
Total Lunches	1,543	4,853	4,869	4,881
Average Daily Participation (millions).....	9	29.6	29.5	29.5
Lunch Rate per meal (blended, cents):				
Above 185% of poverty	42	44	87	91
130% - 185% of poverty	320	335	403	423
Below 130% of poverty	360	375	443	465
Snacks Served (millions):				
Above 185% of poverty	1	2	2	2
130% - 185% of poverty	1	1	1	1
Below 130% of poverty	86	147	148	150
Total Snacks	88	150	151	153
Snack subsidy per meal (blended)(cents):				
Above 185% of poverty	8	9	9	9
130% - 185% of poverty	48	50	54	57
Below 130% of poverty	96	100	108	113
TOTAL, Lunches and Snacks.....	1,631	5,003	5,020	5,034
Total Meal Reimbursement (millions).....	\$5,581	\$21,637	\$15,405	\$16,428

Meals served under the Seamless Summer Option were reimbursed at the Summer Food Service Program rates in 2022.

Other information: Income Eligibility

Eligibility for rates of payment in the Child Nutrition Programs is tied to family income with free meal eligibility set at 130 percent of the Federal poverty level and reduced-price meals at 185 percent. The pertinent income levels for a family of four are shown below (rates are higher for Alaska and Hawaii):

Table FNS-18. Income Eligibility for a Family of Four

Poverty Level (Family of 4)	2022-2023 School Year	2023-2024 School Year
100 Percent	\$27,750	\$30,000
130 Percent	36,075	39,000
185 Percent	51,338	55,500

(6) An increase of \$591,973,000 for School Breakfast Program (SBP) (\$5,453,240,000 available in 2023).

In 2024, FNS projects a total of 2.616 billion school breakfasts served, an increase by 39 million meals (or 1.5 percent) over 2023. The increase in the projected number of meals combined with the expected increase in school breakfast reimbursement rates requires an increased appropriation of \$591,973,000.

Table FNS-19. School Breakfast Program Performance Measure ^a

SBP Performance Measure	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Meals Served (millions):				
Above 185% of poverty.....	8	71	385	391
Reduce Price, Regular.....	1	2	9	9
Reduce Price, Severe Need.....	2	10	119	121
130%-185% of poverty, Total.....	3	12	128	130
Free, Regular.....	123	-	61	62
Free, Severe Need.....	927	2,458	2,003	2,033
Below 130% of poverty, Total.....	1,050	2,458	2,064	2,095
TOTAL, Meals.....	1,061	2,541	2,577	2,616
Average Daily participation (millions).....	6	15	15	15
Average Subsidy Per Meal (cents):				
Paid.....	32	33	50	53
Reduced Price:				
Regular.....	159	167	196	206
Severe Need.....	196	197	226	237
Free:				
Regular.....	189	205	237	249
Severe Need.....	226	235	267	280
Program Total (millions).....	\$2,349	\$5,620	\$5,453	\$6,045

Meals served under the Seamless Summer Option were reimbursed at the Summer Food Service Program rates in 2022.

(7) A decrease of \$474,057,000 for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) (\$4,659,778,000 available in 2023).

Fluctuations in CACFP funding needs are affected by decreases in participation and increases in the CPI for Food Away from Home (for centers) and for Food at Home (for homes) used to set reimbursement rates. The current estimate projects 1.906 billion meals served in childcare centers, family day care homes and adult care centers in 2024, an increase of 53 million meals (or 3% percent) above the total number of meals served in 2022.

Table FNS-20. Child and Adult Care Program Performance Measure

CACFP Performance Measure	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Meals Served Centers (millions):				
Above 185% of poverty.....	284	320	325	379
130% - 185% of poverty.....	64	74	75	80
Below 130% of poverty.....	1,146	1,121	1,138	1,102
TOTAL, Centers.....	1,494	1,515	1,538	1,561
Tier 1 Homes (Low Income).....	326	326	329	332
Tier 2 Homes (Upper Income).....	30	12	13	13
TOTAL, Family Day Care Homes.....	356	338	342	345
Total Child & Adult Care Program Meals.....	1,850	1,854	1,880	1,906
Above 185% of poverty.....	24	26	27	28
130% - 185% of poverty.....	173	181	196	206
Below 130% of poverty.....	212	221	237	249
Tier 1 (Low Income).....	159	160	189	198
Tier 2 (Upper Income).....	76	77	189	95
Meal Reimbursement.....	\$3,846	\$5,373	\$4,534	\$4,055
Sponsor Admin.....	85	87	89	91
Audits.....	59	49	37	40
Program Total (millions).....	\$3,990	\$5,509	\$4,660	\$4,186

(8) An increase of \$190,998,000 for Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) (\$655,333,000 and 20 FTE’s available in 2023).

During 2021, under COVID-19 waivers, about half of school lunches and breakfasts were served and claimed under the Summer Food Service Program, which distorts the typical obligation patterns. For 2022, extension of area eligibility waivers in the Summer Food Service Program allowed for expanded operations. For 2023 and 2024, the program is expected to return to normal program rules, but with significant expansion due to new non-congregate meal delivery options for children in rural areas, authorized in the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328). FNS anticipates a total of 182 million summer meals served in 2024, an increase of 29 million meals (or nearly 19 percent) from the previous year.

Table FNS-21. Summer Food Service Program Performance Measure

SFSP Performance Measure	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Meals Served (millions):				
Summer Food Program.....	3,091	151	153	182
Average Subsidy Per Meal (cents):				
Lunch.....	432	456	495	520
Breakfast.....	246	261	282	296
Supplements.....	102	108	117	123
Program Total (millions).....	\$9,722	\$989	\$655	\$846

(9) A decrease of \$1,166,000 for Special Milk Program (SMP) (\$7,817,000 available in 2023).

This change is due to small projected decreases in participation, net of reimbursement rate inflation. In 2024, FNS anticipates participation in the Special Milk Program to be approximately 17.8 million total half pints served. The cash reimbursement rate for milk served is adjusted annually on July 1 to reflect changes in the Producer Price Index for fresh processed milk.

Table FNS-22. Special Milk Program Performance Measure

SMP Performance Measure	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Half Pints Served (millions):				
Paid (Above 130% of poverty).....	13	17	16	16
Free (130% of poverty or below).....	1	2	2	2
Total, half pints.....	14	19	18	18
Reimbursement Rates (cents):				
Paid.....	20	22	27	28
Free.....	20	22	27	28
Program Total (millions).....	\$3	\$6	\$8	\$7

(10) An increase of \$1,700,000,000 for Summer EBT (Benefits) (0 available in 2023).

Summer is perhaps the most challenging time of the year for children at risk of food insecurity because they lose access to daily school meals, and some face structural barriers to accessing summer meals through the traditional programs. Rigorous evaluations of Summer EBT demonstrations over the last decade found that Summer EBT is an effective way to reduce very low food security among children and to improve their diet quality during the summer months.

Section 502(b) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328), established a new permanent Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program for Children (Summer EBT) under Section 13A of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. Beginning in summer 2024, States will be able to provide an EBT benefit to school children in low-income families equal to \$40 per summer month, indexed to the Thrifty Food Plan, to purchase groceries at authorized retailers. Likewise, Indian Tribal Organizations who operate the WIC program may provide Summer EBT benefits to children that may be redeemed at authorized WIC retailers. This new legislation is expected to have a significant and permanent impact on the Nation’s ability to meet the nutritional needs of children during the summer. Requested funding is based on projections that approximately 27 million children will participate in Summer EBT in 2024.

(11) An increase of \$170,000,000 for Summer EBT (50% Admin) (0 available in 2023).

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328) also established authority under Section 13A(d) of Richard B. Russell School Lunch Act for Federal reimbursement to States and Indian Tribal Organizations (ITO) for 50 percent of the administrative expenses incurred in operating Summer EBT. Based on historic operating costs for SNAP and evaluations of the summer EBT demonstrations, the Budget requests \$170 million for Summer EBT administrative reimbursement in 2024. Future requests will be informed by State and ITO operating plans.

(12) An increase of \$152,591,000 for State Administrative Expenses (\$339,000,000 available in 2023).

The formula for SAE as set forth in Section 7 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 specifies the formula as “an amount equal to not less than 1 ½ percent of the Federal funds expended under sections 4, 11, and 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1753, 1759a, and 1766) and sections 3 and 4 of this Act during the second preceding fiscal year.” This counts meal reimbursement funding for lunch, breakfast, and child and adult care meals, and the special milk program. This larger than normal increase in SAE is due to higher meal reimbursement obligations resulting from Child Nutrition Program waivers in School Year 2021-2022.

(13) An increase of \$160,129,000 for Commodity Procurement (\$1,788,389,000 and 33 FTE’s available in 2023).

Funding is provided for commodity purchases used in the School Lunch, Child and Adult Care Food, and the Summer Food Service Programs, including the costs of procuring those commodities. This increase is to account for programmatic changes in participation and inflation.

Table FNS-23. Commodity Performance Measure

Commodity Performance Measure	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
CN Appropriation:				
AMS/CCC Commodities	\$485	\$485	\$485	\$485
Section 6 Commodities/Cash/Procurement Costs	951	1,106	1,147	1,260
School Lunch Total.....	1,436	1,591	1,632	1,745
Child & Adult Care Food Program:				
Commodities/Cash.....	156	176	185	190
Summer Food Service Program:				
Commodities.....	10	12	13	14
Program Total (millions)	1,602	1,779	1,830	1,949
Appropriation (millions).....	\$1,461	\$1,568	\$1,788	\$1,949

(14) An increase of \$182,000 for Food Safety Education (\$4,196,000 and 8 FTE's available in 2023).

Food safety education funds are used to reinforce and expand FNS' efforts to provide Child Nutrition Programs operators with continuous, effective training and technical assistance in food safety and food defense for schools, summer feeding sites, child care centers, family day care homes and adult care centers. FNS develops materials, ensures their delivery at all appropriate levels, makes training available at all possible levels, and facilitates the implementation of food safety requirements into the operators' food service operations. The funds provide resources to help ensure the safety of foods served to school children, including training for State and local staff. This increase is due to pay inflation.

(15) An increase of \$6,674,000 for Computer Support (\$28,238,000 and 24 FTE's available in 2023).

This line supports the essential systems needed to administer the Child Nutrition Programs, including the federal staff required to operate and maintain those systems. This increase is due to a 5.2 percent pay increase, inflation, and the 2024 Current Law Proposal: Modernize Food Ordering and Inventory Management Systems which requests \$5,500,000.

(16) An increase of \$15,295,000 including 23 FTEs for Training and Technical Assistance (\$45,996,000 and 59 FTE's available in 2023).

Effective and continual training and technical assistance are necessary to help States properly administer the Child Nutrition Programs and to ensure States are equipped to identify and prevent fraud and abuse. A change of \$1,995,000 is due to pay cost and increases to state and local index trends. An additional \$13.3 million increase is for three Current Law Proposals. The first current law proposal requests \$10 million to enhance FNS' ability to provide critical training, technical assistance, and oversight to ensure program integrity and compliance with Federal law and regulations by supporting an increase of 16 FTEs for child nutrition in national and regional offices. The second proposal is for \$2 million to further integrate Enterprise Risk Management approaches in FNS strategic planning and program operations. The third proposal requests \$1.3 million and 7 FTEs for Federal administration of the new Summer EBT program.

(17) An increase of \$871,000 for CN Studies (\$21,005,000 and 13 FTE's available in 2023).

FNS conducts a variety of studies, evaluations, and related activities that respond to the needs of policy makers and managers and help ensure that nutrition assistance programs achieve their goals effectively. This line supports the critical evaluations needed for the Child Nutrition Programs, including the federal staff needed to oversee this vital work. The change is for pay costs and to match state and local index trends.

(18) An increase of \$4,754,000 including 8 FTEs for CN Payment Accuracy (\$12,315,000 and 72 FTE's available in 2023).

This funding supports FNS' robust Federal oversight, monitoring and technical assistance, which are essential to the identification, prevention and resolution of erroneous payments. The increase includes two Current Law Proposals. The first requests \$1.2 million for 8 staff years to support Federal administration of Summer EBT. The second, would provide \$3 million to improve program integrity specifically in the Child Care and Adult Food Program. The remaining increase of \$554,000 is for pay costs and to match state and local index trends.

(19) An increase of \$3,100,000 including 14 FTEs for Farm to School Team (\$6,433,000 and 22 FTE’s available in 2023).

The Farm to School initiative is an effort to connect schools (K - 12) with regional or local farms in order to serve healthy meals using locally produced foods. USDA recognizes the growing interest among school districts and communities to incorporate regionally and locally produced farm foods into the Child Nutrition Programs. The Farm to School Team supports local and regional food systems by facilitating alliances between program operators and their local food producers. Working with local and state authorities, school districts, farmers, and community partners, the Farm to School Team provides guidance to and develops mechanisms for assisting program operators in accessing local markets, enabling food producers to effectively service their local schools and communities, and facilitating communication between interested stakeholders. An increase of \$300,000 is related to inflation and pay cost. The remaining increase of \$2.8 million is related to a Current Law Proposal to increase FNS staffing, adding 14 FTE’s to the farm to school team. The proposal enhances the national office’s ability to support the annual grant making process, coordinate with partners, and develop program-wide materials and training.

Table FNS-24. Summary of 2024 Current Law Proposals for CN

Proposals	Amount (Thousands)
Modernize Food Ordering and Inventory Management Systems	\$5,500
Increase Training and Technical Assistance	10,000
FNS Enterprise Risk Management	2,000
Federal Administration of Summer EBT.....	2,500
Strengthen CACFP Program Integrity.....	3,000
Increase Farm to School Team Support	2,800
Total	\$25,800

CURRENT LAW

Modernize Food Ordering and Inventory Management Systems

The additional funding will support further enhancements to the system and validation that specified requirements have been fulfilled, as well as one-time funding for the migration of USDA Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program ordering system to the Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM). This is necessary to eliminate system duplication and enhance customer service/customer experience by sampling the number of systems program stakeholders need to utilize to access the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

Table FNS-25. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$5,500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$14,500
Outlays	5,500	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	14,500

CURRENT LAW

Training and Technical Assistance Program

Effective and continual training, technical assistance, and robust oversight are necessary to help States properly administer the Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs) and to ensure States are equipped to identify and prevent fraud and abuse.

The past two years demonstrate the importance of FNS capacity to provide timely and thoughtful response to State and local needs, particularly in the face of changing circumstances. The Child Nutrition Programs are a crucial source of meals for millions of children nationwide to combat food insecurity which was further exacerbated by the pandemic particularly among families with children. While recent circumstances were extraordinary, they demonstrate the importance of FNS programmatic capacity to respond to complex and/or unexpected circumstances.

It is imperative that FNS is resourced appropriately to respond efficiently and effectively to changing program operations while providing timely customer service and comprehensive oversight to reduce improper payments and program errors. Errors in the Child Nutrition Programs have both financial implications to the Federal Government as well as program operators and households such as eligible children missing out on healthy meals and snacks. FNS' capacity to conduct the number of needed oversight reviews with the required breadth of focus is critical to ensuring program integrity and compliance with Federal requirements so that public investment in the program yields the intended outcomes. The Child Nutrition Program staff recently underwent a reorganization designed to create a management and staffing structure which is better aligned with the growing complexity and scope of the Child Nutrition Programs. In total, this request would add 16 staff to support CN at the regional and national level.

Table FNS-26. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$100,000
Outlays	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	100,000

CURRENT LAW

Enterprise Risk Management Program

This proposal will fund FNS implementation of a comprehensive Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) program across FNS program areas (with funding requests in both CN and SNAP). OMB Circular No. A-123 directs Federal agencies to integrate and coordinate risk management and strong and effective internal controls into existing business activities and as an integral part of managing an Agency. This proposal intends to take existing risk management processes, that may operate at times as a silo within a business area and formalize a comprehensive program across the agency. This proposal will fund resources to operate the program, leadership training, and implementation of further integrating ERM into FNS's strategic planning process. The plan will include identification and implementation of risk mitigation strategies, tracking of the risk profile and similar activities in line with industry standard risk management principles and the OMB circular. By incorporating ERM processes, FNS will achieve the following results:

- Break down silos and build transparency by improving communication about managing risk across the enterprise;
- Use root cause analysis to systematically and thoughtfully build risk management into work processes;
- Proactively identify and monitor risk to quickly and efficiently address issues with high impact and/or visibility to the program;
- Improve decision making and use of resources by allowing for quick pivots and implementation of a strategic response through advanced identification of risks and mitigation strategies;
- Increase efficiency by identifying clear focus areas for leaders, managers and staff, especially when facing multiple demands; and
- Prioritize workload and problem-solving issues with programmatic delivery affecting access, integrity, equity, and nutrition security using a systematic process applied across all FNS nutrition programs.

Table FNS-27. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$2,000	2,000	1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$12,000
Outlays	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	12,000

CURRENT LAW

Federal implementation of Summer EBT

This proposal would support Federal administration of the new Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children Program (Summer EBT), established in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. As the first new nationwide Child Nutrition Program to be permanently authorized in almost fifty years, Summer EBT represents a significant expansion of Federal efforts to meet the nutritional needs of children in the summer and will require sustained investment to fully support functions associated with administration of the program. FNS does not currently receive an appropriation to implement Summer EBT. This increase would be divided between training and technical

assistance (\$1,200,000) to support activities such as policy development and technical assistance and payment accuracy (\$1,300,000) for Federal oversight of the program. The amount will be adjusted annually to account for changes in inflation. This includes 15 FTEs to be allocated across the FNS National and Regional Offices to support the ongoing policy development and oversight activities associated with the new Summer EBT Program.

Table FNS-28. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$2,500	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,700	\$2,800	\$2,900	\$3,000	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$3,200	\$28,500
Outlays	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,800	2,900	3,000	3,100	3,100	3,200	28,500

CURRENT LAW

Child and Adult Care Food Program Integrity

Building on the program integrity improvements included in the Child Nutrition Integrity final rule expected to be published in the summer of 2023, FNS is requesting \$3 million to improve program integrity specifically in the Child Care and Adult Food Program (CACFP). The funds will support additional staff years and contractual support to improve program accountability through targeted and coordinated activities, including utilizing data analysis and mining on existing FNS and State administrative data to expose patterns, trends, and indicators for further analysis.

In light of recent integrity concerns resulting in Federal indictments of individuals and organizations operating CACFP during the pandemic, FNS has been exploring new ways to analyze program data to better ensure integrity, including identifying potentially concerning meal claims earlier in the oversight process. This funding will enable FNS to build on initial efforts by exploring how a machine learning model could be used by States (before claims for reimbursement are even submitted to FNS) to look at claims at the sub-State level. This would allow for the identification of issues as early as possible, and with more precision, as well as potentially lead to modification of program operation and/or oversight procedures to ensure early detection of possible issues.

Table FNS-29. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,000
Outlays	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000

CURRENT LAW

Increase Farm to School Team Support

CN's revised management and staffing structure is better aligned with the growing complexity and scope of the child nutrition programs.

Provide additional funds for staffing to support FNS efforts to successfully administer and monitor the growing portfolio of grantees including support to implement the Food Systems Transformation work of the Administration. In addition, funds will assist with expanded support for Child Nutrition operators engaged in local food procurement and agriculture education.

Across the Department of Agriculture, agencies are working to create or reinforce the infrastructure, market, and supply chain connections, applying lessons learned and opportunities identified during pandemic related interruptions, to *Build Back Better* and allow strong and resilient local food systems to thrive. Modernizing key areas of the Farm to School Program is an important component to ensuring that producers and child nutrition program operators have a permanent place at the local food systems table in their communities and incorporate nutritious, locally produced food in program meals. This proposal increases the capacity of the Farm to School Program to meet the needs of Child Nutrition Program operators actively engaged in local food procurement and agricultural education.

The Community Food Systems Division (CFSD) in the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) promotes farm to school initiatives among CNP operators, including procurement of local foods for use in meals and food and agricultural education for the children and youth participating in the programs. Farm to school initiatives play an important role

in ensuring a resilient, sustainable, and equitable food system. Strong local food systems help address climate change, improve rural economies, and support communities in their efforts to attain equity and food sovereignty.

Under authority provided in Sections 18(g) and 9(j) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, CFSD advances farm to school initiatives through grants, training and technical assistance, and research. Since the program’s inception, USDA has awarded over \$64 million through Farm to School Grants, funding a total of 896 projects, reaching more than 22 million students in 54,000 schools. Total annual grant amounts have grown from \$4.5 million to 68 projects in 2013, to \$12 million to 177 projects in 2021. CFSD has approximately 400 active grantees. In addition, in 2023, CFSD will implement \$15 million of American Rescue Plan funding for state agency formula grants.

The 2019 Farm to School Census found that 65 percent of National School Lunch Program school food authorities are engaged in farm to school activities, and that number is expected to grow. The exponential growth in farm to school activity demands a level of technical assistance and state and local capacity building that cannot be accomplished without additional staff dedicated to this work, as well as close coordination with USDA partners including Rural Development, the Agricultural Marketing Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This proposal will add 14 FTE’s to the farm to school team. The proposal enhances the national office’s ability to support the annual grant making process, coordinate with partners, and develop program-wide materials and training.

Table FNS-30. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$30,000
Outlays	2,800	2,800	2,900	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,100	3,100	3,200	3,200	30,000

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Child Nutrition Programs

Offering free meals to all children would reduce administrative burden, ensure access, reduce the stigma associated with school meal participation, give working families and single-parent headed households extra breathing room, and allow school food service professionals to focus on their core mission of providing nutritious meals to children. During the COVID-19 pandemic, children had access to free meals as a result of temporary flexibilities provided in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), and now many States are seeking ways to continue offering free school meals for all students.

Some States are leveraging participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to support universal free meals, often in tandem with State initiatives. CEP is a Federal-local cost sharing option that allows eligible schools to provide meals at no cost to all students. To be eligible for CEP, an individual school, group of schools, or school district must meet or exceed the established identified student percentage (ISP) threshold, currently set at 40 percent, in the school year prior to implementing CEP. The ISP is the percentage of enrolled students who are certified for free school meals without submitting a household application, such as those directly certified through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). For CEP, students who are certified for free meals without a household application are “identified students.” The ISP is calculated by dividing the total number of identified students by the total number of enrolled students. The ISP is multiplied by 1.6 (the CEP multiplier) to determine the percentage of meals reimbursed at the free rate; remaining meals are reimbursed at the lower paid rate.

This proposal would allow more States and schools to leverage participation in CEP to expand access to healthy and free school meals to an additional 9 million children. The proposal amends Section 11(a)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1759a(a)(1)) to expand children’s access to free school meals by changing the eligibility threshold from “less than 40 percent” to “25 percent or lower” and makes CEP financially viable for more schools by increasing the CEP multiplier from 1.6 to 2.5. It also allows an option for Statewide CEP with an eligibility threshold of zero percent and a multiplier of 2.5 using a statewide ISP.

Table FNS-31. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	234,000	1,465,000	1,507,000	1,553,000	1,596,000	1,638,000	1,685,000	1,733,000	1,771,000	1,817,000	15,000,000
Outlays	187,000	1,219,000	1,499,000	1,543,000	1,588,000	1,629,000	1,676,000	1,723,000	1,764,000	1,808,000	14,636,000

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTE

Table FNS-32. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTE (thousands of dollars, FTE)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE
Alabama	-	-	\$151	1	\$209	2	\$240	2
Arizona	\$168	1	88	1	121	1	139	1
California	2,727	18	2,438	16	3,367	24	3,873	27
Colorado	2,833	18	2,569	17	3,548	26	4,082	28
Connecticut	-	-	303	2	418	3	481	3
District of Columbia	-	-	1,892	12	2,613	19	3,006	21
Delaware	-	-	151	1	209	2	240	2
Florida	316	2	370	2	512	4	589	4
Georgia	2,614	17	2,119	14	2,926	21	3,367	23
Iowa	-	-	151	1	209	2	240	2
Illinois	2,542	16	2,167	14	2,992	22	3,443	24
Indiana	150	1	80	1	110	1	127	1
Kansas	-	-	68	-	94	1	108	1
Louisiana	-	-	24	-	33	-	38	-
Massachusetts	2,852	18	2,705	18	3,735	27	4,297	30
Maryland	-	-	3,963	26	5,473	39	6,297	44
Michigan	-	-	382	3	528	4	608	4
Minnesota	-	-	60	-	83	1	95	1
Missouri	142	1	104	1	143	1	165	1
North Carolina	92	1	163	1	226	2	259	2
New Hampshire	-	-	151	1	209	2	240	2
New Jersey	2,749	18	2,223	15	3,070	22	3,531	25
Nevada	-	-	203	-	281	-	323	-
New York	-	-	16	-	22	-	25	-
Ohio	-	-	84	1	116	1	133	1
Oklahoma	-	-	271	2	374	3	430	3
Pennsylvania	-	-	1,303	9	1,799	13	2,070	14
Puerto Rico	-	-	199	1	275	2	316	2
Rhode Island	-	-	251	-	347	-	399	-
South Carolina	-	-	303	2	418	3	481	3
Tennessee	-	-	92	1	127	1	146	1
Texas	2,115	14	2,247	15	3,103	22	3,569	25
Utah	-	-	123	1	171	1	196	1
Virginia	81,261	139	66,710	80	71,224	118	73,686	137
Washington	-	-	215	1	297	2	342	2
Wisconsin	31	-	175	1	242	2	278	2
West Virginia	-	-	183	1	253	2	291	2
Total, Available	100,592	264	94,697	262	109,877	396	118,150	441

The geographic breakdown data reports only federal administrative costs. Non-administrative costs such as grants to states and benefits are excluded.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table FNS-33. Classification by Objects for Appropriated Funds (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$9,989	\$9,872	\$16,642	\$19,632
	Personnel Compensation, Field	14,983	14,808	24,964	29,449
11	Total personnel compensation	24,972	24,680	41,606	49,081
12	Personal benefits.....	10,702	10,577	17,831	21,035
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	35,674	35,257	59,437	70,116
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	97	150	200	250
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	1	10	10	10
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges....	12	15	21	26
24.0	Printing and reproduction	2,012	2,200	2,600	2,800
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	12,387	6,047	6,800	7,195
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	27,967	13,500	14,000	14,500
26.0	Supplies and materials	1,234,901	1,796,700	1,788,389	1,948,518
31.0	Equipment	79	85	90	100
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	27,784,632	36,964,868	28,790,835	29,987,332
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	50	50	50	50
	Total, Other Objects	29,062,138	38,783,625	30,602,995	31,960,781
99.9	Total, new obligations	29,097,812	38,818,882	30,662,432	32,030,897

Table FNS-34. Classification by Objects for Permanent Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.....	\$1,589	\$1,636	\$1,419	\$1,491
	Personnel Compensation, Field.....	2,084	2,453	2,128	2,236
11	Total personnel compensation.....	3,673	4,089	3,547	3,727
12	Personal benefits	1,488	1,752	1,520	1,597
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	5,161	5,841	5,067	5,324
	Other Objects:				
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	973	429	600	750
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	402	253	350	450
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	220,301	243,181	204,233	221,726
	Total, Other Objects.....	221,676	243,863	205,183	222,926
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	226,837	249,704	210,250	228,250

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The Child Nutrition Programs provide funding for the following nutrition programs: National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

Program Mission

The Child Nutrition Programs improve the diets of children when they are away from home through nutritious meals and snacks based on the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. The National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs provide benefits in public and nonprofit private elementary, middle, and secondary schools, and in residential childcare institutions. The Special Milk Program provides fluid milk to any participating public or nonprofit private school or childcare institution that does not participate in other federally subsidized meal programs. The Child and Adult Care Food Program provides food for the nutritional well-being of young children and adults in day care homes and non-residential centers, and for children and teenagers in afterschool care programs and in emergency shelters. The Summer Food Service Program provides nutritious meals to children in low-income areas and in residential camps during the summer months, and at other times when school is not in session. In participating elementary schools, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program provides fresh fruits and vegetables outside of the regular meal service to all students. And through the end of the COVID public health emergency, states are able to provide cash benefits, redeemable for food, through Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) to children who were unable to access meals in school or in child care due to school and child care facility closures or their own COVID-related absences. States are also authorized to provide P-EBT benefits to children during the summer following a school year in which the health emergency remains in place. These programs are administered in most States by the State education agency, and in some States, by the State agriculture or health agencies.

The Child Nutrition Programs were reauthorized by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA, P.L. 111-296) on December 13, 2010. The HHFKA amended the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (CNA) in the areas of program access, improved school meals, healthy school nutrition environments, and integrity. While the HHFKA reauthorization technically expired at the end of 2015, most Child Nutrition Programs and provisions are permanently authorized or have continued operating via annual appropriations.

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**Program Mission**

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) provides funds to States for lunches served to students during lunch periods at school and for snacks served to children participating in after school care programs. The lunches must be consistent with statutory and regulatory nutrition standards, which are based on the goals of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.

States are generally reimbursed based on the number of qualifying lunches and snacks served to children in participating schools at designated reimbursement rates. These reimbursement rates are adjusted annually and reflect three categories: free (children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty level (FPL)), reduced price (children from families with incomes between 130 and 185 percent FPL, or paid meals. In accordance with Section 17A of the NSLA, reimbursement for snacks served by schools in eligible areas is paid at the free snack rate.

Section 4 of the NSLA authorizes a base reimbursement for all qualifying meals served, including lunches to children whose family income is above 185 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines. In addition, Section 11 of the NSLA authorizes additional reimbursement for free and reduced-price meals served to children. For school year (SY) 2022-2023, a child from a family of four with an annual income of \$36,075 or less is eligible for free meals, and a child from a family of four with an annual income of no more than \$51,338 is eligible for reduced price meals. The reimbursement rates for meals are revised on July 1 of each year. The cash reimbursement for a free or reduced-price lunch is the sum of Section 4 (base) and Section 11 (supplemental) reimbursement rates. School food authorities (SFAs) that served 60 percent or more free and reduced-price lunches during the second preceding school year receive increased assistance at the rate of 2 cents per meal served. In addition, SFAs that demonstrated that the meals offered met the nutrition standards received an additional 8 cents per lunch served. In addition to the cash reimbursements, Section 6 of the NSLA also provides base funding for the purchase of USDA Foods to be used in the meal service, based on lunches served in the previous year.

Facts in Brief

Participating schools and Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs), saw an increase of approximately 196 percent in daily participation from 2021. This increase was due to schools returning to pre-pandemic operations with students receiving in-class instruction combined with authorized waivers that allowed schools to serve free lunches for all students while being reimbursed at the Summer Food Service Program reimbursement rates.

- In 2022, more than 4.8 billion lunches were served in the NSLP including those served under the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). USDA allowed schools to offer meals and snacks throughout SY 2021-2022 through the NSLP SSO, meaning all meals were provided at no cost to students. Combined, that resulted in an increase of 2.6 billion from 2021. Average daily participation in 2022 was 29.6 million, up from 7.8 million in 2021.
- In 2022, approximately 96.4 percent of all lunches served were provided free or at a reduced price, down from 98.3 percent in 2021.
- A total of 92,559 schools and RCCIs participated in the NSLP in 2022, compared to 47,058 in 2021 (44,088 more schools and 1,413 more RCCIs).

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Program Mission

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) provides funds to States for qualifying breakfasts served to students at or close to the beginning of their day at school. SBP provides reimbursement to states to operate nonprofit breakfast programs in schools and residential childcare institutions. Like school lunches, the breakfasts must be consistent with statutory and regulatory nutrition standards, which are based on the goals of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. All school breakfasts must meet Federal nutrition requirements, though decisions about the specific foods to serve and how the foods are prepared are made by local school food authorities. The SBP is available to the same schools and institutions that are eligible to participate in the NSLP. The income eligibility guidelines for the NSLP and SBP are the same; therefore, children from families that meet the NSLP income eligibility guidelines also qualify for free or reduced-price breakfasts.

For each eligible breakfast served, schools are reimbursed at established rates for free, reduced price, and paid meals. Schools in which percent of lunches served to students during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price receive higher “severe need” reimbursements for breakfasts served free or at a reduced price. The meal reimbursement rates are revised on July 1 of each year.

Facts in Brief

Participating schools and RCCIs in 2022 saw a decrease of 9.0 percent in average daily participation from 2021. This decrease was lessened as a result of the authorized waivers that allowed schools to serve free breakfast for all students while being reimbursed at the Summer Food Service Program reimbursement rates.

- In 2022, the SBP was available at 86,904 schools and institutions (an increase of 96.1 percent from 2021) with an enrollment of 51.4 million students (an increase of 23.6 million students from 2021).
- Average daily participation in 2022 was 15 million students, an increase of approximately 9.6 million students from 2021. The program was available to 96.3 percent of the students enrolled in schools participating in the lunch program in 2022, as compared to 50 percent in 1990.
- The proportion of total meals served free or at a reduced price was about 97.7 percent during 2022, a decrease of over 1.5 percent from 2021. Approximately 2.5 billion school breakfasts were served in 2022, an increase of approximately 137 percent from 2021.

FNS continues to partner with State agencies to support best practices in implementing effective school breakfast programs that ensure children from low-income households have access to nutritious breakfasts to support learning during the school day.

Child Nutrition Programs COVID-19 Response

Waivers and Flexibilities

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, USDA provided many flexibilities to make it easier for children to access food and to remove administrative roadblocks for the dedicated local staff who serve them. These changes were in line with USDA’s commitment to keep Americans safe, secure, and healthy during the national emergency and to explore all options to ensure children-maintained access to nutritious food during an unprecedented time.

Using authority provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act [P.L. 116-127] (FFCRA), and funding provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act [P.L. 116-136] (CARES Act), and the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act [P.L. 116-159], USDA issued nationwide waivers of school meal program requirements to support access to meals while taking appropriate safety measures. These waivers provided the flexibility that State agencies and schools needed to maintain meal service while students learned virtually, in person with social distancing, or a mix of virtual and in-person instruction. Notably, the USDA allowed schools to offer meals and snacks throughout SY 2021-2022 through the NSLP SSO at the applicable Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) rates

(see the Summer Food Service Program section of this report for more information). For SY 2021-2022, USDA issued waivers allowing:

- Meals to be served in a non-congregate setting, supporting social distancing.
- Parents and guardians to pick up meals to take home to their children.
- Flexible mealtimes, to make it easier to provide multiple grab-and-go meals at a time.
- Allow Offer Versus Serve flexibility for senior high schools

Other nationwide flexibilities made available for SY 2021-2022 included allowing states to waive certain meal pattern requirements, making it easier for schools to implement alternative meal service models, as well as delaying administrative deadlines associated with the Community Eligibility Provision, recognizing that many schools were closed for safety reasons due to COVID-19. To support social distancing, USDA also provided nationwide flexibility to allow State agencies and local operators to conduct monitoring offsite for all Child Nutrition Programs, and truncated State Program reporting requirements where operationally feasible.

The Keep Kids Fed Act (KKFA) [P.L. 117-158], enacted June 25, 2022, extended USDA's authority to issue nationwide waivers that increased Federal costs for summer programs through September 30, 2022, and non-cost nationwide waivers through SY 2022-2023. The KKFA also temporarily increased the school breakfast reimbursement by 15 cents and school lunch reimbursement by 40 cents. It also gave USDA the authority to issue meal pattern waivers through June 30, 2022; however, to facilitate more nutritious meals, USDA opted not to issue nutrition standard waivers in SY 2022-2023.

To ensure that schools were as prepared as possible for SY 2022-2023 as early as possible, prior to the enactment of KKFA, USDA used existing waiver authority under Section 12(l) of the NSLA to offer States the option to request several administrative and operational flexibilities needed to support access to nutritious meals, while State agencies mitigated the administrative, fiscal, and operational challenges exacerbated by COVID-19. Because States were offered the waiver flexibilities needed before the nationwide waiver authority was extended under KKFA, USDA did not need to issue nationwide waivers for SY 2022-2023 operations. For example, States could request Section 12(l) waiver flexibilities for non-congregate meal services, parent and guardian pick up, and meal service times for CACFP, NSLP, and SBP operations for SY 2022-2023, as well as for SFSP and SSO during unanticipated school closures. Some administrative waiver flexibilities provided for SY 2022-2023 include waivers of the requirement for local educational agencies (LEA) to complete a triennial assessment of their school wellness policies and the requirement for State agencies to develop and submit a report describing the results of the second reviews of eligibility determinations conducted by each LEA.

While the number and type of waivers requested by State agencies varied, 64 State agencies requested and were granted these waivers, which allowed States and LEAs to appropriately allocate their limited staffing resources to meal service as they recovered from COVID operations. In addition, USDA provided State agencies the opportunity to submit a waiver request of both State and local Child Nutrition Program monitoring requirements and propose an alternative plan for conducting effective Program oversight in 2022. FNS approved 15 individual State monitoring plans. Most monitoring plans reflected a need for States to have additional time to review schools to be able to provide sufficient training and technical assistance as schools transitioned back to more normal operations. Fifty State agencies were approved for waivers of on-site monitoring requirements. Since the outset of the COVID-19 outbreak, USDA worked tirelessly with States and local authorities to ensure schools and other program operators were empowered to continue feeding children.

USDA also provided customer-oriented technical assistance resources to State and local Child Nutrition Program operators for the purposes of supporting COVID-19 recovery and mitigating supply chain issues. These included a *Strategies to Address Labor Shortages* infographic and a five-part publication, *Planning for a Dynamic School Environment During School Year 2021-2022: A School Food Authority's Guide to School Meals*. The individual titles were *Summary of Flexibilities*, *Table of Flexibilities*, *Flexibilities in Practice*, *School Meal Supply Chain Issues*, and the fifth was a revised version of *Child Nutrition Program Meal Service During Coronavirus (COVID-19)*. In addition, FNS held a webinar on menu planning resources for State agencies and SFAs, a webinar for industry on the Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium, and collaborated with the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) to conduct additional webinars to highlight success stories related to supply chain disruptions and address emergency preparedness.

Innovative Partnerships

Complementing the flexibilities made available as part of the COVID-19 response, in 2020 FNS partnered with the Baylor University Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty (BCHP) to implement Emergency Meals to You (eMTY), a cooperative agreement supported by \$185 million in CARES Act funds that provided nutritious, boxed meals to eligible

children by mail. Evaluation of eMTY is currently being completed by Urban Institute, Baylor University, and Healthy Eating Research at Duke University. The evaluation includes nutrition research, effectiveness of aid provided, and academic papers, and will be effective in informing future disaster response.

In 2022, FNS engaged with food industry leaders through a variety of approaches to identify successes, challenges, and collaboration points around increasing the supply of healthy and appealing foods for the K-12 food system. As schools continue to struggle with staffing and supply chain issues caused by the pandemic and strive to meet updated nutritional standards for school meals, cooperation from the food industry is crucial. FNS held industry listening sessions at three large, professional conferences: School Nutrition Association (SNA) Legislative Action Conference (LAC), the American Commodity Distribution Association (ACDA) Annual Conference, and the School Nutrition Association (SNA) Annual National Conference. In addition, in October 2021, USDA's Secretary, Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, and FNS Administrator hosted a virtual listening session with 19 school food industry executives to discuss their critical role in strengthening access to nutritious foods for school meals programs, now and into the future.

Pandemic EBT

Pandemic EBT, or P-EBT, was initially authorized by the 2020 Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). As amended, P-EBT authorizes states to issue benefits on EBT cards, redeemable for food, to households with children who would have received free or reduced-price meals at school or in childcare if not for the closure or reduction in attendance or hours of their schools or childcare providers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. P-EBT also authorizes states to extend USDA-approved school and childcare plans through the summer months. The FFCRA, as amended, deems all schools and childcare providers closed for a period not longer than 90 days in the summer. The value of benefits for each eligible child in 2022 was equal to the federal NSLP, SBP and Afterschool Snack reimbursement for one lunch, one breakfast, and one snack multiplied by the number of days that children did not have access to meals in school or childcare. States administered P-EBT in 2022 consistent with individual state plans reviewed and approved by FNS. While P-EBT is meant to replace lost school and childcare meal benefits, it is built on SNAP's existing EBT infrastructure. As a result, the administration of P-EBT is a joint effort and a joint responsibility of states' Child Nutrition, Education, and SNAP agencies. During 2022, FNS approved P-EBT plans for school children in 35 states and territories, childcare plans in 45 states and territories, and summer plans in 46 states and territories. States distributed \$18 billion in benefits to more than 32 million children in 2022.

Child Nutrition Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Programs

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, FNS implemented the School Programs Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program, temporary reimbursements programs enacted by Congress under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. These reimbursement programs provided additional funding for local Child Nutrition Program operators whose revenues declined or were temporarily interrupted during the early months of the pandemic due to COVID-19 related restrictions and closures. The amount of funding provided to each program operator was determined using a statutory formula established under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. FNS disbursed a total of \$353,332,116 in funding to 57 State agencies participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program, and \$1,125,643,814 to 56 State agencies participating in the School Programs Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program. Overall, FNS approved 113 individual State agency implementation plans in support of this effort and ultimately provided nearly \$1.5 billion in financial relief to local child nutrition program operators.

Supply Chain Assistance Funds

To assist school districts experiencing supply chain disruptions, in 2022, FNS announced and began allocating close to \$2.5 billion in relief funding to state agencies, made available through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and authorized under the CCC Charter Act [[15 USC 714](#)]. These resources are referred to as Supply Chain Assistance (SCA) funds. State agencies are distributing the SCA funds to eligible SFAs to be used exclusively to purchase unprocessed or minimally processed domestic food products (also referred to as commodities) to help SFAs deal with challenges, such as unanticipated cancellation of food and supply contracts, reduced availability of certain foods, unexpected substitution of certain products, unpredictable increases in food and supply prices, and other obstacles related to pricing and/or availability that have been reported to or identified by state agencies administering the Child Nutrition Programs. As these challenges are both extensive and widespread, the SCA funds provide a rapid and direct response by providing supplied commodities to affected school districts.

Child Nutrition Programs Activities and Initiatives

Team Nutrition

Program Mission: The Team Nutrition initiative supports the Child Nutrition Programs by: 1) providing job skills training and technical assistance to food service staff who prepare meals for the programs; 2) developing nutrition education resources that help children learn about agriculture and become self-sufficient in making informed food choices; and 3) providing the programs with resources to support healthy school and childcare environments. The Team Nutrition initiative helps States and local program operators apply meal pattern requirements to their school and childcare menus, while accommodating local and regional food preferences and optimizing the use of USDA Foods as well as locally produced foods. The turnover among food service and childcare staff remains high, so there is a continuous need for job skills training which also contributes to staff meeting the professional standards requirements.

Grants: In 2022, FNS awarded \$7 million in Team Nutrition Training Grants (TNTG) for School Nutrition Professional Readiness and Retention to State agencies that administer the NSLP. Eight states will use these grants to help build and retain a strong school nutrition workforce and implement transitional meal pattern standards during the upcoming year. The focus of the 2022 TNTG is to support states in building and retaining a strong school nutrition workforce that is empowered to provide nutritious meals that meet meal pattern requirements and weekly dietary specifications for SY 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

Team Nutrition Materials and Training Tools for Schools: In 2022, FNS released the updated *A Guide to Smart Snacks in School* publication, which was viewed 35,810 times. In addition, FNS began releasing a series of *Crediting Tip Sheets*. Fruit and vegetable tip sheets were released in 2022 (a tip sheet on meats/meat alternates, one on milk, and three on whole grains were/will be released in 2023). Views for the two tip sheets is as follows: fruits (7,723 views) and vegetables (5,010 views). Other publications released in 2022 include *Best Practices for Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast* (3,176 web views), an updated *Crediting Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program* (28,288 views), and an updated *Recipe Standardization Guide for School Nutrition Programs* (with ICN) (6,810 views). Team Nutrition also responded to over 1,000 emails from program operators and the public about Team Nutrition materials, technical assistance for program operations, and training opportunities.

Team Nutrition kicked off Back to School promotions with several new resources for school meal operators that were released between July and September 2022. Resources include an updated Back to School webpage; posters and stickers to support taste-testing events and promote school meals; a photo gallery of school meals trays that support the Final Rule with Comments; a web quiz and infographic to promote Local School Wellness Policies (LWP); revised training materials that reflect meal pattern requirements and regulations for SY 2022-2024, and more. The webpage has had 6,876 views.

Team Nutrition also provided over 400 online resources and 196 different printed publications to States, schools and CACFP operators in 2022. The most downloaded Team Nutrition publications for school audiences were *A Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools* (10,135 downloads), *Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs* (6,099 downloads), and *Crediting Fruits in the Child Nutrition Tip Sheet* (5,562 downloads). Over 200,000 printed training and nutrition education materials were requested by and distributed to State agencies, schools, school districts, and CACFP operators during 2022. The most requested printed resources and training tools include the Stronger with School Meals Buttons (9,013 copies) Discover New Food Grains (8,385 copies), and the Stronger with School Meals Activity Booklet (8,257 copies).

Food Buying Guide: In 2018, Team Nutrition made USDA history by releasing the first-ever FNS public-facing mobile application, the Food Buying Guide (FBG) mobile app. The app assists program operators and food manufacturers in purchasing the right quantity of food for their meal's programs, comparing foods, and determining the specific contribution each food item makes towards Child Nutrition Program meal pattern requirements. This mobile app, together with the web-based Interactive Food Buying Guide (98,570 users with 261,380 sessions and 979,264 page views in 2022), have provided child nutrition program operators with invaluable information – at their fingertips – related to food purchasing and utilizing food yield information for menu planning. In 2022, Team Nutrition made 15 enhancements/updates to the Food Buying Guide mobile app tool and web based interactive tool and released a Food Buying Guide Brochure that has been accessed more than 3,463 times. A highly requested new feature was added, per user feedback, to the *Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs* (FBG) digital tools. The new feature allows users to view the meal pattern requirements per meal component for a selected Program (NSLP, SBP, Preschool, CACFP, and SFSP) and age/grade group while using the FBG Calculator. This helpful feature allows easy access to meal pattern guidance to assist in creating shopping lists. In addition to the scheduled enhancements, other new features include the ability to search for food items based on the selected meal Program and when using the Recipe Analysis Workbook and

FBG Calculator. Team Nutrition also collaborated with the Agricultural Research Service to implement the second phase of the Food Yield Study that will result in over forty food items being added to the Food Buying Guide. In response to a request, sorghum products were added to the Food Buying Guide. Team Nutrition collaborated with the ICN to develop two new Food Buying Guide Training Modules for Exhibit A and the Food Buying Guide Calculator. These modules will join the first three modules completed in 2021 and will be housed on the ICN website.

Child Nutrition Database (CNDB) and USDA Approved Nutrient Analysis Software: In 2022, Team Nutrition released the Child Nutrition Database, Release 25, with over 10,000 food items, in multiple formats. The CNDB is a required part of the nutrient analysis software approved by USDA for use in the NSLP and SBP; the CNDB includes food product nutrient data collected for 19 different nutrients. The two web pages listing the USDA approved software for 1) Nutrient Analysis and 2) Certification of Compliance were viewed 19,409 and 5,048 times, respectively. In May 2022, the FNS Nutrition and Technical Assistance Branch (NTAB) released the updated technical assistance resource Nutrient Analysis Protocols: How to Analyze Menus for USDA’s School Meals Programs (NAP Manual). This major revision of the NAP Manual focuses on performing a nutrient analysis using a software program. The website was viewed 5,234 times. There are currently 23 USDA approved nutrient analysis software programs.

Trainings and Webinars: Collectively in 2022, Team Nutrition staff directly provided 29 professional development opportunities, leading to approximately 19,000 CN Program operators trained; this includes 16 staff-conducted webinars (13 English and 3 Spanish) that had almost 15,750 views including both live and recorded.

Recipes and Cooking Videos: Team Nutrition has a vast collection of 314 recipes (274 English, 40 Spanish) featuring delicious, kid-approved recipes that incorporate whole grains and vegetables (dark-green, red/orange, and beans/peas vegetables subgroups). These recipes have been standardized to ensure consistent yields – and include information on how the recipe credits toward the meal pattern requirements for NSLP/SBP; these tasty recipes have the potential to increase student acceptance of school meals and therefore improve student health. In April 2022, an additional 20 new recipes were released that focused on reimbursable snacks. These 40 recipes are designed to assist program operators with serving nutritious and appealing meals and snacks that meet meal pattern requirements and minimum serving amounts for at least one meal component. Each recipe is available in four versions for different age groups. In May 2022, Team Nutrition, in collaboration with ICN, launched the Spanish-language version of the of the Child Nutrition Recipe Box (CNRB) to ensure that this go-to resource for USDA standardized recipes for CN Programs offers Spanish translations of recipes. The English version of the CNRB continued to grow in 2022, gaining 41,572 new users with 308,499 unique page views and 5,160 CN professionals creating accounts to save and organize their favorite recipes. As of July 2022, there are 962 recipes in the CNRB. Team Nutrition released 60 new recipes in English during 2022, and seven new recipes in Spanish.

Websites: Team Nutrition maintains a website that includes 400 online resources and access to 196 printed publications in a Resource Library, which received over 2.1 million-page views in 2022. Team Nutrition published over 115 Spanish-language webpages in 2022, thereby increasing access for Child Nutrition Program stakeholders who prefer to access materials in Spanish. Team Nutrition also maintains a Professional Standards Training Database -with over 550 free or low-cost trainings available to help school nutrition professionals boost their essential job-related skills and knowledge related to program operations, program administration, nutrition, and communications and marketing. In 2022, 53 trainings, including 7 in Spanish, were added. In addition, Team Nutrition facilitates sharing of State-developed menu planning and culinary training resources and best practices through the Child Nutrition Sharing Site (CNSS) (hosted by ICN); in 2022, 55 resources were vetted and added to the CNSS.

Team Nutrition Network for Schools: In 2022, 309 new schools were added to the Team Nutrition Network for Schools, for a total of 52,980 Team Nutrition Schools. Schools can join the Network to affirm their commitment to helping students make healthier food choices and be more physically active, and in turn they will have the opportunity to collaborate with other Team Nutrition Schools, be the first to hear about new nutrition education and training materials developed under the Team Nutrition initiative and receive special nutrition education and promotion materials.

Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) Training: The ICN provides training on the use of Team Nutrition materials to local program operators at State agency and Child Nutrition Program association meetings. In addition, trainings and hands-on technical assistance have equipped program operators with essential job skills such as increasing program participation, menu planning, procurement of goods and services, financial management, leadership, and culinary skills. Current training efforts emphasize the implementation of the meal patterns, tailored technical assistance to enhance school food operations, as well as school program management for school nutrition program directors.

In 2022, the ICN conducted 322 virtual instructor-led trainings (VILT), reaching 6,287 Child Nutrition program operators and stakeholders and 161 face-to-face trainings, reaching 2,994 Child Nutrition program operators and stakeholders. In addition, ICN released an updated *USDA Recipe Standardization Guide*.

The Leadership Institute of Child Nutrition (LICN) provides trainings and resources on leaderships topics that are applicable and practical for child nutrition professionals. The mission of the LICN is to educate and cultivate child nutrition leaders by providing accurate, up-to-date, high-quality leadership resources. In 2022, the LICN released a series of fact sheets focusing on important job skills such as effective communication and managing conflict. In addition, the ICN conducted a monthly chat and learn session to accompany the job skills fact sheets and created online modules on program marketing and customer experience.

The Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) released five *Culinary Quick Bites* trainings (with additional lessons becoming available in 2023). These provide culinary training to food production staff in short, single-topic training sessions, to be delivered by a staff member that oversees food production. Also in 2022, *Menus of Flavor*, three four-hour hands-on culinary trainings for frontline employees (school cooks), was released. *Shaking it Up: Small Changes Lead to Big Flavors* is a collection of trainings and resources to support program operators in reducing sodium in school meals. In 2022, ICN released seven resources as part of this series (with 10 additional resources to be released in 2023) and created 7 online courses to support this effort.

Professional Standards Tracker: In 2022, as part of the ongoing enhancement to the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT), FNS staff oversaw nine releases of updates and enhancements. New features included the ability to bulk upload training records, record trainings earlier than the previous school year, and Director-user capability to reactivate employee profiles. Two additional job titles were created in response to users that do not have required annual training hours and therefore, do not want profiles to list required training hours. The PSTTT is designed to assist school nutrition professionals in keeping track of their annual required training hours. PSTTT updates included the addition of reward badges to motivate school nutrition professionals and make the process of completing annual training requirements fun. Users of the tool can earn a badge for each key area (Nutrition, Operations, Administration, and Communication and Marketing) by completing one or more trainings under a specific key area. Users can also earn achievement badges (Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze). At the end of 2022, there were 3,441 total registered eAuthenticated users of the PSTTT.

Newsletters: Team Nutrition also manages electronic newsletters and communications, which feature best practices and Team Nutrition resources available to Child Nutrition Programs. In 2022, Team Nutrition released a total of 58 electronic newsletters/communications, which included 47 promotional announcements of resources available via GovDelivery (with each announcement reaching over 150,000 GovDelivery subscribers), as well as ten Team Nutrition newsletters that communicated the availability of resources for Child Nutrition Program operators and administrators and two School Meals Grab n' Go Quick Tips e-newsletters.

Child Nutrition Programs Integrity

Ensuring the integrity of the school meal programs by minimizing improper payments and other errors is a key priority for FNS. As stewards of the Federal funds that support these programs, the Agency has a responsibility to maintain the public's trust while guaranteeing that program benefits are available to the eligible households who rely on them. FNS' efforts to enhance program integrity in the school meal programs fall under three categories: research, process improvements, and monitoring/compliance.

Research

FNS released the *Access, Participation, Eligibility, and Certification Study III* (APEC-III) in 2021; a rigorous examination of program error in certifying children for free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch meal benefits and errors in the process of identifying and claiming meals for Federal reimbursement. The APEC III findings are informing integrity work on the school meals program through 2025.

Looking ahead, FNS awarded a contract for the next Access, Participation, Eligibility, and Certification Study (APEC-IV) in 2020. APEC-IV builds on the methodologies employed by APEC-III, and will provide updated, nationally representative estimates of program errors and improper payments in the school meal programs. Data collection is expected to begin in late fall 2023.

Process Improvements

In 2020, FNS and 18F¹ completed the development of the Data Validation Service (DVS), a series of over 100 edit checks designed to improve the quality of data collected on the School Food Authority (SFA) Verification Collection Report (FNS-742). The FNS-742 reports on the verification process for households certified for free and reduced-price school meals. The FNS-742 provides FNS with SFA-level records and is important for both internal and external analyses, including analyses designed to identify program integrity risks. The dataset also regularly informs technical assistance requests from Congress.

The DVS improves on the existing FNS Food Program Reporting System in that it works directly with the State systems SFAs use for data entry, allowing for real-time edit checks. The DVS enhances customer service to States and SFAs by streamlining the data collection process and reducing burden associated with correcting errors. The DVS also directly improves the quality of the FNS-742 dataset, which informs policymaking, guidance, and program integrity efforts. The DVS was adopted by an additional two states for a total of 6 states, and we are continuing outreach to the vendor community to encourage them to add the FNS-742 data validation service to their data collection systems.

Monitoring and Compliance

FNS and State agencies conduct reviews to assess the operation of the school meal programs, evaluate the accuracy of local meal service data, and provide training and technical assistance to help ensure programs are operated in line with Federal requirements. Funds allocated for these reviews support the identification of errors that result in improper claims and the development of corrective action plans, which assist SFAs in identifying needed program improvements. Ultimately, corrective action plans result in more accurate and efficient distribution of program benefits to eligible children.

As required by statute, FNS developed a unified accountability system for State agency oversight of the school meal programs, referred to as the Administrative Review. Through the Administrative Review, State agencies conduct comprehensive evaluations of SFAs participating in NSLP, SBP, and other Federal meal programs. The Administrative Review provides for a robust review of program operations. FNS provides forms, instructions, and guidance to State agencies to standardize the review process. In response to COVID-19 related measures, FNS also provided an opportunity for states to request oversight waivers to efficiently plan and conduct evaluations during a challenging time.

Regulations require State agencies to review student certification, benefit issuance, reimbursement rates, and counting and claiming in SFAs. If State agencies identify any errors in these areas, State agencies must issue fiscal action and recover Federal funds that have been paid erroneously to SFAs. When State agencies find meal pattern and nutritional quality errors, State agencies must also recover Federal funds for meals served that do not meet the meal patterns. Regulations also allow State agencies to recover Federal funds or withhold payments for other areas of noncompliance in program operation. The federally required Administrative Review, which State Agencies complete for each SFA every three years² generates valuable information at the State and Federal levels, which informs technical assistance and the development of initiatives to improve integrity across the programs.

FNS provides technical assistance on Program regulations and guidance to State agencies in a variety of formats such as the development of guidance and handbooks, fact sheets, webinars, conference calls, and in person trainings and presentations. FNS also provides technical assistance through the review process, during assisted Administrative Review, and during management evaluations.

Through competitive grants to States administering the Child Nutrition Programs, FNS provides funding for States implementing technology improvements that demonstrate an ability to decrease administrative and operational errors and improve program integrity. Since 2011, FNS has convened a workgroup made up for State agencies and FNS representatives to assist in identifying State agency technical assistance needs related to technology systems and software used to operate and manage the Child Nutrition Programs. Based on identified needs from this workgroup, FNS holds a national training event for State agencies administering the Child Nutrition Programs which aims to build State agency capacity in project management, system and software procurement and contract management, system development

¹ FNS collaborated closely with 18F, a General Services Administration office tasked with improving the business of government through technology-based solutions to make the Data Validation Service freely available to States on the Cloud.

² 7 CFR 210.18(c) requires Administrative Reviews every three years; however, FNS has approved many State agencies to implement a review cycle longer than three years.

lifecycle management, and other aspects of system and software development and maintenance to support State program and technical staff in improving Child Nutrition Program access and integrity.

Non-Competitive Technology Innovation Grants: In 2021, FNS offered the Non-Competitive Technology Innovation Grant (nTIG) to all eligible State agencies and territories for the purposes of developing, improving, and maintaining automated information technology systems used to operate and manage all CN Programs. These funds were offered in lieu of the competitive CN Technology Innovation Grant, which were previously administered by FNS in 2017 and 2019. In 2021, 54 States and territories (69 State agencies) were administering the CN Programs, and therefore eligible to receive this funding. Each State was offered \$925,926. In States where more than one eligible agency administers the CN Programs, the funding was divided among those agencies based on the same distribution percentages used in the State Administrative Expense funding formula. FNS awarded a total of 50 State agencies \$37,063,217 in grant funding on September 24, 2021. In 2022, State agencies continued to develop their system projects and expend their 2021 grant awards.

Direct Certification

Direct certification is the process of the school and State matching data from other means-tested programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, TANF, and others, to automatically certify students as eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, without the need for families to submit applications. Direct certification is a key error-reduction strategy for school meal programs. By eliminating applications, direct certification not only reduces program errors, but also reduces burden on families and schools. As established in statute, State agencies administering SNAP and those administering the school nutrition programs must directly certify at least 95 percent of eligible children. States that do not reach and maintain the direct certification benchmarks are required to develop and implement continuous improvement plans to ensure that eligible children are directly certified for school meals.

To support states' direct certification efforts, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-80) provided funding for grants to State agencies that administer the NSLP. Since 2011, FNS has awarded 55 Direct Certification grants to States to support direct certification process improvements totaling approximately \$25 million.

For SY 2018-2019, 40 of the 52 State agencies achieved direct certification rates at or above the 95-percent performance target, a noteworthy increase of 12 States meeting the benchmark compared to SY 2015-2016. The National SNAP direct certification rate increased to 98 percent, from 92 percent reported in SY 2015-2016. FNS is continuing robust technical assistance efforts with State agencies to help them improve their direct certification performance. In 2022, the technical assistance team conducted five State agency site visits. For 2023, it is expected that the number of States visited will increase as States have returned to full in-person activities.

Direct Certification with Medicaid Demonstration Projects

Section 9(b)(15) of the NSLA authorizes FNS to conduct demonstration projects in selected States and LEAs to evaluate the effectiveness of using Medicaid data to directly certify students for school meals. The original demonstrations launched in SY 2016-2017 were implemented in seven states: California, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania. A rigorous evaluation provided evidence that direct certification using Medicaid data has the potential for reducing error and increasing efficiency in school meals administration.

Based on these findings, using the demonstration project authority in Section 18(c) of the NSLA, USDA decided to examine the potential additional efficiencies of directly certifying students for both free and reduced-price meals. Eight additional States began demonstrations approved in SY 2017-2018. An evaluation examining the impact of direct certification with Medicaid on key program outcomes released the third year of findings in March 2022.

Previous evaluations for Year 1 and Year 2 found that the demonstrations resulted in a small increase in the number and percentage of students certified for free and reduced-price meals. The Year 3 evaluation found that more than one-third of all eligible students directly certified to receive free and reduced-price school meals, did so pursuant to this demonstration. The eligible students would not have been directly certified otherwise, although it is likely that some students would have been certified through the application process. The study also found State administrative costs decreased over the course of the demonstration, and only three States reported administrative costs for DCM-F/RP above \$5,000 in SY 2019-2020.

Special Provision Options

In an effort to reduce paperwork and other administrative burdens at the local level, Congress has incorporated into Section 11(a)(1) of the NSLA (42 USC 1759a) alternative provisions to the traditional requirements for annual

determinations of eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals and daily meal counts by type. These alternatives are commonly referred to as Provision 1, Provision 2, Provision 3, and the Community Eligibility Provision. Congressionally authorized Special Provisions have been an option for LEAs since 1980. Provisions 1, 2, 3, and the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) were enacted to decrease the administrative and household burden resulting from completing and processing school meal applications for districts and schools with high portions of students eligible for free and reduced priced meals.

Provisions 1, 2, and 3

Provision 1 reduces application burdens by allowing eligibility to be certified for a 2-year period for each child eligible for *free* meals in schools where at least 80 percent of the children enrolled are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. To elect Provision 1, a school must notify their State agency of their intent to elect before meal service. This option reduces annual notification of program availability and certification of children eligible for free meals to once every two years. All other households must be provided a meal application to apply for meal benefits each school year. There is no requirement to offer meals at no charge to all students. Meals are reimbursed at the free, reduced price, or paid rates based on students' eligibility statuses.

Provision 2 reduces application burdens and simplifies meal counting and claiming procedures by allowing schools to establish claiming percentages and to serve all meals at no charge for a 4-year period. To elect Provision 2, a school must notify their State agency of their intent to elect before meal service. During the first year (or base year), although meals are served at no charge, the school makes eligibility determinations and takes daily counts of reimbursable meals by type (free, reduced price, paid) at the point of service. These meals counts are used to establish the claiming percentages that will be used for the following three years. During the next three years, households do not need to submit applications and the school makes no new eligibility determinations and counts only the total number of reimbursable meals served each day. Reimbursement during these years is determined by applying the percentages of free, reduced price, and paid meals served during the corresponding month of the base year to the total meal count for the claiming month.

Provision 3 also reduces application burdens and simplifies meal counting and claiming procedures by allowing schools to receive the same level of Federal cash and commodity assistance paid to them during the last year in which eligibility determinations were made and meals were counted by type (the base year). To elect Provision 3, a school must notify their State agency of their intent to elect before meal service. Provision 3 schools serve meals to all children in attendance at the school at no charge for a period of four years following the base year. Households do not submit applications and schools do not make additional eligibility determinations during the 4-year period, even though the individual children enrolled in the school may change. Instead, reimbursement is determined by using the amount of Federal cash and commodity assistance received in the base year with some adjustments to reflect changes in enrollment and inflation.

Schools electing Provision 2 or 3 must pay the difference between Federal reimbursement and the cost of providing all meals at no charge. The money to pay for this difference must be from non-Federal sources. Also, Provision 2 and 3 allow the State agency to approve 4-year extensions if the socioeconomic status of the school's population remains stable, declined, or has had only negligible improvement since the most recent base year.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

The Community Eligibility Provision allows schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) located in low-income areas to provide breakfast and lunch at no cost to students, without the burden of collecting household applications to determine eligibility for free school meals. CEP is a Federal-local cost sharing option that allows eligible schools to provide meals at no cost to all students. To be eligible for CEP, an individual school, group of schools, or school district must meet or exceed the established identified student percentage (ISP) threshold, currently set at 40 percent, in the school year prior to implementing CEP. The ISP is the percentage of enrolled students who are certified for free school meals without submitting a household application, such as those directly certified through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). For CEP, students who are certified for free meals without a household application are "identified students." The ISP is calculated by dividing the total number of identified students by the total number of enrolled students. The ISP is multiplied by 1.6 (the CEP multiplier) to determine the percentage of meals reimbursed at the free rate; remaining meals are reimbursed at the lower paid rate.

Similar to Provision 2 or 3 schools, CEP schools must pay the difference between Federal assistance and the cost of providing all meals at no charge. The money to pay for this difference must be from non-Federal sources. To elect CEP, LEAs must notify their State agency of their election by June 30 and provide documentation that demonstrates the electing schools meets the ISP requirements. The ISP is verified by the State Agency prior to the start of the school year.

Once established, the CEP claiming percentages are used for the next four years. As of June 2022, 33,300 schools serving 16.2 million students are operating CEP, about 74.3 percent of eligible schools.

CEP is a Federal-local partnership that streamlines program administration by using direct certification data from means-tested programs with comparable eligibility to establish a school, group, or LEA-wide meal claiming percentage. Through direct certification, schools access income data already collected and verified through other Federal assistance programs and apply it to the school meals certification process, rather than duplicating data collection efforts. If a minimum percentage (at least 40 percent) of students qualify for free meals without an application, such as via direct certification, the school, group of schools, or LEA is eligible for CEP. That percentage, known as the identified student percentage, is then used to determine the percentage of meals claimed at the free rate and the paid rate. Using an established equation³, the LEA can estimate the amount of federal assistance it will receive under CEP and can estimate any non-Federal funding that may be needed to cover operational costs. The LEA compares its estimated funding contribution to anticipated savings through administrative cost and burden reductions. If it determines that CEP is more efficient than the traditional NSLP administrative structure (specific to local circumstances), the LEA can choose to move to CEP. CEP schools must pay the difference between Federal assistance and the cost of providing all meals at no charge. The money to pay for this difference must be from non-Federal sources. To elect the Community Eligibility Provision, LEAs must notify the state of their election by June 30 and provide documentation that demonstrates the electing schools meets the identified student percentage requirements. This percentage of students is verified with the State Agency and approved prior to the school year. Once established, the percentage is used for the next four years. As of June 2022, 33,300 schools serving 16.2 million students are operating CEP, about 74.3 percent of eligible schools.

In 2022, USDA continued to provide focused technical assistance to ensure State agencies and schools participating and interested in participating in CEP have the information and resources necessary to make informed decisions about participation. Technical assistance includes responding to State agency questions, issuing policy guidance, and highlighting CEP during webinars and presentations.

USDA conducted a national evaluation of CEP, collecting data in SY 2016-2017. This study examines characteristics of participating and non-participating schools. The study also assesses how CEP impacts student participation, revenue, attendance, and the type of breakfast program offered by the school. The study found that CEP increased student school meal participation rates by 6.8 percent (NSLP) and 12.1 percent (SBP), compared to similar eligible LEAs that did not adopt CEP. CEP participation also increased the level of Federal reimbursements. Participating LEAs indicated the election of CEP resulted in multiple benefits including increased student participation, decreased financial burden on families, elimination of unpaid meal charges, reduced administrative burden, decrease in stigma for students in need, and increased revenue.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANTS

School Breakfast Expansion Grants

In 2021, FNS awarded the School Breakfast Expansion Grant for U.S. States and the District of Columbia and the School Breakfast Expansion Grant for U.S. Territories. The purpose of these grants is to provide funds to LEAs and qualifying schools, not to exceed \$10,000 per school year, to establish, maintain, or expand the School Breakfast Program. Four applicants, the District of Columbia, Michigan, South Carolina, and Wisconsin, received awards for the School Breakfast Expansion Grant for U.S. States and the District of Columbia, totaling \$7,999,542. One applicant, the Northern Mariana Islands, received an award for the School Breakfast Expansion Grant for U.S. Territories, totaling \$199,920.

In 2022, FNS awarded the *School Breakfast Expansion Grant for U.S. Territories*, with the same purpose and funding opportunity outlined in the previous paragraph. FNS held informational calls about the grant opportunity with eligible Territories to answer any questions and encourage their participation. One applicant, Puerto Rico, received an award totaling \$2 million.

³ To estimate the reimbursement received under CEP, schools multiply the number of identified students by 1.6 to determine the percent of meals reimbursed at free rate. The remaining percent of meals are reimbursed at the paid rate. Schools may also consider factoring in estimated increases in the number of students participating in school meals. Schools must pay the difference between the Federal assistance received and the cost of providing all meals at no cost to students.

Healthy School Meals Incentives Initiative

In June 2022, USDA announced the \$100 million Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative (HMI) as part of USDA's Food System Transformation investments. HMI is designed to support healthy school meals and successful implementation of updated nutrition standards over the next several years. It includes four components: competitive sub-grants for small/rural SFAs, a recognition program for all SFAs, two Healthy Meals Summits, and challenge grants to stimulate innovation in the school food market. FNS is leading this initiative.

The first component of HMI builds upon the proven model of the HealthierUS Schools Challenge recognition initiative. In addition to establishing a recognition program, this component includes grant funding to assist small and rural SFAs in meeting nutrition standards, and two Healthy Meals Summits. Through a competitive process, USDA awarded \$47 million to Action for Healthy Kids (in partnership with the Chef Ann Foundation and RMC Health) to manage the recognition program, sub-grants, and Healthy Meals Summits. The award was announced publicly on February 3, 2023, and work on these activities is already underway. FNS launched the second component of HMI, focusing on the school foods marketplace in November 2022, by issuing a Request for Application (RFA) for up to four partners to help design and implement the School Food System Transformation Challenge Sub-Grant Program, at a \$50 million funding level (no less than \$12.5 million per awardee). These sub-grants will stimulate innovation in the K-12 food system to build a more resilient food supply chain, create a fairer food system, and develop nutritious foods for schools. Applications for this RFA were due on February 1, 2023, and FNS expects to announce the awardee(s) in March 2023.

Farm to School Program

Program Mission: USDA supports local and regional food systems as a way to improve economic, health, and learning outcomes, and inspire youth toward careers in agriculture by connecting children and families to their food and the farmers, ranchers, and fishers who produce it. FNS formally created the Office of Community Food Systems within FNS' Child Nutrition Programs in 2015 to conduct ongoing Child Nutrition activities in accordance with directives in Sections 9(j) and 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, to increase access to local foods through the Child Nutrition Programs, and to strengthen local and regional food systems that support community health and well-being, along with economic opportunities for producers. The office reorganized and expanded to the Community Food Systems Division (CFSD) in 2022.

CFSD extends its focus on local foods and agricultural education beyond the NSLP and works to incorporate farm to school activities in all Child Nutrition Programs including the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The integration of farm to school principles in Child Nutrition Programs encourages local control and provides flexibility to implement a variety of activities that leverage nutrition program operations to support resilient food systems through strong local food supply chains. FNS accomplished this work through awarding grants, providing technical assistance, and disseminating research related to farm to school in 2022.

Grants: The Farm to School Grant Program funds school districts and other institutions participating in Child Nutrition Programs, as well as state and local agencies, tribal communities, agricultural producers, and non-profit organizations to support efforts that increase local foods served through the Child Nutrition Programs, to teach children about food and agriculture through garden and classroom education, and develop schools' and farmers' capacities to participate in farm to school activities. Awards ranging up to \$500,000 are distributed in targeted grant categories such as: Turnkey, Implementation, and State Agency grants. Additional funding for the Farm to School Grant Program was made available in the 2019 through 2022 Agricultural appropriations and, as a result, FNS has significantly increased the number of grant awards.

FY 2022 marked the tenth year of awards in the Farm to School Grant Program. Since then, FNS has awarded 1,019 projects totaling nearly \$75 million and reaching all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam. In July 2022, FNS awarded \$10 million in grants to 123 grantees.

In addition to the competitive Farm to School Grants, FNS provided a Farm to School State Formula Grant in 2022. The formula grant authorized \$60 million of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2) to State agencies that operate the NSLP, based on the State's NSLP participation. The one-time, non-competitive grant has a 4-year period of performance and supports Secretary Vilsack's Food Systems Transformation initiative. The objectives of this funding are to fund state activities that build and increase capacity of participating institutions to procure and use local food in program meals as well as provide agricultural education opportunities for participating children.

On October 6, 2022, FNS published the 2023 Farm to School Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA). The RFA continues the same three grant tracks as the 2022 RFA: Implementation, State Agency, and Turnkey, incorporates equity

principles in the design and evaluation of proposed projects, and provides priority consideration to projects led by and serving Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color and projects in rural areas.

Technical Assistance: FNS continues to provide direct training and technical assistance to Farm to School program operators through conferences, webinars, virtual meetings, and through online and print technical assistance materials. Throughout the year, FNS conducted national and local farm to school trainings at in-person and virtual meetings and conferences on the topics of local procurement, grants, school gardens, micro purchasing, geographic preference, and other topics related to farm to school.

In 2022, FNS entered the fourth year of its 4-year, \$1.8 million cooperative agreement with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). Due to the pandemic, NCAT received an extension, adding a fifth year to its period of performance, which will run through the end of 2023. The goal of this project is to develop training to help agricultural producers build their capacity to launch or expand efforts to market to schools, increasing farm to school activity in schools. A train-the-trainer model was developed to prepare State agencies and their representatives with the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver the producer-focused training curriculum to agricultural producers (farmers, fishers, or ranchers) in their states. Regional train-the-trainer workshops concluded in fall 2021. Beginning in winter 2022, State teams began hosting State-level producer trainings to equip producers to engage in school markets. Through the end of 2022, FNS supported implementation of 22 producer trainings across the country, reaching approximately 333 producers.

In 2022, FNS entered the first year of its 3-year, \$500,000 cooperative agreement with Shelburne Farms (VT) to expand the farm to school institute model nationwide, for the creation and dissemination of information on farm to school program development and to provide practitioner education, training, ongoing school year coaching, and technical assistance. Four adapter teams - Nebraska, Arkansas, Connecticut, and a combined Oregon/Washington team, were recruited and received in-person and virtual technical assistance in order to develop their own institutes. There are a total of 11 active institutes nationwide. FNS continues to provide oversight of the cooperative agreement and will support the recruitment of an additional four adapter States in 2023.

In the spring of 2022, CFSD hosted a four-part webinar series on best practices in farm to school. The 30-minute [Seeding Success](#) webinars provided technical assistance that supports stakeholders as they develop, expand, and maintain robust farm to school programs, projects, or initiatives. Each webinar attracted over 100 attendees and recordings of the webinars are available on the FNS website.

In September 2022, FNS held a USDA Farm to School State Agency Meeting and Grantee Gathering in-person in Boston, Massachusetts with over 250 attendees, including State agency staff, USDA Farm to School grantees, and partner organizations, to review grant requirements, share best practices, and allow for networking.

FNS also manages a monthly electronic newsletter, The Dirt, which features best practices among grantees, and shares additional resources to help grantees and other stakeholders advance farm to school and local procurement in Child Nutrition Programs. The Dirt boasts a subscriber base of over 110,000.

Research: The Farm to School Census (the Census) is a periodic survey of all SFAs enrolled in the NSLP which measures their engagement in farm to school and local procurement. In 2022, FNS continued to highlight the results of the 2019 Farm to School Census and provided training to state agencies and other farm to school stakeholders, helping them use the Farm to School Census results to evaluate their work and plan future strategies to increase farm to school engagement and impact. FNS awarded the Farm to School Research Blanket Purchase Agreement for research on farm to school initiatives, including the upcoming 2023 Farm to School Census that will begin data collection in September 2023.

FNS also distributed the third annual Farm to School Grantee Experience Survey, a tool designed to gather feedback from farm to school grantees on the quality of service, support, and technical assistance, they received from USDA. In 2022, 91.7 percent of respondents reported overall satisfaction with the support provided by FNS as they implemented the grants. FNS intends to use this customer feedback to make continuous improvements to the Farm to School Grant program.

SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM

Program Mission

The Special Milk Program (SMP) has encouraged consumption of fluid milk since 1955. Any public or nonprofit private school or childcare institution may participate in the SMP, provided it does not participate in other Federal meal programs, such as NSLP, SBP, or CACFP. However, schools participating in the NSLP or SBP may also participate in

the SMP to provide milk to children in half-day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs where these children would not otherwise have access to the School Meal Programs. Participating schools and childcare institutions are reimbursed for part of the cost of milk served to children.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, USDA waived certain SMP requirements on a State-by-State basis using the authority provided by Section 12(l) of the National School Lunch Act [42 U.S.C. 1760(l)], as well as expanded authority provided by FFCRA. For SY 2022-2023, USDA waived the requirements for 50 State agencies that milk be served in group settings and allowed parents or guardians to take milk home to their children. These waivers were in line with USDA's commitment to explore all options to keep kids nourished during the unprecedented public health emergency.

Facts in Brief

In 2022, the SMP saw an increase of nearly 30 percent in the total number of half pints served from 2021. This increase is due to schools returning to pre-pandemic operations with students receiving in-class instruction.

- The number of half pints served as part of the SMP increased from 14.4 million in 2021 to 18.6 million in 2022. Overall, the number of half pints served has decreased from 181.3 million in 1990.
- A total of 1,738 schools, residential childcare institutions, non-residential childcare institutions, and summer camps participated in the SMP. In 2022, a 14 percent increase from the 2021 level of 1,518.
- The portion of half pints served free during 2022 was about 9.3 percent, as compared to 7.4 percent in 2021.

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

Program Mission

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides aid to child and adult care institutions and family or group day care homes for the provision of nutritious foods that contribute to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of young children, and the health and wellness of older adults and chronically impaired disabled persons.

In order to participate in CACFP, independently or under a sponsoring organization, child care centers must be either public or private nonprofit or for-profit centers in which at least 25 percent of their enrollment or licensed capacity receive funds through Title XX of the Social Security Act or are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. A sponsoring organization is a public or nonprofit private organization that is entirely responsible for the administration of the Program in any combination of childcare centers, emergency shelters, at-risk afterschool care centers, outside-school-hours care centers, adult day care centers and day care homes. Adult day care centers that provide nonresidential adult day care must be either public or private nonprofit or for-profit centers in which at least 25 percent of their participants are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or receive funds through Titles XIX or Title XX of the Social Security Act. All participating day care homes and centers must be licensed or approved according to Federal, State, or local standards. Outside-school-hours care programs, at-risk afterschool care centers, and emergency shelters may participate in CACFP by meeting State or local health and safety standards. Funds are made available to the States for audit expenses associated with the administration of the CACFP.

Centers, except for at-risk afterschool care centers and emergency shelters, receive reimbursements based on a free, reduced price, or paid meal rate for each eligible meal type they serve. CACFP facilities may serve various combinations of breakfasts, lunches, snacks, and suppers. Centers receive applications from parents or adult participants and make eligibility determinations based on family size and income, essentially following the same guidelines used in the NSLP. Family or group day care homes receive reimbursement under a two-tier system intended to target program funds to support low-income children and providers, while requiring less paperwork than would be necessary if the NSLP guidelines were used. Under this system, a higher reimbursement rate is paid to day care homes located in areas where at least 50 percent of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or where the provider's household size and income meet the established income criteria for free or reduced-price meals. The higher rate of reimbursement may also be paid to providers whose households receive SNAP benefits. All other homes receive reimbursement at a lower rate, except where meals served to individual children who are enrolled for care in the home are determined to be eligible for the higher rate.

The at-risk afterschool meals component of CACFP offers Federal funding to programs that operate in low-income areas afterschool or on weekends, holidays, or vacations during the regular school year; provide an organized, regularly scheduled activity; and serve a meal and snack to participating children and teens.

Meals and snacks served in CACFP must meet nutrition standards that have been carefully designed to incorporate a variety of vegetables and fruit, whole grains, and healthy beverages, including low-fat and fat-free milk, and water while minimizing added sugar and saturated fat.

FNS is committed to lowering barriers to participation in CACFP in underserved communities. To align with the Administration's commitment to equity and racial justice, FNS encouraged State agencies and institutions to use methods that are based on self-identification and self-reporting, not visual observation, to collect racial and ethnic data of children and adult participants. These mandatory data collections help FNS determine how effective CACFP is in reaching eligible participants receiving meals. In 2022, FNS continued to develop technical assistance and best practices for alternative data collection methods.

Facts in Brief

- In 2022, CACFP saw an increase of nearly 1 percent in total meals served from 2021. In 2022, the peak participation attendance in CACFP was approximately 5.5 million children and adults, a decrease of approximately 1.7 percent compared to the peak participation in 2021.
- In 2022, the average daily attendance of children was 4.4 million children, 3.9 million of which were in childcare centers and approximately 533,000 were in family day care homes, a decrease from 4.7 million in average daily attendance, 4.2 million of which were in centers and 549,000 were in family day care homes in 2021.
- On average, in 2022, CACFP childcare centers had 65 children in attendance each day and received about \$47,311 a year in meal reimbursement (compared to an average of 71 children and \$46,764 in 2021).
- On average, a family day care homes fed approximately 7 children daily in 2022 and received slightly more than \$7,994 a year in meal reimbursement (compared to approximately 7 children and slightly more than \$7,510 in 2021).
- Total meal service decreased nearly 0.5 percent from 2021 to 2022, for a total of approximately 1.8 billion meals served in 2022.
- In 2022, approximately 82 percent of total meals served in CACFP were provided free or at a reduced price, a decrease from 84 percent in 2021.
- In 2022, 29,038 At-Risk Child Care Center outlets provided a total of 287.7 million meals and snacks to children (compared to the 21,574 At-Risk Child Care Centers operating in 2021 that served a total of 342.9 million meals and snacks). This is a 34.6 percent increase in the number of operating At-Risk sites and a 16.1 percent decrease in the number of meals and snacks served to children.
- In 2022, CACFP At-Risk Child Care Centers had an average of 107 children daily, a decrease from approximately 139 children in attendance daily during 2021.

COVID-19 Response

In 2021, FNS implemented nationwide waivers and flexibilities through June 30, 2022, to support successful reopening and allow program operators to tailor CACFP meal services to provide the nutritious food the children and adult participants in their care need during the COVID-19 pandemic. FNS leveraged innovative solutions to support social distancing and keep children, adult participants, and caregivers safe, by allowing certain meal pattern flexibilities, when necessary; serving meals outside of group settings and outside of standard times to facilitate grab-and-go, home delivery, and other alternate service options; and enabling parents or guardians to pick up meals for children and adult participants. FNS also waived area eligibility requirements to allow schools and afterschool care centers to operate the CACFP at-risk afterschool care component, regardless of their location. The area eligibility waiver also allowed all day care homes to receive a higher rate of reimbursement. From March 2021 through the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency, emergency shelters, whose mission is serving youth in temporary housing, and afterschool care centers may receive reimbursement for meals and snacks served to young people under age 25, through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2).

In 2022, in an effort to help CACFP institutions transition smoothly back to normal operations, FNS encouraged States to utilize operational flexibilities when congregate meal services were limited by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-158) provided an additional 10 cents for each CACFP meal and snack served and allowed all day care homes to receive the higher tier I reimbursement rate, through June 30, 2023. To further assist CACFP institutions responding to the significant impact of a major recall of infant formula, FNS issued guidance to clarify that FDA-approved imported formula could be included as part of a reimbursable meal in CACFP. These efforts have helped ensure that CACFP provides children with access to the maximum meal benefits available through the Child Nutrition Programs, while minimizing potential exposure to COVID-19.

In addition, State agencies that administer CACFP were able to submit waiver requests of both State agency and CACFP sponsoring organization monitoring requirements and propose an alternative plan for conducting effective Program oversight in 2022. FNS approved 22 individual State monitoring plans. Each monitoring plan described effective alternative oversight measures to ensure program integrity, identify any misuse of federal funds, and specified training and technical assistance measures to assist program operators.

Team Nutrition

The Team Nutrition is a cross-cutting initiative that supports all Child Nutrition Programs by 1) providing job skills training and technical assistance to food service staff who prepare meals for the programs; 2) developing nutrition education resources that help children learn about agriculture and become self-sufficient in making informed food choices; and 3) providing the programs with resources to support healthy school and childcare environments. The Team Nutrition initiative helps States and local program operators apply meal pattern requirements to their school and childcare menus, while accommodating local and regional food preferences and optimizing the use of USDA Foods as well as locally produced foods. The turnover among food service and childcare staff remains high, so there is a continuous need for job skills training which also contributes to staff meeting the professional standards requirements.

In 2022, Team Nutrition released an updated *Crediting Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program* (28,288 website views, 14,988 downloads), released four new *CACFP Meal Pattern Training Slide Decks* (in both English and Spanish) (2,218 downloads in English and 316 downloads in Spanish) and a *Let's Make a Snack: Child and Adult Care Food Program Snack Menu Planner for Children 3 Through 18 Years of Age* (8,027 views). In addition, Team Nutrition exceeded expectations by releasing seven Spanish-language resources including three Spanish-language web quizzes (one on infant nutrition, one on toddler nutrition, and one on milk requirements), four ready-to-go *CACFP Meal Pattern Training Slide Decks*, and a publication entitled *Offering Smoothies as Part of Reimbursable School Meals*.

Team Nutrition provided over 400 online resources and 196 different printed publications to States, schools and CACFP operators. The most downloaded Team Nutrition publications for the CACFP audience were *The Crediting Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program* (14,612 downloads), *Using Ounce Equivalents for Grains in the CACFP English Worksheet* (10,667 downloads), and *Feeding Infants in the CACFP* (7,306 downloads). Over 200,000 printed training and nutrition education materials were requested by and distributed to State agencies, schools, school districts, and CACFP operators during 2022. The most requested printed resources and training tools for CACFP operators include *Feeding Infants in the CACFP* (3,355 copies) and the *Nibbles for Health Nutrition Newsletter for Parents of Young Children* (2,835 copies). In 2022, Team Nutrition continued its popular CACFP Halftime Webinar series by conducting six 30-minute, interactive webinars (three each in English and Spanish), which were viewed live by 2,273 participants and recorded webinars were viewed over 4,376 times, for a total of 6,649 views. Altogether from 2018 to 2022, Team Nutrition has conducted a total of 35 interactive CACFP Halftime webinars in two languages that have been viewed nearly 98,000 times, providing essential job skills training to CACFP operators on planning, preparing, and offering healthy foods that meet the updated meal pattern requirements.

In November 2021, Team Nutrition and ICN released the CACFP iTrain Simple Lesson Plans which are 15–30 minute trainings designed for CACFP professionals with limited time. The 20 topics covered in this project include Creating a Breastfeeding Friendly Environment, Micro-Purchasing in the CACFP, and Record Keeping Basics for CACFP. In addition, ICN released 10 monthly Mealtime Memos for CACFP operators. The Mealtime Memo series provides CACFP operators with research-based best practices for planning, preparing, and/or serving nutritious, safe, and child-friendly meals in childcare settings operating the CACFP.

Team Nutrition has a vast collection of recipes and cookbooks featuring delicious, kid-approved recipes that incorporate whole grains and vegetables (dark-green, red/orange, and beans/peas vegetables subgroups). These recipes have been standardized to ensure consistent yields – and include information on how the recipe credits toward the meal pattern requirements for CACFP; these tasty recipes have the potential to increase student acceptance of school meals and therefore improve student health. In 2022,

Team Nutrition released a total of 40 new FNS–developed USDA standardized recipes for CACFP operators on the CNRB website. These 40 recipes are designed to assist program operators with serving nutritious and appealing meals and snacks that meet meal pattern requirements and minimum serving amounts for at least one meal component. Each recipe is available in four versions for different age groups. In May 2022, Team Nutrition ICN launched the Spanish-language version of the CNRB to ensure that this go-to resource for USDA standardized recipes for Child Nutrition Programs offers Spanish translations of recipes. The English version of the CNRB continued to grow in 2022, gaining 41,572 new users with 308,499 unique page views and 5,160 CN professionals creating accounts to save and organize

their favorite recipes. As of July 2022, there were 962 recipes in the CNRB. Team Nutrition released 60 new recipes in English during 2022, and 7 new recipes in Spanish. Additionally, in June 2022, FNS released 7 short instructional cooking videos featuring USDA standardized recipes for CACFP operators. Three additional videos will be released in 2023.

Food Buying Guide: In 2022, Team Nutrition made 15 enhancements/updates to the Food Buying Guide mobile app tool and web based interactive tool and released a Food Buying Guide Brochure that has been accessed more than 3,463 times. A highly requested new feature was added, per user feedback, to the *Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG)* digital tools. The new feature allows users to view the meal pattern requirements per meal component for a selected Program (NSLP, SBP, Preschool, CACFP, and SFSP) and age/grade group while using the FBG Calculator. This helpful feature allows easy access to meal pattern guidance to assist in creating shopping lists. In addition to the scheduled enhancements, other new features include the ability to search for food items based on the selected meal Program and when using the Recipe Analysis Workbook (RAW) and FBG Calculator. Team Nutrition also collaborated with the Agricultural Research Service to implement that second phase of the Food Yield stuff, that will result in over forty food items being added to the Food Buying Guide. In response to a request submitted to USDA, sorghum products were added to the Food Buying Guide. Team Nutrition collaborated with the ICN to develop two new Food Buying Guide Training Modules for Exhibit A and the Food Buying Guide Calculator. These modules will join the first three modules completed in 2021 and will be housed at the ICN.

In 2022, 41 new organizations were added to the Team Nutrition Network for CACFP, for a total of 516 Team Nutrition CACFP organizations. CACFP organizations can join the Network to affirm their commitment to helping program participants make healthier food choices and be more physically active, and in turn they will have the opportunity to collaborate with other Team Nutrition CACFP organizations, be the first to hear about new nutrition education and training materials developed under the Team Nutrition initiative and receive special nutrition education and promotion materials.

Integrity and Simplification

FNS is committed to working with States to ensure that sponsoring organizations, centers, and day care homes meet high standards of program effectiveness and integrity. To that end, FNS has proposed a series of improvements to target systemic and significant violations to further safeguard the integrity of the Child Nutrition Programs and help ensure that taxpayer dollars are being invested as intended.

In 2022, FNS entered the fifth year of its cooperative agreement to develop and deliver a CACFP training program to equip State agencies with the knowledge and skills necessary to train their CACFP sponsoring organizations in key areas of CACFP program administration, operation, accounting, and financial management. The training, CACFP Operational Resources & Education (CORE), is geared toward State agency staff who are primarily responsible for developing State agency policy related to the CACFP and State agency staff who are primarily responsible for providing training and/or technical assistance directly to sponsoring organizations. CACFP stakeholders continue to engage in the online training tools developed and maintained as part of the CORE project. In addition to training, the CORE project produced several resource guides to assist Program operators. In April of 2022, there were over 500 Program Operators that attended CORE training in person at the National CACFP Sponsors Association conference with 70 attending virtually. Also In 2022, 780 State agency employees working in CACFP attended 9 virtual conferences on various areas of Program management and over 1,000 additional State agency CACFP employees registered to attend the training On Demand so that they may participate in the trainings at their own pace. The CORE training has received outstanding reviews from Stakeholders and continues to be requested as a tool for both new and experienced Program operators.

The enhanced oversight and enforcement tools included in the final rule, *Child Nutrition Program Integrity*, will improve the financial management of CACFP by increasing State resources, strengthening review timeframes, and establishing other requirements designed to improve oversight by State agencies and sponsoring organizations. Comments on the proposed rule were analyzed and publication of a final rule is expected in 2023.

FNS has been reviewing its CACFP Serious Deficiency (SD) process. The SD process offers a systematic way for State agencies and sponsoring organizations to take actions to correct issues of non-compliance in the operations of their program. The overarching goal of the SD process is to promote positive outcomes (full and permanent corrections of all deficiencies) while enhancing program integrity. FNS began this project with a review of existing administrative materials and publicly available policy and guidance documents, followed by a Request for Information to get public feedback on the SD process. FNS has begun work on a new proposed regulation to update the SD process that is anticipated to be published in 2023.

FNS is working to develop a new, electronic guidance resource aimed at assisting State agencies with making determinations of serious deficiency. This resource will be interactive and allow State agency reviewers to provide information on the number, frequency, and severity of observed non-compliance issues. In exchange, the electronic resource will provide guidance on potential courses of action. FNS provided an early demonstration of the CACFP SD Navigator as a concept and as preliminary categories are developed. FNS will continue to develop the Navigator to be consistent with the forthcoming regulation.

The Erroneous Payments in Child Care Centers (EPICCS) study is the first FNS-funded research study to estimate nationally representative rates of program error and improper payments in CACFP childcare centers. Similar to the APEC series of studies that estimate error in the School Meal Programs, EPICCS will serve as a basis for future integrity initiatives in CACFP throughout the coming years. The initial draft of the EPICCS study was reviewed by FNS and a final review is pending an additional data collection, which is expected to be completed in 2023. FNS is also developing exploratory research to identify methods to measure error in family day care homes. Preliminary results of the research into family day care homes are expected in 2023.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Program Mission

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) was established to provide children with access to nutritious meals when school is not in session. Meals meeting Federal nutrition guidelines are served at no cost to all children 18 years old and under at approved SFSP sites in areas in which at least 50 percent of children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals during the school year. Local organizations sponsoring the program must be public or private nonprofit schools, government agencies, private nonprofit organizations that meet certain criteria, or residential camps. Meal sites are limited to two meals (which cannot include both lunch and supper) or one meal and one snack daily. However, summer camps and sites that primarily serve migrant children may be reimbursed for up to three meals or two meals and one snack served to every eligible child each day.

Sponsoring organizations receive reimbursement for each eligible meal served through SFSP and may receive USDA Foods for use in their meals. Funds also are made available to conduct health inspections and to defray State and local administrative costs.

FNS is committed to lowering barriers to participation in SFSP in underserved communities. To align with the Administration's commitment to equity and racial justice, FNS encouraged State agencies and institutions to use methods that are based on self-identification and self-reporting, not visual observation, to collect racial and ethnic data of children and adult participants. These mandatory data collections help FNS determine how effective SFSP is in reaching eligible participants receiving meals. In 2022, FNS continued to develop technical assistance and best practices for alternative data collection methods.

Facts in Brief

In accordance with Program statute and regulations, FNS allowed State agencies to request individual Section 12(l) waivers to continue offsite monitoring requirements, effective through September 30, 2022, to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19.

- During 2022, about 151 million meals were served, a 95 percent decrease from 2021 when 3.1 billion meals were served.
- During 2022, 36,161 feeding sites provided meals to children through the SFSP. Compared to 1990, meals have increased over 65 percent from 91.2 million.
- In 2022, approximately 52.7 percent of the meals served were lunches (56.5 percent in 2021), 37.9 percent were breakfasts (41.8 per 2021), and the remaining 9.3 percent were suppers and supplements (1.7 percent in 2021).

COVID-19 Response: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, FNS has provided a range of flexibilities to allow State agencies and SFSP program operators to maintain meal service throughout the pandemic. Stakeholders expressed the critical need for flexibility to operate the SFSP in a manner that conformed with public health guidelines and met the changing needs of communities. When schools initially closed in spring 2020, FNS issued numerous nationwide waivers using authority provided through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) (PL 116-127). In June 2022, Congress passed the Keep Kids Fed Act (PL 117-158), which extended FNS' waiver authority through September 30, 2022, allowing FNS to extend nationwide waivers for summer 2022 operations. FNS recognizes that, due to the broad impacts of COVID-19 and the ongoing public health emergency, State agencies and local program operators needed the additional support and flexibility provided through these waivers to maintain continuity of Program operations and ensure

they could maximize the provision of meals for children. In summer 2022, many of these waivers and flexibilities assisted State agencies and local program operators as they transition from operations under COVID-19 nationwide waivers to operations designed around their own unique circumstances. While the number and type of waivers utilized by State agencies varied, 55 State agencies representing the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and 2 U.S. territories implemented some or all of the waivers below in summer 2022.

Key SFSP flexibilities provided through nationwide waivers in summer 2022 included:

- *Area Eligibility*: Allowed SFSP sponsors in good standing to operate open sites in areas that have not been determined to be area eligible.
- *Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites*: Allowed closed enrolled sites to establish area eligibility through the use of community data.
- *Non-congregate Feeding Waiver*: Waived the congregate meal requirements, which was vital to ensure appropriate safety measures for the purpose of providing meals and meal supplements.
- *Mealtime Waiver*: Waived the meal service time requirement that placed 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.
- *Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Up Waiver*: In keeping with the goal of providing meals while also taking appropriate safety measures, Program operators in a State with an approved waiver allowing non-congregate meal distribution could distribute SFSP meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their children.
- *SFSP Reimbursement Rates for Summer Seamless Option (SSO)*: Established the payment rates for SSO meals and snacks at the level of reimbursement paid for SFSP meals and snacks.
- *Sponsor Application Deadline and Reimbursement of Meals Served Prior to Notification of Approval for Summer 2022 Operations*: Allowed SFSP sponsors to submit written applications for program participation past the June 15 deadline. FNS also allowed reimbursement to be paid for meals served at a site before the sponsor had received written notification of approval for participation in the program.

Separately, FNS continued to issue individual waivers through Section 12(l) of the NSLA to allow program operators to access flexibilities on a case-by-case basis. Unlike nationwide waivers, Section 12(l) waiver authority can only be used for individual State or eligible service providers upon their request. FNS may only approve waiver requests submitted by States agencies that support the purpose of the program and demonstrate that the waiver will not increase overall costs; States must provide notice and information to the public regarding the proposed waiver.

Key 12(l) waivers approved for summer 2022 included:

- *First week site visits*: Waived the requirement for a sponsor to visit all of its Program sites during the first week of operations.
- *Offer Versus Serve*: Allowed the use of Offer Versus Serve (OVS) for non-school food authorities and allowed all sponsors using OVS to use the Summer Food Service Program meal pattern
- *Meal Service times*: Waived the meal service time requirement that placed 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.
- *Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites*: Allowed closed enrolled sites to establish area eligibility through the use of community data.

Key 12(l) waivers approved for operating the SFSP and/or SSO during unanticipated school closures in SY 2022-2023 included:

- *Non-Congregate Meal Service*
- *Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-Up*
- *Meal Service Times*
- *Meals at School Sites during Unanticipated School Closures*

In addition, State agencies that administer SFSP had the option to submit a waiver request of both State agency and SFSP sponsor monitoring requirements and propose an alternative plan for conducting effective Program oversight in 2022. FNS approved 27 individual State monitoring plans. Each monitoring plan described effective alternative oversight measures to ensure program integrity, identify any misuse of federal funds, and specified training and technical assistance measures to assist program operators. All flexibilities for SFSP expired September 30, 2022, and FNS does not currently have any additional planned flexibilities for monitoring requirements.

Streamlining Summer Final Rule

On September 19, 2022, FNS published the Final Rule: *Streamlining Program Requirements and Improving Integrity in the SFSP*. The rule amends SFSP regulations to strengthen program integrity by clarifying, simplifying, and streamlining program administration to facilitate compliance with program requirements. Through the rule, USDA codified changes to the regulations that will streamline requirements among Child Nutrition Programs, simplify the application process, enhance monitoring requirements, offer more clarity on existing requirements, and provide more discretion at the State agency level to manage program operations. In addition, the rule codified FNS' statutory waiver authority for all Child Nutrition Programs. The rule is effective October 1, 2022. Compliance with the provisions of this rule must begin by May 1, 2023.

Integrity and Simplification

In 2021, FNS devoted resources to working with the Office of Inspector General to close Phase III of the three-phase SFSP audit. Phase I focused on FNS controls over the SFSP, Phase II focused on four selected State agencies controls over the SFSP, and Phase III consolidated relevant results and common control issues identified through the Phases I and II work. The Phase III consolidated audit was issued with 15 recommendations related to improving SFSP application processes, updating monitoring requirements, issuing additional guidance to calculate and monitor unused reimbursement, and strengthening oversight of State agencies. In 2020, FNS reached management decision on 12 of the 15 recommendations, and in 2021, FNS reached management decision on the remaining three recommendations. FNS also focused on implementing the Phase III audit recommendations, including updating memorandums to clarify how to identify and calculate unused reimbursements, providing best practices on site proximity, providing best practices for document maintenance to facilitate meal claim verification, and updating the Management Evaluation guide to ensure reviewers verify all State agency responses.

FNS is committed to reducing barriers to program participation while maintaining program integrity. To that end, FNS leveraged its innovative mapping applications to help connect families to meals during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Summer Meals Site Finder is a free, web-based application that allows children, parents, and others to find summer meal sites quickly and easily near them during the summer months. In 2021, FNS expanded the Site Finder to run year-round to map meal sites operating the SFSP during COVID-19 related school disruptions. This expansion allowed States to continue updating site information to aid families in finding meal sites during the school year. Also, through extensive technical assistance to State agencies, FNS was able to streamline the data collection process for the Site Finder while at the same time make advances in the accuracy and timeliness of the data. The data used to populate the site has been made publicly available for download on FNS' website and is utilized by the National Hunger Clearinghouse hotline and multiple text numbers, as well as other mapping services, increasing the reach and accessibility of information. The Capacity Builder is another free, web-based application that allows users to visualize "layers" of information for evaluation and planning purposes. It is a vital tool for empowering State agencies and local program operators to identify key areas of need and determine the optimal locations for summer meal sites using data-driven technology.

Since 2015, FNS has been conducting in-person visits of SFSP sites. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency, FNS did not conduct SFSP site visits in summer 2020, 2021, or 2022 but plans to continue with the visits during summer 2023. In addition to conducting the summer site visits, FNS conducted a research study to examine how State agencies and SFSP sponsors typically administer and provide oversight in the SFSP and identify potential sources of program error and barriers to program integrity. The study is expected to be published in early 2023. Additionally, FNS is developing an additional integrity study to identify improper payments following USDA's 2018 risk assessment of the SFSP which concluded that the program is susceptible to significant improper payments. The study was delayed due to COVID-19 but is slated to begin in the summer of 2023 and will generate the agency's first formal estimates of program error in satisfaction of the requirements of the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA). Notably, this study is being designed in-house by FNS and will focus on the types of program error that result in improper payments. Due to the relatively smaller size of the SFSP, the data collection effort for this study will take place over a period of up to five years and ultimately result in a rolling estimate of program error.

In the 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Act (P.L. 111-80), Congress authorized demonstration projects to develop and test alternative methods of providing access to food for children in low-income households during the summer months when schools are not in regular session, as well as rigorous independent evaluations of each project's effectiveness. Since summer 2010, USDA has used this authority and funding to operate several types of demonstration projects. Current demonstrations include the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) demonstrations and the Summer Meals-to-You project.

Summer EBT: USDA has supported the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) demonstration projects each year since 2011 to improve access to food for children who are hard to reach in the summer months. Through these projects, States and Tribes provide food benefits on EBT cards, using either a food package model or a debit card model, to eligible low-income families with school-aged children during the summer months, giving them resources to use at approved retail food stores in their communities. For States that elect to use the food package model, participating households are able to purchase specific types and quantities of healthy foods at WIC-authorized retailers. In States that elect the debit card model, participating households can redeem benefits for SNAP-eligible foods at any SNAP-authorized retailer.

Rigorous evaluations of these projects found that Summer EBT eliminated very low food security among children, the most severe form of food insecurity, by one-third. In addition, Summer EBT was able to improve the diets of children in low-income households during the summer. Evaluations have also illustrated the success of the Summer EBT projects across diverse project areas.

USDA issued multi-year Summer EBT awards in 2019 and 2021 to three Indian Tribal Organizations (ITO) and five States: The Cherokee Nation, The Chickasaw Nation, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Connecticut, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon, and Wisconsin. These grantees were approved to operate for three summers each, staggered between 2019 and 2024. For 2022, the Chickasaw nation was awarded additional funds to support summer 2022 operations as their previous grant expired after summer 2021. For summers 2021 and 2022, State grantees opted to forgo operating their projects because they had the opportunity to offer summer Pandemic EBT benefits. The type of benefit and eligible student populations for Summer EBT and Pandemic EBT are largely the same, so offering both benefits at the same time would have been redundant and difficult to implement and evaluate.

Summer Meals-to-You: USDA awarded the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty (BCHP) a 2019 award to operate the Summer Meals-to-You demonstration project in summers 2019-2021 and provided additional funding in 2022 to support summer 2022 operations. The goal of this demonstration was to test an alternative strategy for reducing or preventing food insecurity and hunger among low-income children in the summer months in communities where the nutritional needs of children are not met through the SFSP or a Summer EBT model. Through this project, children received a weekly food box delivered directly to their homes during the summer. Each box included five breakfast meals, five snacks, and five lunch/supper meals. The project was launched in Texas in 2019 and expanded in 2020 to serve rural areas with limited access to summer meals programs in New Mexico, and Alaska, as well as continuing to serve children in Texas. Approximately 4,000 children received meal boxes in summers 2019 and in 2020, respectively, 5,800 children in summer 2021, and 7,900 in 2022.

The Urban Institute is conducting a study looking at the impact on children's nutrition, and how the project operates best. USDA intends to report the conclusions of this study to Congress by 2023, so they have information to make decisions about the future of Federal summer meal programs.

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM

Program Mission

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides fresh fruits and vegetables to all children in participating elementary schools located in low-income areas as snacks outside of the regular meal service. USDA provides a limited amount of funding to States, which select schools to participate based on statutory criteria. States rank schools based on the percentage of children eligible for free and reduced-price meals and distribute the funds to schools with the highest percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price meal benefits. The program includes the requirement that each student receives between \$50 and \$75 worth of fresh produce over the school year.

Section 19 of the NSLA authorizes the FFVP and provides a steady source of funding through an annual transfer from the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) Section 32 funds. Funding is allocated among States using a statutory formula that provides base funding equally to each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia and provides additional funding to all States operating a school lunch program (including Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) on the basis of population. In 2022, a total of \$183.5 million was awarded to all program operators. In addition, USDA:

- Provides implementation guidance and technical assistance as needed;
- Provides training to program operators as needed; and
- Developed an FFVP Handbook, which is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/ffvp/fresh-fruits-and-vegetable-program-handbook-schools>, to reflect statutory authority and address questions provided by State agencies.

COVID-19 Response

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, USDA provided many flexibilities with the FFVP. For example, USDA allowed FFVP foods to be provided alongside other Child Nutrition Program meals and in non-congregate settings. The USDA also waived certain FFVP requirements on a State-by-State basis using the authority provided by Section 12(l) of the National School Lunch Act [42 U.S.C. 1760(l)]. For SY 2022-2023, USDA waived the requirement that FFVP snacks only be served at eligible elementary schools for 52 State agencies and allowed parents or guardians to take fresh produce home to their children in 55 State agencies. These flexibilities were in line with USDA's commitment to keep Americans safe and healthy during the public health emergency.

FOOD SAFETY

FNS uses its food safety education funds to develop education, instruction, and technical assistance resources to facilitate the implementation of food safety requirements in Child Nutrition Programs and to support the food safety needs of program operators at every level of program administration. These resources are supported by science-based food safety research as well as continuous collaboration with food safety partners.

In 2022, FNS supported nutrition program operators through the delivery of food safety education, resources, and training, rapid response to emerging issues including food recalls, and strengthening partnerships with food safety partners.

FNS worked with Federal partners related to the FDA's *Closer to Zero* initiative to ensure the needs of USDA's nutrition program operators and participants were considered in efforts to reduce exposure to heavy metals from food. FNS participated in the second *Closer to Zero* public meeting in April titled "Impacts of Toxic Element Exposure and Nutrition in the Food System," reviewed draft guidance for arsenic and lead in juice and lead in baby food, and partnered with FDA, NOAA, and EPA to launch an independent study through the National Academy of Science and Medicine on the role of seafood consumption in child growth and development.

In 2022, FNS delivered 166 food safety trainings through a cooperative agreement with the ICN reaching more than 3,500 child nutrition professionals through a variety of modalities to meet program operators' needs including virtual instructor led training and e-learning; launched the *Emergency Response Pocket Guide*, and the companion *Assembling Food Safety Emergency Supply Kits* poster as online and print resources in English and Spanish; delivered English and Spanish prototypes of the *Child Care Center Food Safety Kit*, which completes the series of kits for CACFP program operators; and developed and delivered five webinars for school meals stakeholders including *Strategies for Managing Food Allergies in Schools*; *Get Ready to Respond: Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery*; *Food Safety in Adult Day Care Centers*; *Tips and Tools for Produce Safety Training*, a continuing education opportunity for Produce Safety University graduates; and *The Role of School Nutrition Directors in School Safety Efforts*, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Safe and Supportive Schools and its Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center.

FNS continued to guide the development of research-based educational resources that address the importance of safe food practices in the management of food allergies in Child Nutrition Programs. In 2022, in partnership with the ICN, FNS released a series of evidence-based Child Care Center and Family Child Care food allergy fact sheets for CACFP providers. These fact sheets include sesame, which will be recognized as the ninth major food allergen in January 2023. In addition, FNS developed a series of six online food allergy training modules for Adult Day Care program operators, in response to research to identify and evaluate food safety needs of this audience. FNS collaborated with the ICN on their Memorandum of Understanding with Food Allergy Education and Awareness (FARE). This agreement enhances an existing partnership and will allow the organizations to work more closely to provide relevant and timely resources on food allergy management to child nutrition operators.

In partnership with the AMS, FNS delivered Produce Safety University (PSU) as a virtual experience while maintaining the quality and reach of the program. The program supports nutrition security by promoting the use of fresh fruits and vegetables in school meal programs by teaching best practices for procuring high-quality produce and ensuring food safety from farm to fork. In 2022, five virtual multi-day trainings were delivered to approximately 150 school nutrition professionals and State agency staff. FNS is planning to return to deliver the program to an in-person format in 2023. PSU is far-reaching; more than 1,800 participants have graduated since 2010 and graduates have gone on to train nearly 70,000 additional people. Following graduation, 85 percent of PSU graduates reported making changes to improve receiving, storage, preparation, or service practices.

Center for Food Safety Research

FNS advanced food safety research to inform education activities in Child Nutrition Programs through a cooperative agreement with Kansas State University. In 2022, two studies – *The Status of Crisis Management Plans in School Nutrition Programs and Responsiveness to COVID-19* and *Food Safety Practices and Beliefs of Stakeholders Involved in Meal Distribution and Consumption in Crises Situations* – were completed, and three new research projects were initiated including a 10-year follow-up assessment of school nutrition programs' health inspection reports, a literature review on the effectiveness of washing treatments to reduce pathogens in fresh produce, and a study on validation of cooling methods in school nutrition programs. In addition, Serving Up Science, a research-driven food safety immersion training for school nutrition professionals was delivered.

FNS provided technical assistance on food safety issues to internal and external stakeholders, including guidance on executing food safety recalls, produce safety and assessments of food safety issues. In 2022, FNS established and fostered critical relationships with Federal partners to enable FNS to effectively respond to emerging issues and inform the Agency's food safety and nutrition activities. FNS provided critical leadership in its response to the infant formula recall and shortage, worked closely with the U.S. Department of Education's Readiness and Emergency Management in Schools Technical Assistance Center to update and reissue their document titled *Food Safety and Food Defense: Developing a Contaminated Food Annex*, enhanced relationship with the Conference for Food Protection, Food Allergen Committee by providing substantial input on their Food Allergen Framework document for retail food establishments, which includes schools; and represented FNS and provided subject matter expertise on a variety of Federal food safety forums including the Healthy People 2030 Food Safety Working Group and CDC EHS-Net.

FNS closely monitored food recalls affecting FNS nutrition programs and communicated with food safety regulatory agencies (USDA/FSIS and HHS/FDA) as well as the USDA Foods procurement agency (AMS) to determine the impact of food recalls on USDA Foods. In 2022, USDA Foods were not substantially impacted by food recalls FNS communicated with FNS Regions about three commercial recalls with potential impact to FNS programs: a widespread recall of a major brand of peanut butter, a large recall of onions, and a recall of pork products. In 2022, FNS exercised an option year for the State Emergency Notification Service contract to support rapid notification of food safety recalls in food distribution programs.

In 2022, FNS responded to 189 USDA Foods complaints with identified food safety concerns. Fruit and vegetable products represented 130 of these complaints, followed by 31 meat and poultry complaints. Foreign material and damaged packaging were the reasons for 154 of the complaints. Responding to food safety complaints about USDA Foods directly supports the Agency's efforts to provide safe and nutritious foods to the nation's school children.

USDA FOODS

Eight nutrition assistance programs incorporate USDA Foods as part of the overall assistance provided to recipient agencies. AMS and FNS work together to procure and deliver USDA Foods to these programs in the types, forms, and quantities needed to meet planned levels of assistance. In addition to providing food to people who need it, purchases of USDA Foods support domestic agricultural markets.

USDA Foods entitlement for the NSLP and CACFP is authorized by the NSLA in Sections 6(c) and 17(h), respectively, and is based on a "rate per meal" concept which is adjusted each July 1 to reflect changes in the Producer Price Index for food used in schools and institutions. Similarly, Section 13(h) of the NSLA authorizes USDA Foods for the SFSP. Additionally, Section 6(e) of the NSLA requires that in each school year, not less than 12 percent of all Federal nutrition assistance in the NSLP be provided in the form of USDA Foods. When available, USDA also provides bonus foods acquired through the price support and surplus removal programs (Section 32).

For SY 2021-2022, schools, daycare centers and residential institutions were authorized to receive an average of 26.00 cents worth of USDA Foods per lunch/supper served. The rate for USDA Foods increased to 30 cents on July 1, 2022, for SY 2022-2023.

USDA strengthens the nation's nutrition safety net and supports American agriculture by distributing high quality, 100 percent American-grown and produced USDA Foods to schools. The distribution of USDA Foods to schools is managed at the State level by a State distributing agency, which works with local school districts to ensure the effective use of these foods in school meal programs. USDA offers over 200 different products to schools. These foods are low in added sugar, sodium and fat and support the meal pattern requirements for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. In 2021, FNS continued to ensure schools had access to a wide variety of healthy foods that meet the diverse needs of

school programs. FNS added a commercial kosher certification requirement to three items available to schools, including canned green beans, canned diced pears, and canned garbanzo beans.

As disruptions to typical school operations continued as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, FNS worked closely with State distributing agencies and schools to support their feeding programs, ensuring sufficient access USDA Foods in SY 2022-2023 by increasing the effective per meal rate for all State agencies to 43.00 cents and providing funds to State agencies to maintain entitlement at the previous SY 2021-2022 levels.

In response to widespread supply chain challenges and elevated food prices affecting schools, USDA provided \$300 million in Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds to support additional food purchases through USDA Foods in Schools in 2022. Orders were placed in the spring of 2022 and delivered from April through September 2022.

In SY 2022-2023, FNS continued to closely monitor USDA Foods inventories and orders for national processors. States and processors also successfully used a forecasting tool, developed by FNS, to help them more effectively and efficiently manage USDA Foods inventories. The tool helped ensure efficient inventory utilization and reduced inventory balances, storage costs, and food losses.

USDA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM (USDA DOD Fresh)

FNS and the Department of Defense (DoD) work together to enable school districts to use their USDA Foods entitlement to order fresh produce through DoD's contracting and distribution network. DoD uses its large-scale buying power to help meet the demand for consistent, weekly deliveries of a wide variety of fresh produce to school cafeterias, central kitchens, SFSP sponsors, and State and Tribal organizations. This program has grown steadily since its beginning in SY 1994-1995, when eight States spent \$3.2 million for produce. In 2022, 49 States, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and Guam, participated, spending over \$552 million in USDA Foods entitlement funds on fresh fruits and vegetables through this program. Additionally, 27 States used their Summer Food Service Program funds to order fresh fruits and vegetables using the USDA DoD Fresh program. FNS continues to work with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to improve the USDA DoD Fresh program, including encouraging vendors to provide local produce items when in season.

The FFAVORS web application offers participating agencies in NSLP, SFSP, and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations the ability to order and receive shipments of fresh produce to their location. In support of Farm to School initiatives, State of Origin information is captured so customers can see where the produce is from.

Section 4202 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79, the 2014 Farm Bill) authorized a Pilot Project for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables. States applied through a competitive process in September 2014 based on criteria outlined in the 2014 Farm Bill. Consistent with 2014 Farm Bill requirements, California, Connecticut, Michigan, New York, Oregon, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin were selected for participation in the pilot. Wisconsin chose to discontinue participation in the pilot. In 2022 the remaining States allocated approximately \$8.3 million in USDA Foods entitlement funds to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables.

Web Based Supply Chain Management System (WBSCM) is the demand-driven food ordering system used by State Agencies and their Recipient Agencies to place USDA Foods requests in support of the programs run within the State Agency. Demand requests are reviewed by FNS and forwarded to AMS for procurement activities. FNS funds WBSCM operational costs as part of a partnership with AMS.

CASH IN LIEU OF USDA FOODS

Section 6 of the NSLA authorizes funds to be used to provide cash in lieu of USDA Foods, in accordance with sections 16, 17(h), and 18(b) of the NSLA. The State of Kansas is permanently receiving cash payments in lieu of USDA Foods as a result of the NSLA and Child Nutrition Act amendments of 1975. Cash is also being received by school districts that began participating during the 1980s and early 1990s in alternative demonstration projects that provided cash or Commodity Letters of Credit in lieu of USDA Foods. Some nonresidential childcare institutions participating in CACFP have also elected to receive their USDA Foods entitlements in cash.

FNS provides ongoing technical assistance in many forms to State agencies, school districts, and industry. To ensure effective use of USDA Foods in schools and improve knowledge of best practices for USDA Foods utilization, FNS provided education sessions at national conferences, local meetings, and webinars, and circulated a quarterly USDA Foods e-letter targeting the school foodservice population. To maintain accessibility for remote learners in 2022, FNS continued trainings in webinar and virtual platforms to continue to engage with stakeholders and provide timely USDA Foods resources and information. Additionally, FNS released the USDA Foods Database, a resource that provides

stakeholders with vendor-specific nutrition, allergen, and ingredient information for direct delivered USDA Foods for Child Nutrition Programs.

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE FUNDS

Section 7 of the CNA authorizes funds to the States for program administration and for supervision and technical assistance in local school districts and child and adult care institutions. In 2022, \$332 million was appropriated for State Administrative Expenses (SAE). SAE funds are available to States for obligation over a 2-year period. The State agency may carry over up to 20 percent of the initial allocation. Each fiscal year, carryover exceeding the 20 percent limit is recovered by FNS.

STUDIES AND EVALUATIONS

FNS published eight reports related to the Child Nutrition Programs during 2022, which are available at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/research-analysis>. These reports include:

- **Added Sugars in School Meals and Competitive Foods (8/11/2022).** This report responds to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (PL 116-260), which directs FNS to provide a report on the amount of added sugars in school meals. As directed, this report highlights the proportion of meals and competitive foods that would meet an added sugars standard consistent with the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA), i.e., that no more than 10 percent of calories from the meal or competitive food item come from added sugars. The findings in this report are based on data from the FNS School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study (SNMCS). In SY 2014-2015, SNMCS collected NSLP and SBP menu data from a nationally representative sample of 1,207 schools as well as competitive foods data from a nationally representative sample of 858 schools.
- **Indicators of Diet Quality, Nutrition, and Health for Americans by Program Participation Status, 2011-2016: USDA NSLP Report (6/08/2022).** This study, one of a series, used 2011-2016 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) data to examine the relationship between estimated program participation, diet quality, indicators of nutrition and health, food consumption patterns, and nutrient intakes. The report provides tabulations for all school children, all NSLP participants, income-eligible NSLP participants, income-eligible nonparticipants, higher income NSLP participants, and higher income nonparticipants. Tabulations are provided separately for three age groups (5-8, 9-13, and 14-18 years) and by gender. Most analyses in this report are descriptive in nature and cannot be used to assess the impact of NSLP or infer causality.
- **USDA Community Eligibility Provision Characteristics Study, School Year 2016-2017 (3/17/2022).** This study is the first comprehensive study of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) since CEP became available nationwide in School Year 2014-2015. The study included both an implementation and impact component. The implementation study described the characteristics of eligible, participating, and non-participating Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and collected information from State agencies and LEAs on challenges and barriers to CEP participation. The impact study component assessed the impact of CEP on student participation in and Federal reimbursements for the NSLP and School Breakfast Program (SBP).
- **USDA Direct Certification with Medicaid for Free and Reduced-Price Meals (DCM-F/RP) Demonstration, School Year 2019-2020 (3/16/2022).** The demonstration of Direct Certification with Medicaid for Free and Reduced-Price Meals (DCM-F/RP) enhances benefit coordination by allowing authorized states and school districts to use information from Medicaid data files to identify students eligible to receive meals for free or at a reduced price, such that eligible students can be certified for meals without the need for household applications. Fifteen states participated in the DCM-F/RP demonstration during SY 2019-2020. This report examines outcomes related to certification, participation, federal reimbursement, and State administrative costs in SY 2019-2020 and over the course of the demonstration.
- **Results of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service-Administered School Food Authority Survey on Supply Chain Disruptions (3/04/2022).** The School Food Authority (SFA) Survey on Supply Chain Disruptions was administered by U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) from November 8 to December 13, 2021, through a 20-minute online questionnaire. The survey was sent to all SFAs operating Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs) to gather information on the scope of the supply chain disruptions and challenges local program operators were facing during school year (SY) 2021-2022. FNS will use results from this survey to inform current and future policy decisions.
- **Evaluation of the Independent Review of Applications in USDA Child Nutrition Programs (12/01/2021).** The Evaluation of the Independent Review Process study examined the processes, procedures, and effectiveness of the requirement for a second, independent review of applications for certain LEAs. The requirement, which was first implemented in School Year (SY) 2014-2015, is intended to reduce administrative certification error in LEA processing of household applications. LEAs that demonstrate high levels of, or a high risk for, administrative error

associated with certification, verification, and other school meal program administrative processes are required to conduct a second review of the eligibility determinations.

- **Study of Nutrition and Activity in Childcare Settings (10/25/2021).** The Study of Nutrition and Activity in Childcare Settings (SNACS) is the first nationally representative, comprehensive assessment of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Data were collected in program year (PY) 2016-2017 from CACFP providers and participating children on (1) the wellness policies and practices of childcare providers, (2) the nutritional quality of the meals served in CACFP, (3) CACFP meal costs and revenues, (4) the nutrient intake of infants and children in CACFP childcare settings and outside of childcare, and 5) the observed plate waste in CACFP settings. The CACFP providers in the study were both early care providers and before and after school care providers. Findings serve as an important baseline for the subsequent updates to the meal pattern and nutrition standards, which were implemented in October 2017.
- **USDA Summer Meals Study (10/20/2021).** The Summer Meals Study provides a comprehensive, nationally representative assessment of the two summer meal programs operated by USDA: the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO). It is the first national study to simultaneously examine the facilitators and barriers to program participation among participating and nonparticipating families, sponsors, and sites. This study examines the characteristics of participating and nonparticipating children, including sociodemographic characteristics, household food security status, reasons for participation or nonparticipation, and satisfaction with the meals served to children in the summer of 2018. The study also describes the operational aspects of the programs at summer meal sites, the characteristics of their food service environments, the nutritional quality of the meals served to children through the SFSP and SSO, and the challenges that program operators reported facing while serving meals to program participants.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS- 35. Financing for All - Fiscal Year 2022**

State or Territory	Special Milk	School Lunch	School Breakfast	State Admin Expenses	Commodities and Cash in Lieu	Child and Adult Care	Summer Food Service	Total Program Contribution
Alabama.....	\$14,003	\$364,506,597	\$124,109,559	\$5,036,212	\$39,758,124	\$59,649,744	\$6,737,814	\$599,812,054
Alaska.....	-	54,414,343	15,920,953	846,494	2,341,285	6,458,727	1,252,063	81,233,866
Arizona.....	20,757	497,061,001	138,200,460	5,360,356	33,546,178	62,738,897	23,982,972	760,910,621
Arkansas.....	-	207,060,371	76,542,954	2,933,203	15,437,413	47,638,556	2,408,727	352,021,224
California.....	109,525	2,314,369,380	741,305,847	37,409,872	193,588,759	595,815,073	30,747,513	3,913,345,968
Colorado.....	79,807	286,071,052	76,756,843	2,579,529	17,089,796	45,445,321	7,899,936	435,922,283
Connecticut.....	55,751	233,577,005	64,684,450	1,785,634	14,809,598	17,789,452	5,844,908	338,546,799
Delaware.....	-	62,502,006	21,075,499	1,133,906	7,402,212	15,213,045	2,421,428	109,748,097
District of Columbia.....	-	61,625,927	28,740,545	765,686	4,224,175	31,004,294	1,458,510	127,819,136
Florida.....	957	1,249,978,204	339,829,848	18,052,296	114,441,263	299,183,869	42,064,781	2,063,551,218
Georgia.....	11,606	821,191,177	277,308,338	10,553,621	59,041,244	123,090,396	10,446,956	1,301,643,338
Hawaii.....	-	77,718,349	14,055,614	959,248	1,616,610	5,424,970	747,620	100,522,412
Idaho.....	18,324	104,640,131	26,911,866	1,030,113	6,516,799	6,954,526	3,830,629	149,902,387
Illinois.....	1,086,982	700,823,732	185,573,526	8,384,886	47,152,570	130,012,377	9,916,674	1,082,950,748
Indiana.....	63,313	473,535,738	113,870,932	5,548,755	46,918,912	46,774,464	7,827,261	694,539,375
Iowa.....	32,466	262,858,879	59,558,817	2,279,391	19,673,054	26,221,836	3,311,127	373,935,570
Kansas.....	15,053	228,873,097	64,075,602	2,027,658	7,692,220	30,343,978	8,130,774	341,158,383
Kentucky.....	12,884	328,837,072	123,025,732	4,566,634	30,145,721	40,430,790	11,917,119	538,935,952
Louisiana.....	-	328,505,887	108,308,518	6,603,543	33,981,084	117,321,122	6,510,288	601,230,442
Maine.....	3,758	71,441,450	24,245,169	1,055,497	5,121,185	8,733,697	5,768,381	116,369,137
Maryland.....	155,074	352,259,180	111,226,407	2,459,543	39,423,036	138,044,977	47,956,590	691,524,807
Massachusetts.....	55,421	416,161,674	104,206,696	4,295,199	30,163,367	57,183,683	13,337,587	625,403,627
Michigan.....	110,626	553,074,983	178,120,112	6,956,465	43,739,583	56,160,957	16,211,629	854,374,356
Minnesota.....	492,552	396,338,619	109,420,842	4,205,699	29,058,297	206,318,468	8,219,356	754,053,834
Mississippi.....	5,275	239,588,291	84,889,942	3,589,681	21,458,606	41,294,792	3,540,127	394,366,713
Missouri.....	255,061	394,584,406	133,607,447	3,973,306	33,286,204	105,574,931	13,368,704	684,650,060
Montana.....	9,026	59,417,042	19,837,914	667,442	4,510,019	9,908,533	2,925,136	97,275,112
Nebraska.....	44,442	163,078,995	34,869,841	1,458,367	12,275,915	26,051,007	17,028,366	254,806,933
Nevada.....	19,289	158,877,170	49,705,736	1,220,824	14,404,017	11,107,145	15,055,626	250,389,808
New Hampshire.....	32,713	64,141,858	17,811,393	490,196	4,394,559	3,766,599	1,144,649	91,781,967
New Jersey.....	89,454	609,372,393	181,858,299	6,742,615	36,529,955	76,702,946	39,209,337	950,504,999
New Mexico.....	-	140,134,759	54,858,802	2,038,912	11,570,517	29,518,985	3,154,233	241,276,207
New York.....	234,396	1,190,163,095	380,418,326	18,068,583	78,925,860	182,175,998	144,521,935	1,994,508,194
North Carolina.....	71,511	512,955,448	171,236,396	6,178,056	50,926,902	84,706,072	13,305,467	839,379,853
North Dakota.....	10,340	64,037,497	16,107,352	480,806	5,649,106	10,854,686	1,321,910	98,461,698
Ohio.....	218,058	707,843,522	213,871,675	8,557,219	60,516,209	83,779,906	11,839,832	1,086,626,422
Oklahoma.....	8,464	247,724,296	78,334,898	4,426,264	25,910,019	64,118,357	16,821,064	437,343,361
Oregon.....	51,040	186,625,119	56,755,199	2,965,618	14,596,217	23,316,976	6,420,003	290,730,171
Pennsylvania.....	166,667	714,804,206	197,162,841	8,422,435	51,216,786	94,157,923	18,887,326	1,084,818,182
Rhode Island.....	18,825	58,473,329	17,307,052	625,148	3,585,839	7,234,447	1,507,604	88,752,245
South Carolina.....	-	345,081,022	120,203,915	1,414,135	18,667,513	30,318,356	4,465,300	520,150,242
South Dakota.....	10,477	69,865,415	15,702,251	691,010	3,860,226	6,806,362	1,428,240	98,363,980
Tennessee.....	6,077	460,136,174	159,297,299	4,773,692	34,278,679	60,277,285	6,951,338	725,720,544
Texas.....	642	2,171,820,517	676,318,613	31,573,927	228,700,237	449,681,344	69,611,598	3,627,706,878
Utah.....	24,701	236,512,871	39,524,846	2,034,820	17,003,288	28,498,164	650,314	324,249,004
Vermont.....	20,594	34,067,255	12,572,408	624,951	2,574,087	4,411,155	3,715,569	57,986,019
Virginia.....	46,377	509,253,311	167,309,280	4,757,758	26,964,819	51,154,231	11,610,629	771,096,405

State or Territory	Special Milk	School Lunch	School Breakfast	State Admin Expenses	Commodities and Cash in Lieu	Child and Adult Care	Summer Food Service	Total Program Contribution
Washington.....	89,625	425,274,925	105,625,341	3,702,527	19,680,232	35,175,494	5,889,699	595,437,844
West Virginia.....	6,947	116,677,298	54,424,685	1,954,438	6,600,159	16,159,014	3,965,049	199,787,591
Wisconsin.....	527,022	350,417,388	106,089,218	3,356,582	27,326,887	31,311,657	9,943,212	528,971,966
Wyoming.....	15,728	35,286,330	9,992,565	359,248	2,306,347	4,402,333	2,089,892	54,452,443
American Samoa**.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,212,848
CNMI**.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,399,722
Guam.....	-	9,377,222	3,042,518	93,912	22,180	336,921	-	12,872,753
Puerto Rico.....	-	102,416,734	18,298,005	1,518,435	12,412,079	14,278,825	2,414,150	151,338,228
Virgin Islands.....	-	2,403,110	852,426	339,572	207,465	420,505	291,939	4,515,017
DOD/AF/USMC/Nav ...	-	27,478,630	4,556,036	-	1,103,640	-	-	33,138,306
AMS/WBSCM/Admin Exp.....	-	-	-	-	21,696,725	-	-	21,696,725
Anticipated Adjustment	1,677,390	782,181,518	-709,773,648	78,679,081	100,656,222	1,748,026,832	277,455,109	2,278,902,504
TOTAL.....	\$5,999,000	\$21,637,497,000	\$5,619,744,000	\$342,609,000	\$1,796,700,000	\$5,509,481,000	\$989,484,000	\$35,901,514,000

* Data based on obligations as reported September 30, 2022. Commodities are based on food orders for 2022. Totals may not add due to rounding. The 2022 figures are impacted due the COVID-19 waivers which allowed schools to serve lunches and breakfast free for all students at the Summer Food Service Program reimbursement rates.

** The approved amounts the American Samoa Child Nutrition Program Nutrition Assistance Program and CNMI Child Nutrition Program Nutrition Assistance Grant, respectively.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-36. Commodities to States for Entitlement and Bonus for Fiscal Year 2022**

State or Territory	Entitlement	Commodity Credit Corporation **	Bonus **	Total
Alabama	\$30,857,945	\$5,082,128	\$1,266,800	\$37,206,873
Alaska	2,117,978	521,186	369,399	3,008,563
Arizona	29,968,407	-	575,436	30,543,843
Arkansas	13,403,095	2,988,884	755,164	17,147,143
California	156,553,542	28,422,449	3,302,015	188,278,006
Colorado	14,328,558	3,511,585	574,051	18,414,194
Connecticut	10,738,572	2,829,712	714,365	14,282,649
Delaware.....	7,362,354	886,676	492,675	8,741,705
District of Columbia	1,925,343	212,420	-	2,137,763
Florida	94,109,391	8,194,759	289,859	102,594,009
Georgia	52,860,522	3,125,268	503,632	56,489,422
Hawaii	1,342,793	-	-	1,342,793
Idaho.....	6,434,126	1,632,386	604,960	8,671,472
Illinois.....	42,507,478	4,874,772	532,664	47,914,914
Indiana.....	34,559,566	5,113,770	-	39,673,336
Iowa.....	19,428,520	2,237,244	244,286	21,910,050
Kansas*.....	-	-	-	-
Kentucky.....	28,807,061	3,839,221	639,736	33,286,018
Louisiana	26,164,233	5,552,268	1,113,355	32,829,856
Maine.....	6,738,068	956,016	-	7,694,084
Maryland.....	33,353,333	1,760,029	130,627	35,243,989
Massachusetts	24,283,316	1,509,007	533,048	26,325,371
Michigan.....	35,415,987	4,068,418	299,497	39,783,902
Minnesota.....	18,212,650	5,427,156	-	23,639,806
Mississippi.....	19,949,231	3,466,809	72,349	23,488,389
Missouri.....	29,132,104	5,178,765	37,328	34,348,197
Montana.....	4,338,722	771,702	19,868	5,130,292
Nebraska.....	12,482,096	2,287,228	19,530	14,788,854
Nevada.....	13,743,252	2,223,943	148,770	16,115,965
New Hampshire	4,157,679	748,220	279,848	5,185,747
New Jersey.....	37,555,979	5,428,989	1,615,244	44,600,212
New Mexico	11,366,254	1,954,477	565,821	13,886,552
New York	71,324,303	6,998,545	1,697,959	80,020,807
North Carolina	43,872,940	4,993,610	963,912	49,830,462
North Dakota	4,908,145	886,719	19,868	5,814,732
Ohio.....	52,008,172	-	130,357	52,138,529
Oklahoma	21,410,698	2,176,154	-	23,586,852
Oregon.....	14,521,011	2,105,159	604,879	17,231,049
Pennsylvania.....	44,804,916	8,276,515	2,680,745	55,762,176
Puerto Rico	11,827,554	1,855,919	179,166	13,862,639
Rhode Island.....	3,373,774	734,111	566,610	4,674,495
South Carolina	15,211,225	1,075,948	171,600	16,458,773
South Dakota	3,133,220	1,002,717	9,765	4,145,702
Tennessee	31,255,668	2,715,820	1,048,968	35,020,456
Texas	201,072,455	31,447,546	1,469,204	233,989,205
Utah.....	12,808,540	3,242,765	336,978	16,388,283
Vermont.....	3,015,854	383,944	36,652	3,436,450
Virginia.....	22,626,760	7,309,642	1,272,652	31,209,054

State or Territory	Entitlement	Commodity Credit Corporation **	Bonus **	Total
Washington.....	20,510,265	5,060,390	508,177	26,078,832
West Virginia.....	8,088,695	1,574,427	130,209	9,793,331
Wisconsin.....	23,038,331	4,797,206	575,354	28,410,891
Wyoming.....	2,430,594	271,816	10,221	2,712,631
Virgin Islands.....	472,463	-	-	472,463
AAFES.....	2,027,048	169,216	-	2,196,264
USDA DoD Fresh.....	500,837,289	88,734,933	-	589,572,222
Unprocessed Fruit and Vegetable Pilot.....	9,310,149	-	-	9,310,149
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expenses.....	21,691,646	-	-	21,691,646
Undistributed.....	31,062,784	-	-	31,062,784
Cash in Lieu.....	234,476,763	-	-	234,476,763
Anticipated Adjustment.....	-438,619,417	-	-	-438,619,417
TOTAL.....	\$1,796,700,000	\$290,618,586	\$28,113,603	\$2,115,432,192

* Kansas receives all assistance as cash in lieu. In addition to Kansas some school districts across the U.S. also receive Cash in Lieu.

** States with a zero indicates no food orders were purchased using the specified food dollars.

Source: WBSCM sales orders and contract information

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-37. Child Nutrition Quantity and Value of Commodities for Fiscal Year 2022**

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
ALASKA POLLOCK, BULK FOR PROCESSING.....	2,376,000	\$5,401,836
ALASKA POLLOCK, BREADED STICKS, FROZEN.....	1,111,520	4,054,768
APPLES, CANNED, UNSWEETENED.....	2,952,144	3,133,187
APPLE, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED.....	198,000	284,447
APPLES, FRESH.....	960,498	658,032
APPLES, BULK FOR PROCESSING.....	44,205,449	20,979,219
APPLESAUCE, CANNED, UNSWEETENED.....	14,330,511	12,420,507
APPLESAUCE, CUPS, UNSWEETENED.....	26,857,467	37,325,769
APRICOTS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP.....	332,424	373,198
APRICOTS, CUPS, FROZEN.....	1,145,760	2,035,179
BEANS, CANNED, BABY LIMA, LOW-SODIUM.....	69,984	52,764
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK TURTLE, LOW-SODIUM.....	2,682,720	1,676,053
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK-EYED PEAS, LOW-SODIUM.....	594,864	437,815
BEANS, CANNED, GARBANZO, LOW-SODIUM.....	1,901,232	1,080,757
BEANS, CANNED, GREAT NORTHERN, LOW-SODIUM.....	279,936	240,108
BEANS, CANNED, GREEN, LOW-SODIUM.....	17,918,440	10,382,553
BEANS, CANNED, PINK, LOW-SODIUM.....	273,618	210,006
BEANS, CANNED, PINTO, LOW-SODIUM.....	5,693,004	3,437,592
BEANS, CANNED, RED KIDNEY, LOW-SODIUM.....	1,320,948	814,929
BEANS, CANNED, REFRIED, LOW-SODIUM.....	798,336	775,742
BEANS, CANNED, SMALL RED, LOW SODIUM.....	450,765	284,284
BEANS, CANNED, VEGETARIAN, LOW-SODIUM.....	5,959,980	3,598,682
BEANS, DRY, PINTO, BULK FOR PROCESSING.....	440,000	280,236
BEANS, GREEN, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	4,537,440	3,619,709
BEEF, BULK FOR PROCESSING.....	49,736,000	154,757,006
BEEF, CANNED.....	394,164	1,772,663
BEEF, CRUMBLES, WITH SOY PROTEIN, COOKED, FROZEN.....	2,411,840	8,790,370
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN.....	15,097,520	51,995,566
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN, LFTB OPTIONAL.....	160,000	563,980
BEEF, PATTIES, 85/15, WITH SOY PROTEIN, FROZEN.....	1,811,280	6,447,613
BEEF, PATTIES, 90/10, FROZEN.....	525,640	2,127,677
BEEF, PATTIES, COOKED, FROZEN.....	2,261,080	10,759,527
BEEF, PATTIES, COOKED, WITH SOY PROTEIN, FROZEN.....	3,757,280	21,488,835
BEEF, PATTIES. LEAN, FROZEN.....	532,000	2,369,786
BLUEBERRIES, HIGHBUSH, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED.....	2,339,040	3,635,397
BLUEBERRIES, WILD, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED.....	1,887,984	3,776,761
BROCCOLI, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	9,797,760	17,440,198
CARROTS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	1,585,056	1,179,891
CARROTS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	4,856,400	3,083,273
CATFISH, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH BREADED, FILLET STRIPS, FROZEN.....	207,000	1,862,220
CHEESE, AMERICAN.....	7,847,370	16,175,950
CHEESE, AMERICAN, REDUCED FAT.....	5,944,230	13,651,660
CHEESE, CHEDDAR, BULK FOR PROCESSING.....	50,714,398	113,564,690
CHEESE, CHEDDAR, REDUCED FAT.....	2,328,780	5,558,952
CHEESE, CHEDDAR.....	3,805,620	8,918,008

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, BULK FOR PROCESSING	59,425,625	120,522,650
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, INDIVIDUAL, LOW MOSITURE, PART SKIM	3,194,460	11,346,996
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, LITE	947,520	2,115,000
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, LOW MOISTURE, PART SKIM	9,054,774	19,301,046
CHEESE, PEPPER JACK.....	271,600	745,351
CHERRIES, DRIED.....	118,272	551,443
CHERRIES, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED.....	207,900	451,156
CHICKEN, BREAST FILLET, COOKED, FROZEN	1,199,250	5,295,463
CHICKEN, BULK FOR PROCESSING.....	168,552,000	208,038,899
CHICKEN, CUT UP, FROZEN.....	494,000	737,811
CHICKEN, DICED, COOKED, FROZEN	6,720,000	21,323,615
CHICKEN, FAJITA STRIPS, COOKED, FROZEN	4,148,160	13,590,080
CHICKEN, OVEN ROASTED, COOKED, FROZEN	3,780,000	18,249,531
CHICKEN, UNSEASONED STRIPS, COOKED, FROZEN	3,461,880	16,061,008
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED.....	391,988	1,626,748
CORN, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED.....	13,413,240	9,213,458
CORN, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	13,755,960	9,988,350
CRANBERRIES, DRIED, INDIVIDUAL PORTION.....	3,716,444	12,451,507
EGGS, BULK FOR PROCESSING.....	4,752,000	12,639,470
EGGS, COOKED PATTY, FROZEN.....	1,552,775	5,163,034
EGGS, LIQUID WHOLE, FROZEN	1,061,220	2,024,648
FLOUR, ALL-PURPOSE, ENRICHED	257,040	105,858
FLOUR, BULK.....	15,555,600	5,277,372
FLOUR, WHITE WHOLE WHEAT/ENRICHED BLEND	1,545,480	676,937
FLOUR, 100% WHOLE WHEAT	1,211,200	410,566
MILK, 1%, UHT	533,998	451,415
MIXED BERRY CUP, FROZEN.....	3,382,116	7,177,500
MIXED FRUIT, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	23,307,254	21,278,781
MIXED FRUIT, DRIED	36,400	128,972
MIXED VEGETABLES, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	2,732,400	2,395,397
OATS, ROLLED.....	131,040	128,641
OIL, VEGETABLE.....	1,959,712	2,176,431
OIL, VEGETABLE, BULK FOR PROCESSING	192,000	162,749
ORANGE JUICE, INDIVIDUAL, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	14,855,808	13,441,232
ORANGES, FRESH.....	224,694	106,581
PANCAKES, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH	1,253,070	1,505,839
PASTA, ENRICHED	320,000	690,520
PASTA, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH.....	514,800	1,145,394
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	38,323,571	35,765,772
PEACHES, CUPS, FROZEN.....	22,649,352	36,586,249
PEACHES, FROZEN.....	142,544	232,684
PEANUT BUTTER.....	742,665	779,946
PEANUT BUTTER, BULK FOR PROCESSING	160,000	153,048
PEANUT BUTTER, INDIVIDUAL PORTION	498,960	1,026,445
PEANUTS, BULK FOR PROCESSING	5,676,000	3,151,940
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	35,583,812	33,829,922
PEAS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	1,260,840	1,011,816

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
PEAS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	3,207,600	2,940,974
PEPPER/ONION BLEND, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	792,000	1,360,946
PORK, BULK FOR PROCESSING.....	6,523,260	10,114,303
PORK, CANNED.....	405,540	906,993
PORK, HAM, FROZEN.....	5,311,200	14,500,626
PORK, LEG ROAST, FROZEN	600,000	1,604,352
PORK, PULLED, FROZEN.....	4,125,120	11,235,345
POTATOES, BULK FOR PROCESSING	180,214,358	24,045,145
POTATOES, DICED, FROZEN	1,029,600	849,935
POTATOES OVEN FRIES, LOW-SODIUM, FROZEN.....	6,969,600	8,700,031
POTATO WEDGES, FAT FREE, LOW-SODIUM, FROZEN	514,800	584,905
POTATO WEDGES, LOW-SODIUM, FROZEN	4,118,400	5,699,437
RAISINS, INDIVIDUAL PORTION, UNSWEETENED	3,278,340	7,463,316
RICE, BROWN.....	2,447,808	2,200,598
RICE, WHITE	504,000	363,107
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CANNED/POUCH, LOW-SODIUM	3,960,173	2,848,447
SPINACH, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	456,480	416,633
STRAWBERRIES, CUPS, FROZEN	10,546,200	21,004,943
STRAWBERRIES, SLICED, FROZEN	1,227,600	1,685,967
STRAWBERRIES, SLICED, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	2,217,600	4,008,072
STRAWBERRIES, WHOLE, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED.....	435,600	769,890
SUNFLOWER SEED BUTTER	887,040	2,544,004
SWEET POTATOES, BULK FOR PROCESSING.....	9,210,481	1,726,044
SWEET POTATOES, CANNED, LIGHT SYRUP	886,464	844,302
SWEET POTATOES, CRINKLE FRIES, FROZEN, LOW-SODIUM	1,188,000	1,993,464
SWEET POTATOES, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	594,000	441,698
TOMATO PASTE, BULK FOR PROCESSING	12,648,300	8,653,927
TOMATO PASTE, CANNED/POUCH, NO SALT ADDED	683,234	678,829
TOMATO SALSA, CANNED/POUCH, LOW-SODIUM	3,030,421	2,429,386
TOMATO SAUCE, CANNED/POUCH, LOW-SODIUM.....	1,676,297	1,159,087
TOMATOES, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED	1,918,620	1,142,259
TORTILLAS, WHOLE GRAIN- RICH.....	820,125	892,620
TURKEY HAM, FROZEN	1,560,000	5,715,000
TURKEY, BULK FOR PROCESSING	36,612,000	62,031,960
TURKEY, DELI BREAST, FROZEN	2,951,080	12,781,561
TURKEY, ROAST, FROZEN	1,621,640	6,198,996
TURKEY, TACO FILLING , COOKED, FROZEN.....	2,939,130	8,921,745
UNPROCESSED FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PILOT	-	9,310,149
USDA DoD FRESH PRODUCE.....	-	500,837,289
YOGURT, CUP, BLUEBERRY, HIGH PROTEIN.....	585,960	871,196
YOGURT, CUP, STRAWBERRY, HIGH PROTEIN	692,892	1,002,843
YOGURT, CUP, VANILLA, HIGH PROTEIN.....	509,562	779,713
YOGURT, TUB VANILLA, HIGH PROTEIN	140,010	178,301
SUBTOTAL	-	\$1,979,151,004
Cash-In-Lieu of Commodities	-	234,476,763
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expenses	-	21,691,646
Anticipated Adjustments	-	-438,619,413

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
TOTAL COMMODITY ENTITLEMENT	1,098,701,440	\$1,796,700,000
BONUS COMMODITIES		
ALASKA POLLOCK, BREADED STICKS, FROZEN	2,128,000	\$7,049,082
ALASKA POLLOCK, NUGGETS, FROZEN	380,000	1,332,143
ALASKA POLLOCK, FILLETS, FROZEN	342,000	1,521,528
BEANS, CANNED, GREAT NORTHERN, LOW-SODIUM.....	2,029,536	1,198,515
CHICKEN BREAST FILLET, COOKED, FROZEN	702,000	3,088,800
CHICKEN, UNSEASONED STRIPS, COOKED, FROZEN	1,209,000	5,319,600
RAISINS, INDIVIDUAL PORTION, UNSWEETENED	2,134,080	6,616,182
SWEET POTATOES, CANNED, LIGHT SYRUP	2,068,416	1,987,754
TOTAL BONUS COMMODITIES	10,993,032	\$28,113,604
ALASKA POLLOCK, BREADED STICKS, FROZEN	28,480	\$103,952
APPLES, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED.....	39,600	47,256
APPLES, FRESH	106,722	92,003
APPLESAUCE, CANNED, UNSWEETENED.....	3,867,993	3,505,378
APPLESAUCE, CUPS, UNSWEETENED	8,951,661	13,804,489
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK TURTLE, LOW-SODIUM.....	816,480	523,639
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK-EYED PEAS, LOW-SODIUM.....	69,984	56,732
BEANS, CANNED, GARBANZO, LOW-SODIUM.....	478,224	283,188
BEANS, CANNED, GREAT NORTHERN, LOW-SODIUM.....	174,960	103,697
BEANS, CANNED, GREEN, LOW-SODIUM	39,600	32,696
BEANS, CANNED, PINK, LOW-SODIUM	251,262	184,755
BEANS, CANNED, PINTO, LOW-SODIUM.....	2,495,124	1,587,533
BEANS, CANNED, RED KIDNEY, LOW-SODIUM	743,580	465,908
BEANS, CANNED, SMALL RED, LOW SODIUM.....	197,883	134,116
BEANS, CANNED, VEGETARIAN, LOW-SODIUM.....	1,458,324	960,033
BEANS, DRY, PINTO.....	40,320	27,972
BEEF, CANNED.....	145,836	665,610
BEEF, BULK FOR PROCESSING	252,000	734,580
BEEF, CRUMBLES, WITH SOY PROTEIN, COOKED, FROZEN	2,428,160	8,726,062
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN	4,768,360	14,800,287
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN, LFTB OPTIONAL.....	160,000	491,056
BEEF, PATTIES, 85/15, WITH SOY PROTEIN, FROZEN	696,720	2,357,895
BEEF, PATTIES, 90/10, FROZEN.....	348,360	1,264,074
BEEF, PATTIES, COOKED, FROZEN.....	1,120,920	5,286,625
BEEF, PATTIES, COOKED, WITH SOY PROTEIN, FROZEN.....	4,070,720	22,749,256
BEEF, PATTIES, LEAN, FROZEN	114,000	464,048
BLUEBERRIES, HIGHBUSH, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	1,185,360	1,591,499
BLUEBERRIES, WILD, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	933,696	1,911,893
CARROTS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	158,400	101,561
CATFISH, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH BREADED, FILLET STRIPS, FROZEN	633,000	5,719,380
CHEESE, AMERICAN.....	2,013,030	4,164,652
CHEESE, AMERICAN, REDUCED FAT.....	2,332,170	5,630,195
CHEESE, CHEDDAR.....	1,340,940	3,206,917
CHEESE, CHEDDAR, BULK FOR PROCESSING	408,000	855,005
CHEESE, CHEDDAR, REDUCED FAT.....	1,012,020	2,429,505
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, BULK FOR PROCESSING	452,375	823,664

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, LITE	463,680	986,638
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, LOW MOISTURE, PART SKIM	2,597,706	5,371,918
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, LOW MOSITURE, PART SKIM, STRING....	1,341,540	5,372,728
CHERRIES, DRIED.....	118,272	581,584
CHERRIES, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED.....	69,300	146,157
CHICKEN BREAST FILLET, COOKED, FROZEN	867,750	4,336,147
CHICKEN, BULK FOR PROCESSING.....	2,304,000	3,506,504
CHICKEN, DICED, COOKED, FROZEN	600,000	2,189,060
CHICKEN, FAJITA STRIPS, COOKED, FROZEN	3,040,590	10,966,181
CHICKEN, OVEN ROASTED, COOKED, FROZEN	144,000	699,422
CHICKEN, UNSEASONED STRIPS, COOKED, FROZEN	1,798,110	8,985,546
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED.....	58,013	240,752
CORN, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	79,200	52,787
CRANBERRIES, DRIED, INDIVIDUAL PORTION	2,360,419	7,868,712
EGGS, COOKED PATTY, FROZEN.....	1,298,425	4,460,739
EGGS, LIQUID WHOLE, FROZEN	363,300	876,118
FLOUR, ALL-PURPOSE, ENRICHED	85,680	37,271
FLOUR, WHITE WHOLE WHEAT/ENRICHED BLEND	128,880	72,819
FLOUR, 100% WHOLE WHEAT	40,000	23,760
MILK, 1%, UHT	76,285	67,711
MIXED BERRY CUP, FROZEN.....	616,284	537,843
MIXED FRUIT, DRIED	218,400	784,333
OIL, VEGETABLE.....	442,688	529,802
ORANGE JUICE, INDIVIDUAL, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	1,435,008	1,440,227
PANCAKES, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH	652,050	764,429
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	471,276	415,836
PEACHES, CUPS, FROZEN.....	443,520	628,696
PEANUT BUTTER.....	366,135	626,799
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	837,558	730,441
PEAS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	79,200	70,382
PORK, CANNED.....	170,460	379,870
PORK, HAM, FROZEN.....	1,608,800	4,115,882
PORK, LEG ROAST, FROZEN	120,000	266,888
PORK, PULLED, FROZEN.....	2,314,880	6,089,131
RAISINS, INDIVIDUAL PORTION, UNSWEETENED	1,096,524	3,227,328
RICE, BROWN.....	240,192	236,931
RICE, WHITE.....	42,000	28,904
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CANNED/POUCH, LOW-SODIUM	1,651,891	1,176,080
SUNFLOWER SEED BUTTER	110,880	339,655
TOMATO PASTE, CANNED/POUCH, NO SALT ADDED	75,915	54,319
TOMATO SALSA, CANNED/POUCH, LOW-SODIUM	718,799	620,981
TOMATO SAUCE, CANNED/POUCH, LOW-SODIUM.....	474,019	336,305
TOMATOES, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED	34,884	18,550
TORTILLAS, WHOLE GRAIN- RICH.....	232,875	271,512
TURKEY HAM, FROZEN.....	160,000	522,400
TURKEY, DELI BREAST, FROZEN	1,688,920	7,389,719
TURKEY, ROAST, FROZEN	778,360	3,244,204

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
TURKEY, TACO FILLING, COOKED, FROZEN.....	1,225,080	3,914,070
USDA DoD FRESH PRODUCE.....	-	88,734,933
YOGURT, CUP, BLUEBERRY, HIGH PROTEIN.....	88,350	151,962
YOGURT, CUP, STRAWBERRY, HIGH PROTEIN.....	88,380	152,014
YOGURT, TUB VANILLA, HIGH PROTEIN.....	51,450	88,494
TOTAL CCC COMMODITIES	80,704,192	\$290,618,585
TOTAL -- ALL COMMODITIES		
Entitlement Commodities.....	1,098,701,440	\$1,796,700,000
Bonus Commodities.....	10,993,032	28,113,604
Commodity Credit Corporation Commodities.....	80,704,192	290,618,585
GRAND TOTAL- CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS	1,190,398,664	\$2,115,432,189

NOTE: Totals may not add due to rounding.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-38. National School Lunch Program Schools, Enrollment, and Participation for Fiscal Year 2022**

State or Territory	Number of Schools	Enrollment (000)	Peak Participation (000)
Alabama.....	1,455	742	534
Alaska.....	414	80	54
Arizona.....	1,874	670	684
Arkansas.....	1,066	477	330
California.....	9,550	8,539	3,170
Colorado.....	1,750	828	449
Connecticut.....	1,038	493	332
Delaware.....	257	149	98
District of Columbia.....	257	97	82
Florida.....	3,924	2,889	1,825
Georgia.....	2,285	1,754	1,198
Hawaii.....	281	170	95
Idaho.....	663	396	172
Illinois.....	4,092	1,744	1,057
Indiana.....	2,085	1,031	761
Iowa.....	2,821	511	387
Kansas.....	1,372	556	362
Kentucky.....	1,300	981	501
Louisiana.....	1,469	858	503
Maine.....	593	147	110
Maryland.....	1,437	1,057	522
Massachusetts.....	2,121	882	599
Michigan.....	3,357	1,452	739
Minnesota.....	106	1,241	629
Mississippi.....	874	449	333
Missouri.....	2,381	1,002	626
Montana.....	789	156	90
Nebraska.....	923	347	257
Nevada.....	683	458	227
New Hampshire.....	442	167	99
New Jersey.....	3,565	1,287	886
New Mexico.....	859	303	196
New York.....	5,073	2,823	1,710
North Carolina.....	2,589	1,457	881
North Dakota.....	408	125	99
Ohio.....	3,552	1,753	1,138
Oklahoma.....	1,845	674	429
Oregon.....	237	528	283
Pennsylvania.....	2,393	1,248	1,068
Rhode Island.....	336	140	87
South Carolina.....	1,173	952	512
South Dakota.....	404	152	111
Tennessee.....	1,783	1,639	699
Texas.....	9,229	5,541	3,568
Utah.....	976	657	365
Vermont.....	320	445	54
Virginia.....	1,270	766	839
Washington.....	2,127	1,048	589
West Virginia.....	689	260	181
Wisconsin.....	669	528	531
Wyoming.....	311	91	54
Guam.....	46	29	14
Puerto Rico.....	946	290	176
Virgin Islands.....	27	9	4
DOD/ Army/AF/USMC/Navy.....	73	43	28
TOTAL.....	92,559	53,109	31,327

These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding. The 2022 figures are impacted due the COVID-19 waivers which allowed schools to serve lunches and breakfast free for all students at the Summer Food Service Program reimbursement rates.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-39. National School Lunch Program Lunches Served for Fiscal Year 2022**

State or Territory	Paid Lunches (000)	Reduced Price Lunches (000)	Free Lunches (000)	Total (000)
Alabama.....	3,784	722	79,707	84,213
Alaska.....	221	36	7,430	7,687
Arizona.....	4,482	1,026	95,775	101,283
Arkansas.....	1,614	613	45,458	47,686
California.....	16,857	1,718	510,100	528,676
Colorado.....	3,961	1,112	61,758	66,830
Connecticut.....	2,399	164	51,444	54,007
Delaware.....	598	41	13,791	14,429
District of Columbia.....	190	13	12,770	12,973
Florida.....	10,491	1,739	276,132	288,363
Georgia.....	10,230	2,307	177,950	190,487
Hawaii.....	1,385	343	14,184	15,911
Idaho.....	860	220	22,947	24,027
Illinois.....	5,912	327	154,752	160,992
Indiana.....	7,167	1,058	103,074	111,299
Iowa.....	4,348	401	57,383	62,132
Kansas.....	4,149	1,339	48,908	54,396
Kentucky.....	2,021	102	72,984	75,107
Louisiana.....	750	61	72,390	73,201
Maine.....	929	67	15,680	16,676
Maryland.....	2,326	493	77,772	80,591
Massachusetts.....	2,959	100	91,932	94,991
Michigan.....	3,357	308	122,689	126,354
Minnesota.....	2,809	483	87,274	90,566
Mississippi.....	2,190	829	52,245	55,264
Missouri.....	5,672	1,046	86,142	92,859
Montana.....	774	92	13,088	13,954
Nebraska.....	3,258	514	35,208	38,980
Nevada.....	2,239	123	34,935	37,297
New Hampshire.....	652	51	14,140	14,842
New Jersey.....	3,176	530	136,058	139,765
New Mexico.....	1,219	96	30,378	31,694
New York.....	3,588	212	266,349	270,149
North Carolina.....	3,679	523	113,265	117,467
North Dakota.....	1,540	154	13,790	15,484
Ohio.....	8,506	1,012	154,967	164,485
Oklahoma.....	2,128	578	54,273	56,979
Oregon.....	1,057	313	41,117	42,487
Pennsylvania.....	5,591	299	158,150	164,040
Rhode Island.....	387	63	12,892	13,341
South Carolina.....	3,290	445	75,276	79,012
South Dakota.....	1,435	160	15,146	16,741
Tennessee.....	6,394	1,099	98,360	105,853
Texas.....	6,128	1,037	487,272	494,436
Utah.....	4,376	662	51,379	56,416
Vermont.....	350	29	7,499	7,879
Virginia.....	877	43	113,352	114,273
Washington.....	2,679	264	87,642	90,584
West Virginia.....	634	11	25,873	26,519
Wisconsin.....	2,357	359	77,204	79,920
Wyoming.....	448	102	7,669	8,219
Guam.....	30	4	2,020	2,054
Puerto Rico.....	460	355	21,233	22,047
Virgin Islands.....	-	-	536	536
DOD Army/AF/USMC/Navy.....	241	60	3,697	3,998
TOTAL.....	169,154	25,856	4,565,439	4,760,449

These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding. The 2022 figures are impacted due the COVID-19 waivers which allowed schools to serve lunches and breakfast free for all students at the Summer Food Service Program reimbursement rates.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-40. School Breakfast Program Schools, Participation and Enrollment in Fiscal Year 2022**

State or Territory	Number of Schools and Institutions	Enrollment (000)	Peak Participation (000)
Alabama.....	1,433	737	313
Alaska.....	384	70	28
Arizona.....	1,817	366	333
Arkansas.....	1,058	476	215
California.....	8,966	7,677	1,613
Colorado.....	1,589	752	208
Connecticut.....	951	463	161
Delaware.....	258	148	59
District of Columbia.....	257	97	68
Florida.....	3,871	2,867	862
Georgia.....	2,286	1,608	694
Hawaii.....	277	169	29
Idaho.....	640	389	80
Illinois.....	3,589	1,572	474
Indiana.....	1,947	1,028	365
Iowa.....	1,269	528	154
Kansas.....	1,309	527	166
Kentucky.....	1,296	1,071	327
Louisiana.....	1,409	835	288
Maine.....	575	21	67
Maryland.....	1,426	1,053	285
Massachusetts.....	1,949	828	270
Michigan.....	3,161	1,392	420
Minnesota.....	144	452	314
Mississippi.....	853	436	204
Missouri.....	2,272	944	371
Montana.....	745	149	53
Nebraska.....	789	311	96
Nevada.....	639	418	126
New Hampshire.....	415	160	49
New Jersey.....	3,622	1,286	423
New Mexico.....	833	299	135
New York.....	4,885	2,747	941
North Carolina.....	2,562	2,928	519
North Dakota.....	376	120	46
Ohio.....	3,273	1,643	614
Oklahoma.....	1,830	673	235
Oregon.....	218	548	148
Pennsylvania.....	2,299	1,204	521
Rhode Island.....	330	139	44
South Carolina.....	1,172	881	309
South Dakota.....	364	144	45
Tennessee.....	1,740	1,610	422
Texas.....	8,599	5,510	1,913
Utah.....	934	634	109
Vermont.....	317	442	35
Virginia.....	1,259	763	482
Washington.....	2,059	1,016	259
West Virginia.....	669	265	149
Wisconsin.....	639	307	289
Wyoming.....	293	90	28
Guam.....	43	29	6
Puerto Rico.....	938	286	50
Virgin Islands.....	27	9	2
TOTAL.....	86,904	51,147	16,422

These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding. The 2021 figures are impacted due the COVID-19 waivers which allowed many schools to serve non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program. Schools operating under these waivers may not be included in the total number of outlets operating the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and/or, the Special Milk Program.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-41. School Breakfast Program Breakfasts Served Fiscal Year 2022**

State or Territory	Paid (000)	Reduced Price Regular (000)	Reduced Price Severe Need (000)	Free Regular (000)	Free Severe Need (000)	Total (000)
Alabama	1,643	24	340	40,504	7,117	49,628
Alaska	81	2	13	3,513	306	3,915
Arizona.....	1,440	31	374	41,823	5,547	49,216
Arkansas.....	840	375	1	29,843	187	31,246
California	9,135	178	751	223,571	62,131	295,766
Colorado.....	1,079	30	486	26,518	2,735	30,847
Connecticut.....	695	18	36	23,224	1,822	25,796
Delaware.....	269	4	14	7,619	541	8,447
District of Columbia.....	149	2	5	10,018	628	10,802
Florida.....	3,129	47	511	102,844	28,466	134,997
Georgia.....	4,332	63	1,124	88,822	17,030	111,372
Hawaii.....	262	12	86	3,727	814	4,903
Idaho	245	6	82	9,975	409	10,716
Illinois.....	1,053	3	77	62,778	9,187	73,098
Indiana	1,760	66	322	38,497	5,418	46,063
Iowa	695	34	84	21,324	1,702	23,839
Kansas.....	1,227	78	444	21,058	3,276	26,083
Kentucky.....	906	7	33	39,232	8,357	48,536
Louisiana.....	268	4	22	39,935	2,272	42,501
Maine	473	6	32	9,038	310	9,859
Maryland.....	1,108	19	233	40,154	2,811	44,325
Massachusetts	657	12	15	36,963	3,571	41,218
Michigan.....	1,000	14	96	64,679	4,663	70,451
Minnesota.....	825	166	28	41,987	578	43,585
Mississippi.....	966	13	419	26,678	5,737	33,814
Missouri.....	1,970	71	424	47,088	4,383	53,936
Montana	249	9	31	6,807	879	7,974
Nebraska	515	33	119	12,403	984	14,055
Nevada	513	2	16	17,121	2,126	19,778
New Hampshire.....	126	4	14	6,825	118	7,087
New Jersey.....	666	16	182	71,190	1,874	73,930
New Mexico.....	706	14	34	17,911	3,266	21,931
New York.....	881	9	67	147,076	6,122	154,155
North Carolina.....	1,631	17	231	59,189	7,179	68,247
North Dakota.....	357	40	24	5,955	233	6,609
Ohio	2,314	44	336	77,076	5,464	85,234
Oklahoma.....	878	14	263	27,999	2,200	31,354
Oregon	500	26	80	20,791	1,176	22,574
Pennsylvania	1,181	15	70	71,128	5,430	77,823
Rhode Island	104	2	20	6,303	398	6,826
South Carolina.....	1,489	19	193	40,793	5,567	48,061
South Dakota.....	213	24	27	5,754	305	6,323
Tennessee.....	2,924	46	531	52,042	8,154	63,698
Texas.....	2,718	83	450	241,579	23,397	268,227
Utah.....	561	28	141	14,246	946	15,923
Vermont	188	6	11	4,747	118	5,071
Virginia	498	4	17	63,250	1,982	65,751

State or Territory	Paid (000)	Reduced Price Regular (000)	Reduced Price Severe Need (000)	Free Regular (000)	Free Severe Need (000)	Total (000)
Washington	808	14	58	-	2,595	3,476
West Virginia.....	439	2	4	18,625	2,512	21,581
Wisconsin.....	765	32	107	39,885	1,307	42,096
Wyoming	111	7	29	3,734	121	4,002
Guam.....	12	-	-	687	411	1,110
Puerto Rico.....	102	-	87	5,877	802	6,868
Virgin Islands.....	-	-	-	335	-	335
DOD Army/AF/USMC/Navy.....	39	14	-	1,085	-	1,138
TOTAL	57,700	1,810	9,194	2,141,827	265,665	2,476,196

These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding. The 2021 figures are impacted due the COVID-19 waivers which allowed many schools to serve non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-42. Child and Adult Care Food Program Participation and Meals Served in Fiscal Year 2022**

State or Territory	Number of Centers/Homes	Participation (000)	Paid			Total Centers (000)	Meals Homes (000)	Total (000)
			Center Meals (000)	Reduced Price Center Meals (000)	Free Center Meals (000)			
Alabama.....	1,705	77	4,618	1,338	21,699	27,655	2,305	29,961
Alaska.....	392	7	914	134	853	1,900	631	2,531
Arizona.....	3,054	85	5,267	1,407	19,688	26,362	6,052	32,414
Arkansas.....	1,395	58	5,932	2,481	16,886	25,299	1,311	26,610
California.....	20,326	760	15,253	4,560	167,470	187,283	52,935	240,219
Colorado.....	1,662	100	4,580	585	15,484	20,649	2,749	23,397
Connecticut.....	1,148	25	1,281	459	4,185	5,926	2,717	8,642
Delaware.....	707	41	1,974	325	4,524	6,823	1,306	8,129
District of Columbia.....	290	52	579	130	12,495	13,204	110	13,314
Florida.....	7,077	344	29,170	10,311	104,668	144,149	7,436	151,585
Georgia.....	3,299	155	16,715	3,874	43,090	63,679	4,072	67,751
Hawaii.....	395	10	2,482	217	1,036	3,735	434	4,169
Idaho.....	447	12	1,511	270	1,995	3,776	599	4,376
Illinois.....	7,042	133	12,160	2,792	33,306	48,259	22,384	70,643
Indiana.....	2,566	103	5,685	1,117	10,089	16,891	10,784	27,675
Iowa.....	1,930	38	8,137	615	4,477	13,229	6,365	19,594
Kansas.....	2,633	42	4,933	562	4,287	9,782	8,893	18,675
Kentucky.....	1,658	79	6,869	1,206	14,524	22,600	728	23,328
Louisiana.....	8,456	118	2,864	860	25,755	29,479	22,850	52,329
Maine.....	767	12	828	168	1,336	2,332	2,469	4,800
Maryland.....	3,262	229	3,267	249	44,674	48,190	6,404	54,594
Massachusetts.....	3,916	75	2,781	740	14,160	17,681	10,853	28,534
Michigan.....	4,244	79	4,528	692	12,712	17,933	11,990	29,923
Minnesota.....	5,683	113	6,180	502	70,587	77,269	20,166	97,435
Mississippi.....	1,501	46	3,851	1,421	15,118	20,390	1,553	21,943
Missouri.....	2,476	173	7,825	881	37,939	46,644	4,137	50,781
Montana.....	672	12	1,378	167	1,902	3,447	2,308	5,755
Nebraska.....	1,877	35	5,620	476	4,955	11,051	6,181	17,232
Nevada.....	566	21	1,020	214	3,666	4,900	306	5,206
New Hampshire.....	226	8	1,380	102	1,308	2,790	222	3,012
New Jersey.....	1,646	93	4,180	1,944	26,973	33,097	988	34,086
New Mexico.....	2,106	38	2,751	667	7,468	10,886	3,904	14,790
New York.....	9,988	230	10,946	2,368	38,667	51,981	34,576	86,557
North Carolina.....	3,316	121	17,436	3,661	27,801	48,898	4,261	53,158
North Dakota.....	893	15	2,297	117	1,407	3,821	3,659	7,480
Ohio.....	3,755	115	11,730	2,476	27,727	41,932	5,035	46,967
Oklahoma.....	2,289	81	5,126	1,147	19,740	26,013	5,753	31,766
Oregon.....	1,875	39	853	138	4,301	5,292	5,218	10,510
Pennsylvania.....	4,038	119	13,634	3,510	31,511	48,654	3,691	52,346
Rhode Island.....	344	20	908	185	2,279	3,371	497	3,868
South Carolina.....	1,130	44	3,131	821	9,559	13,511	1,700	15,211
South Dakota.....	525	12	1,991	86	1,200	3,277	1,769	5,046
Tennessee.....	2,715	114	6,632	1,824	20,862	29,318	3,730	33,048
Texas.....	11,880	1,236	37,730	12,744	140,780	191,253	15,930	207,184

State or Territory	Number of Centers/Homes	Participation (000)	Paid Center Meals (000)	Reduced Price Center Meals (000)	Free Center Meals (000)	Total Centers (000)	Meals Homes (000)	Total (000)
Utah.....	1,525	33	3,007	336	5,632	8,975	6,730	15,705
Vermont	403	10	619	111	925	1,655	815	2,470
Virginia	3,145	121	7,085	1,090	16,895	25,069	5,843	30,912
Washington	2,280	56	7,169	781	9,808	17,758	4,768	22,526
West Virginia.....	1,163	31	2,451	306	4,935	7,691	1,504	9,195
Wisconsin.....	2,237	54	8,192	570	7,727	16,489	4,425	20,914
Wyoming	313	6	953	206	875	2,034	873	2,907
Guam.....	23	1	196	4	108	309	-	309
Puerto Rico.....	886	16	104	49	5,922	6,075	164	6,239
Virgin Islands.....	17	1	9	5	175	189	-	189
TOTAL	149,864	5,649	318,711	74,000	1,128,143	1,520,854	337,085	1,857,940

These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-43. Summer Food Service Program Sites, Participation and Meals Served Fiscal Year 2022**

State or Territory	Number of Sites	Participation (July) (000)	Total Meals Served (000)
Alabama.....	517	28	1,818
Alaska.....	81	3	172
Arizona.....	203	10	924
Arkansas.....	179	10	683
California.....	1,739	125	7,986
Colorado.....	441	38	2,032
Connecticut.....	481	30	1,376
Delaware.....	284	15	706
District of Columbia.....	205	7	401
Florida.....	2,602	154	11,072
Georgia.....	773	47	2,834
Hawaii.....	88	5	195
Idaho.....	178	15	895
Illinois.....	1,570	78	3,139
Indiana.....	818	37	2,083
Iowa.....	365	16	827
Kansas.....	373	46	2,211
Kentucky.....	1,385	68	3,075
Louisiana.....	449	21	1,330
Maine.....	445	16	1,656
Maryland.....	1,389	133	9,559
Massachusetts.....	1,101	70	3,697
Michigan.....	1,396	92	4,059
Minnesota.....	581	36	2,141
Mississippi.....	231	15	957
Missouri.....	702	34	3,419
Montana.....	243	11	748
Nebraska.....	141	7	601
Nevada.....	266	15	1,634
New Hampshire.....	142	11	302
New Jersey.....	1,150	142	10,783
New Mexico.....	328	-	667
New York.....	2,278	665	39,698
North Carolina.....	1,564	150	3,257
North Dakota.....	92	5	341
Ohio.....	1,213	46	3,158
Oklahoma.....	499	14	974
Oregon.....	659	30	1,531
Pennsylvania.....	1,578	71	5,327
Rhode Island.....	200	8	328
South Carolina.....	787	23	1,407
South Dakota.....	77	4	326
Tennessee.....	745	41	1,822

State or Territory	Number of Sites	Participation (July) (000)	Total Meals Served (000)
Texas	1,983	95	7,290
Utah	87	5	160
Vermont.....	261	34	945
Virginia.....	1,086	71	3,058
Washington.....	795	39	1,472
West Virginia.....	431	19	1,051
Wisconsin	757	46	2,610
Wyoming.....	75	7	491
Puerto Rico	48	3	602
Virgin Islands	75	2	82
TOTAL	36,136	2,712	159,918

These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding. The 2021 figures are impacted due the COVID-19 waivers which allowed many schools to serve non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-44. Special Milk Participating Outlets and Obligations Fiscal Year 2022**

State or Territory	Schools	Institutions	Summer Camps	Total	Obligations (000)
Alabama.....	1	-	-	1	\$14
Alaska.....	-	-	-	-	-
Arizona.....	5	-	-	5	21
Arkansas.....	-	-	-	-	-
California.....	36	1	4	41	110
Colorado.....	27	-	-	27	80
Connecticut.....	18	-	4	22	56
Delaware.....	-	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia.....	-	-	-	-	-
Florida.....	1	-	-	1	1
Georgia.....	1	-	-	1	12
Hawaii.....	-	-	-	-	-
Idaho.....	3	-	2	5	18
Illinois.....	301	-	8	309	1,087
Indiana.....	17	-	3	20	63
Iowa.....	22	-	5	27	32
Kansas.....	7	-	-	7	15
Kentucky.....	-	-	-	-	13
Louisiana.....	-	-	-	-	-
Maine.....	2	-	-	2	4
Maryland.....	33	22	5	60	155
Massachusetts.....	13	4	5	22	55
Michigan.....	27	-	12	39	111
Minnesota.....	146	56	1	203	493
Mississippi.....	1	-	-	1	5
Missouri.....	83	-	-	86	255
Montana.....	11	-	1	12	9
Nebraska.....	36	-	2	38	44
Nevada.....	1	1	-	2	19
New Hampshire.....	14	-	-	21	33
New Jersey.....	21	-	-	21	89
New Mexico.....	-	-	-	-	-
New York.....	79	-	25	104	234
North Carolina.....	6	-	8	14	72
North Dakota.....	12	-	1	13	10
Ohio.....	69	1	3	73	218
Oklahoma.....	190	-	-	190	8
Oregon.....	13	-	18	31	51
Pennsylvania.....	23	8	12	43	167
Rhode Island.....	1	-	1	2	19
South Carolina.....	-	-	-	-	-
South Dakota.....	16	-	-	16	10
Tennessee.....	1	-	1	2	6
Texas.....	1	-	-	1	1
Utah.....	8	-	7	15	25
Vermont.....	1	2	2	5	21
Virginia.....	10	-	-	10	46
Washington.....	23	9	-	32	90
West Virginia.....	3	-	-	3	7
Wisconsin.....	178	15	9	202	527
Wyoming.....	3	5	1	9	16
TOTAL.....	1,464	124	150	1,738	\$4,322

These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding. The 2021 figures are impacted due the COVID-19 waivers which allowed many schools to serve non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program. Schools operating under these waivers may not be included in the total number of outlets operating the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and/or, the Special Milk Program.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-45. Special Milk Half Pints Served in Fiscal Year 2022**

State or Territory	Average Daily			Total Average		Total (000)
	Free Served (000)	Paid Served (000)	Daily (000)	Total Free (000)	Total Paid (000)	
Alabama	-	-	-	2	59	61
Arizona.....	-	1	1	11	80	90
California	-	1	1	17	247	264
Colorado.....	-	1	1	19	309	328
Connecticut.....	-	1	1	10	159	169
Florida.....	-	-	-	-	4	4
Georgia.....	-	-	-	-	50	50
Idaho	-	-	-	-	52	52
Illinois	5	22	26	883	3,772	4,655
Indiana	-	1	1	29	205	234
Iowa	-	-	-	4	86	90
Kansas	-	-	-	4	55	59
Kentucky.....	-	-	-	-	56	56
Maine	-	-	-	1	4	4
Maryland.....	-	3	3	-	547	547
Massachusetts	-	1	1	5	154	160
Michigan	-	1	1	71	316	387
Minnesota.....	-	6	6	13	1,065	1,079
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	23	23
Missouri	-	7	7	23	1,080	1,103
Montana	-	-	-	4	17	22
Nebraska	-	1	1	11	120	132
Nevada	-	-	-	1	44	45
New Hampshire.....	-	-	-	1	44	45
New Jersey.....	-	2	2	18	384	401
New York.....	1	4	5	156	616	772
North Carolina	-	1	1	-	108	108
North Dakota.....	-	-	-	-	26	26
Ohio	-	5	6	31	892	924
Oklahoma.....	-	-	-	2	27	29
Oregon	-	1	1	4	131	134
Pennsylvania	-	1	1	26	169	195
Rhode Island	-	-	-	1	68	69
South Dakota.....	-	-	-	18	26	44
Tennessee.....	-	-	-	-	9	9
Texas.....	-	-	-	-	3	3
Utah.....	-	-	-	-	84	84
Vermont	-	-	-	-	17	17
Virginia.....	-	1	1	6	199	205
Washington.....	-	2	2	2	332	334
West Virginia.....	-	-	-	1	30	30
Wisconsin.....	-	12	13	62	2,018	2,079
Wyoming	-	-	-	-	8	8
TOTAL	8	78	85	1,437	13,694	15,130

These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding.

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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

1 For necessary expenses to carry out the special supplemental nutrition program as authorized by section 17 of the
 2 Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), [~~\$6,000,000,000~~]\$6,300,000,000, to remain available through
 3 September 30, [2024]2025, *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 17(h)(10) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
 4 U.S.C. 1786(h)(10)), not less than \$90,000,000 shall be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other related
 5 activities, and \$14,000,000 shall be used for infrastructure: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall use funds
 6 made available under the healing to increase the amount of cash-value voucher for women and children participants
 7 to an amount recommended by the Nation Academics of Science, Engineering and Medicine and adjusted for
 8 inflation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this account shall be available for the purchase of
 9 infant formula except in accordance with the cost containment and competitive bidding requirements specified in
 10 section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided shall be available for activities that are not
 11 fully reimbursed by other Federal Government departments or agencies unless authorized by section 17 of such Act:
 12 *Provided further*, That upon termination of a federally mandated vendor moratorium and subject to terms and
 13 conditions established by the Secretary, the Secretary may waive the requirement at 7 CFR 246.12(g)(6) at the
 14 request of a State agency.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table FNS-46. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2023	\$6,000,000,000
Change in Appropriation	<u>+300,000,000</u>
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>6,300,000,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table FNS-47. Project Statement (thousands of dollars, Full Time Equivalents)

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc/Dec	FTE Dec	Chg Key
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE			
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Grants to States (Food & NSA)	\$5,880,000	-	\$5,853,500	-	\$5,842,346	-	\$6,152,042	-	+\$309,696	-	(1)
Infrastructure Grants	13,600	-	13,600	-	13,600	-	13,600	-	-	-	-
Technical Assistance.....	400	1	400	1	400	1	400	1	-	-	-
Program Eval & Monitoring	5,000	7	12,000	9	22,000	9	12,000	9	-10,000	-	(2)
Breastfeeding Peer Counselors	90,000	-	90,000	-	90,000	-	90,000	-	-	-	-
Federal Admin and Oversight.....	11,000	33	30,500	37	31,654	73	31,958	73	+304	-	(3)
MIS/EBT Initiatives.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WIC Contingency Fund.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal (Discretionary)	6,000,000	41	6,000,000	47	6,000,000	83	6,300,000	83	+300,000		
Mandatory Appropriations:											
UPC Database.....	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
WIC ARPA CVV Increase	490,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WIC ARPA Innovation Fund.....	390,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal (Mandatory & Suppl).....	881,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Total Available	6,881,000	41	6,001,000	47	6,001,000	83	6,301,000	83	+300,000		

Table FNS-48. Project Statement Obligations (thousands of dollars, Full Time Equivalents)

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc/Dec	FTE Inc/Dec
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE		
Discretionary Obligations:										
Grants to States (Food & NSA)	\$5,543,000	-	\$6,889,224	-	\$6,285,269	-	\$6,473,141	-	+\$187,872	-
Infrastructure Grants	11,773	-	13,070	-	13,600	-	13,600	-	-	-
Technical Assistance.....	360	1	379	1	400	1	400	1	-	-
Breastfeeding Peer Counselors	89,926	-	90,073	-	90,000	-	90,000	-	-	-
Management Information Systems	6,959	-	67,983	-	68,100	-	80,109	-	+12,009	-
Federal Admin. Oversight.....	12,011	33	13,490	37	31,654	73	31,958	73	+304	-
Program Evaluation & Monitoring	18,000	9	6,599	9	22,000	9	12,000	9	-10,000	-
WIC FFCRA.....	330,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Discretionary Obligations	6,012,029	41	7,080,818	47	6,511,023	83	6,701,208	83	+190,185	-
Mandatory Obligations:										
WIC ARPA CVV Increase	490,000	-	47,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WIC ARPA Innovation Fund.....	-	-	81,509	-	200,000	-	108,491	-	-91,509	-
UPC Database.....	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
Subtotal Mandatory Obligations	490,000	-	128,509	-	201,000	-	109,491	-	-91,509	-
Total Obligations	6,502,029	41	7,209,327	47	6,712,023	83	6,810,699	83	+98,676	-
Balances Available (EOY):										
WIC Programs	1,103,212	-	1,281,499	-	794,030	-	364,133	-	-429,897	-
WIC Contingency	150,000	-	150,000	-	150,000	-	150,000	-	-	-
Total Bal. Available (EOY).....	1,253,212	-	1,431,499	-	944,030	-	514,133	-	-429,987	-
Total Available	7,755,241	41	8,640,826	47	7,656,053	83	7,324,832	83	-331,221	-
Less:										
Rescission	-1,250,000	-	-621,672	-	-315,000	-	-	-	+315,000	-
Sequestration.....	-59	-	-57	-	-57	-	-57	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other.....	1,591,296	-	1,548,122	-	596,446	-	299,291	-	-297,155	-
Balances Available, SOY.....	-1,216,478	-	-3,567,219	-	-1,937,442	-	-1,324,066	-	+613,376	-
Total Appropriation	6,880,000	41	6,000,000	47	6,000,000	83	6,300,000	83	+300,000	-

JUSTIFICATION OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

The numbers of the following listing relate to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement, compared to 2023 Estimated.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants, and Children

FNS makes funds available to participating State health agencies and Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) that, in turn, distribute the funds to participating local agencies. State and local agencies use WIC funds to pay the costs of specified supplemental foods provided to WIC participants, and to pay for specified nutrition services and administration (NSA) costs, including the cost of nutrition assessments, blood tests for anemia, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and health care referrals.

The justification reflects a net increase of \$300,000,000. This change includes:

1. An increase of \$309,696,000 for the Grants to States programs (\$5,842,346,000 available in 2023).
 The budget request continues the long-standing bipartisan commitment to serve all participants seeking WIC benefits. After many years of declining participation, WIC participation is now rising across all eligible categories- women, infants, and children. WIC is projected to serve an average of 6.5 million low-income women, infants, and children each month in 2024, up from an estimated 6.4 million in 2023. The requested level continues the provision of enhanced Cash Value Benefits (CVBs) to ensure that all participating women and children have access to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASSEM) recommended level of fruits and vegetables thereby improving health outcomes as well as program retention. In addition, the program projects an increase in the food package cost that is being driven by food inflation.

Table FNS-49. Program Performance Data thousands of dollars

Program Performance Data	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	Increase or Decrease	2024 Estimated
Average Participation Per Month (in thousands).....	6,240	6,256	6,400	100	6,500
Average Food Cost Per Person Per Month Average...	\$35.58	\$47.72	\$50.59	\$2.34	\$53.03
Admin. Cost Per Person Per Month.....	\$26.63	\$27.16	\$28.80	\$1.01	\$29.81
Total Benefit Costs.....	\$62.21	\$74.88	\$79.49	\$3.35	\$82.84

2. A decrease of \$10,000,000 for the Program Evaluation & Monitoring programs (\$12,000,000 and 9 FTEs available in 2023).
 This decrease returns funding for program evaluation and monitoring to the traditional level. Two million of this funding will be used to study the competitive bidding system for infant formula in the WIC program. Through this study, USDA will assess both the process and effectiveness of the competitive bidding system. The study will also examine how competitive bidding affects access to infant formula, as well as WIC benefits and services.
3. An increase of \$304,000 for the Federal Admin and Oversight program (\$31,654,000 and 60 FTEs requested in the 2023 President’s Budget).

An increase of \$304,000 in Federal Admin and Oversight reflects inflation for pay and employee costs.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTE

Table FNS-57. Geographic Breakdown (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE
California	\$288	2	\$391	2	\$575	4	\$851	4
Colorado	493	3	580	4	853	6	1,263	6
Connecticut	-	-	83	1	122	1	180	1
District of Columbia.....	-	-	1,152	7	1,684	12	2,508	12
Georgia.....	274	2	455	3	699	5	991	5
Illinois	311	2	383	2	564	4	834	4
Indiana.....	-	-	63	-	92	1	137	1
Massachusetts.....	349	2	439	3	646	5	956	5
Maryland.....	-	-	978	6	1,438	10	2,129	10
Maine	-	-	154	1	227	2	335	2
Michigan	-	-	26	-	38	-	56	-
North Carolina.....	-	-	13	-	19	-	29	-
New Jersey	296	2	528	3	777	6	1,150	6
Puerto Rico.....	-	-	80	-	118	1	175	1
Tennessee.....	72	0	141	1	207	2	307	2
Texas	452	3	577	4	849	6	1,258	6
Virginia	18,036	25	16,987	10	17,787	18	18,987	18
Total, Available	20,571	41	23,030	47	26,695	83	32,146	83

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table FNS-58. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$1,734	\$2,131	\$3,918	\$4,116
	Personnel Compensation, Field.....	2,600	3,197	5,877	6,174
11	Total personnel compensation	4,334	5,238	9,795	10,290
12	Personal benefits.....	1,858	2,283	4,198	4,410
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	-	-	-	-
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	6,192	7,611	13,993	14,700
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	97	70	135	200
22.0	Transportation of things.....	2	2	3	4
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	13,574	12,014	13,574	14,000
26.0	Supplies and materials	605	239	400	600
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	6,481,559	7,189,391	6,683,918	6,781,195
	Total, Other Objects	6,495,837	7,201,716	6,698,030	6,795,999
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	6,502,029	7,209,327	6,712,023	6,810,699

STATUS OF PROGRAMS**Program Mission**

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutritious supplemental foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support, and health care referrals at no cost to low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breast-feeding women, to infants, and to children up to their fifth birthday, who are determined by health professionals to be at nutritional risk. “Low-income” is defined as at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines. For the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, this represented \$51,338 for a family of four. WIC also promotes breastfeeding as the feeding method of choice for infants, provides substance abuse education, and promotes immunization and other aspects of healthy living.

FNS makes funds available to participating State and U.S. Territory health agencies and Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) that, in turn, distribute the funds to participating local agencies. State and local agencies use WIC funds to pay for specified nutrition services and administration (NSA) costs, including the cost of nutrition assessments, blood tests for anemia, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion, and health care referrals.

Table FNS-59. Program Participation and Costs (thousands of dollars)

Average Monthly Participation (In Thousands)	2019	2020	2021	2022
Women.....	1,515.00	1,446.00	1,379.00	1,399.00
Infants	1,610.10	1,551.00	1,464.00	1,428.00
Children <5	3,273.00	3,250.00	3,397.00	3,429.00
Total.....	6,398.00	6,247.00	6,240.00	6,256.00
Change from Prior Year	-6.80%	-2.40%	0.00%	0.30%
Food Cost Total (Million \$)	\$3,136	\$2,865	\$2,767	\$3,573
Avg./Person/Month.....	\$40.85	\$38.22	\$36.97	\$47.60
Change in Per Person Food Cost.....	0.10%	-6.40%	-0.03%	28.70%
Per Person Per Month Total (Food/Admin.) Cost ...	\$66.41	\$64.86	\$63.36	\$74.38

Source: Program Information Reports, December 5, 2022, National Data Bank, KD21 US 2018. Updates may be received in future reporting periods.

WIC FOOD PACKAGE

The WIC food packages provide supplemental foods designed to meet the special nutritional needs of low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, non-breastfeeding postpartum women, infants and children up to five years of age who are at nutritional risk. WIC supplemental foods currently include infant cereal, baby foods, iron-fortified adult cereal, fruits and vegetables through a cash value benefit (CVB), vitamin C-rich fruit or vegetable juice, eggs, milk, cheese, yogurt, soy-based beverages, tofu, peanut butter, dried and canned beans/peas, canned fish, whole wheat bread and other whole-grain options. For infants of women who do not fully breastfeed, WIC provides iron-fortified infant formula. Specialized infant formulas and medical foods may also be provided if medically indicated. Due to increased nutritional needs of breastfeeding women, WIC mothers who decide to breastfeed are eligible to receive WIC benefits for a longer period of time and receive a larger food package than non-breastfeeding postpartum women.

In 2022, FNS successfully implemented an increase in the WIC Cash-Value Voucher/Benefit (CVV/B) for fruit and vegetable purchases to \$24 for child participants, \$43 for pregnant and postpartum participants and \$47 for fully and partially breastfeeding participants, pursuant to the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2022 (PL 117-103) and prior 2022 continuing resolutions. The CVV/B increase aligned with recommendations from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), adjusted for inflation.

To align the WIC food packages with the latest nutrition science in support of nutrition security, in November 2022, FNS published rulemaking to propose changes to the WIC food packages based on recommendations in the NASEM’s 2017 scientific report entitled *Review of WIC Food Packages: Improving Balance and Choice. Final Report.* and the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020 – 2025*. The rule will propose changes that are strongly rooted in the latest nutrition science and are best positioned to improve nutrition security, while also taking into account cultural preferences and WIC State agency operational and implementation considerations.

Nutrition Education

Nutrition education, including breastfeeding promotion and support, is an integral part of the WIC benefit package. Statute requires that one-sixth of the amounts State agencies spend for NSA must go for nutrition education and breastfeeding promotion. Program regulations require State agencies to offer at least two nutrition education contacts for each participant during each six-month certification period, or quarterly for participants certified for a period longer than six months.

Nutrition education is provided through individual or group counseling sessions. In addition, participants receive resources designed to help participants achieve a positive change in dietary and physical activity habits and improve health status. Participants also are counseled on the importance of WIC foods in preventing and overcoming specific nutrition risk conditions identified during the nutrition risk assessment. For pregnant and postpartum women, special emphasis is given to appropriate infant feeding practices, prenatal nutrition, and breastfeeding support and promotion. Program legislation requires clinics to provide information on drug and other harmful substance abuse to all pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, and to parents or caregivers of infants and children.

Program regulations also require clinics to promote breastfeeding to all pregnant women, unless medically contraindicated, and WIC supports breastfeeding by providing comprehensive, up-to-date and culturally appropriate breastfeeding information and counseling. WIC Program staff offer support, anticipatory guidance, and encouragement to new mothers and the benefits of breastfeeding are explained to participants in the nutrition education information provided during pregnancy.

WIC Breastfeeding Support. Learn Together. Grow Together is the Program's national breastfeeding campaign, which provides key messaging, original photography, graphics, videos, and posters via a mobile-friendly website, wicbreastfeeding.fns.usda.gov. FNS continued to support a cooperative agreement with the University of Nevada Reno to implement and evaluate the *Learn Together. Grow Together* national campaign via seven WIC State agencies – Chickasaw Nation, Georgia, Massachusetts, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Wyoming – and disseminated research findings at the 2022 National WIC Association Nutrition Education and Breastfeeding Promotion Conference. The overarching goal of the three-year grant is to increase knowledge of and promote behavior change about breastfeeding among WIC staff and participants. Implementation of the campaign includes a special focus on social media and a *Learn Together. Grow Together* Buddy Program. These activities, along with a State-specific implementation activities, aim to support WIC moms in reaching their breastfeeding goals and, importantly, helping babies get a healthy start in life. Each WIC State agency carried out a robust social media campaign, staff training on the campaign, and enrolled WIC mom pairs into the Buddy Program, all of which contributed to helping moms reach their individual breastfeeding goals.

The WIC Peer Counseling Program provides mother-to-mother support and addresses the barriers to breastfeeding that WIC mothers face. WIC State agencies continue to implement breastfeeding peer counseling as a core WIC service. In 2022, FNS awarded nearly \$90 million in grants for breastfeeding peer counseling.

In 2022, WIC Breastfeeding Bonus Awards were made to three State agencies: California, Northern Arapaho, and Puerto Rico. The performance bonuses, totaling \$100,000, recognize and award State agencies demonstrating successful breastfeeding promotion and support efforts.

All WIC local agencies are required to implement policies and procedures to provide breastfeeding support and assistance throughout the prenatal and postpartum period. The WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence recognizes local agencies that provide exemplary breastfeeding programs and support services. In 2022, FNS awarded 85 Gold and 12 Premiere awards to local agencies that demonstrated excellence in breastfeeding promotion and support.

FNS continues to collaborate with other Federal agencies and non-profit organizations to promote breastfeeding surrounding the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding (Call to Action) and the Healthy People 2030 objectives on breastfeeding.

FNS participates in a Federal Breastfeeding Workgroup, which focuses on interagency coordination of breastfeeding support efforts. Further, FNS is a government liaison to the United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC), a national breastfeeding committee composed of representatives from relevant government departments, non-governmental organizations, and health professional associations who strategically work to support breastfeeding efforts and initiatives across the country.

FNS continued to strengthen its partnership with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Health Resources and Services Administration through an interagency collaboration workgroup with WIC, Healthy Start Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), and Tribal MIECHV representatives. Through the efforts of this workgroup, FNS identified areas of Federal collaboration including holding a joint webinar on MIECHV and WIC collaborations with State sharing of successful partnerships, publishing resources on MCHB programs on the WIC Works Resource System and drafting a joint letter from the leaders of the WIC Program and Healthy Start Program for State Program Directors on the importance of cross-program collaboration and referrals.

FNS expanded the reach of the monthly e-newsletter of curated nutrition education content, WIC Picks, to a total of 73,699 recipients in 2022 (up 19 percent, previously 61,950 recipients in 2021) while also seeing an increase in the average open rate of newsletter articles. The WIC Picks Newsletter features updates from not only the WIC Works Resource System and WIC Breastfeeding Support websites, but also other agencies such as CDC and FDA, to bring the target audiences the latest information on important topics, such as open enrollment periods for Healthcare.gov, the child tax credit, COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccinations, metals in baby food, and more.

Program Oversight and Monitoring

FNS works with State agency partners, including Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs), to ensure that WIC Program resources are being used to efficiently run the program across the country. State agency compliance with WIC policy and program rules is verified through the WIC Management Evaluation (ME) process, which includes on-site reviews of State and local agency operations, as well as a thorough review of State and local agency documentation. Some items that are reviewed during the WIC ME process include: management information system (MIS) reports, financial/banking reports, internal records, redeemed food instruments, internal/external contracts, training documents, and participant and vendor files. Additionally, observation of clinic operations and on-site vendor visits are included in WIC MEs. Information gathered through the ME process provides a basis for FNS to develop strategic goals to improve service delivery and program integrity. Additionally, MEs provide an opportunity for FNS staff to target technical assistance to State agencies since any deficiencies or areas of noncompliance that are identified during the ME process are addressed through a corrective action process.

FNS regularly assesses its WIC ME process and makes improvements to ensure effective and efficient federal oversight. The functional areas that are reviewed during WIC MEs include: Vendor Management; Funding and Participation; Information Systems Management; Nutrition Services; Civil Rights; Certification, Eligibility and Coordination; Food Delivery; Organization and Management; and Monitoring and Audits.

Each year, FNS issues a WIC ME Target Area Memorandum providing guidance to FNS Regional Offices on topics to evaluate via MEs. Target Areas focus FNS' oversight efforts on key areas related to WIC program integrity and operations. Usually, the Target Area is comprised of one functional area. The current target area is Nutrition Services, which examines how State agencies plan for and deliver nutrition services, including nutrition and breastfeeding education.

As the COVID-19 public health emergency continued, FNS amended the WIC ME Target Area timeline guidance to extend the Nutrition Services Target Area to ensure that Regional Offices have time to complete high quality reviews of all 89 WIC State agencies. Additionally, FNS shifted to MEs that include virtual options that were needed during the public health emergency to keep participants and WIC staff safe. Moving forward, FNS MEs may contain on-site and virtual components, known as a hybrid ME. Nationwide, there have been 45 Nutrition Service MEs conducted between 2020 and 2022. In addition to Target Area MEs, Regional Offices perform annual risk assessments to identify State agencies that require attention via MEs, outside the targeted area. Regions also participate in WIC ME improvement projects, which are ongoing.

Cost Containment and Vendor Management

WIC State agencies are required to implement certain cost containment strategies in order to keep food costs down due to the discretionary nature of the WIC Program. These include using a competitive bidding process to award cost containment contracts for infant formula or other WIC foods, authorizing competitively priced vendors and setting price limitations, and authorizing lower cost foods. While these strategies keep food costs down, they can make shopping for WIC foods difficult and result in lower WIC enrollment and retention rates. FNS offered grants to WIC State agencies (see Innovation and Modernization, below), to help them determine the best strategies for authorizing foods and training WIC participants how to shop for the correct items as an attempt to mitigate this known pain point.

The most successful cost containment strategy is competitively bid infant formula rebate contracts between State agencies and infant formula manufacturers, as required by the Child Nutrition Act, as amended, and implementing regulations. For 2021, total rebates received for WIC were approximately \$1.6 billion, the cost of providing benefits to an average of 1.59 million participants each month, or 25.5 percent of the estimated average monthly WIC caseload. In response to the infant formula shortage in 2022, FNS provided flexibility to WIC State agencies on certain federal requirements to ensure WIC participants could access the safe infant formula available in the marketplace.

State agencies use savings generated by these kinds of strategies to provide benefits to more participants within the same total budget. This is a necessary feature of a discretionary program that seeks to serve all of those eligible to participate.

Food Delivery Portal

The Food Delivery Portal (FDP) is a web-based system for WIC State agencies to report their vendor monitoring efforts annually. FDP was designed to improve program oversight and integrity in all areas of WIC vendor management, streamline the reporting process, and provide new features to help State agencies meet key regulatory requirements. FNS successfully launched the FDP and replaced the former system, The Integrity Profile (TIP), in 2022.

WIC Prescreening Tool and WIC Online Application Discovery

The WIC Prescreening Tool is a web-based/mobile-friendly application that helps potential WIC applicants determine if they are likely to be eligible for WIC benefits. Users complete a series of short questions to determine eligibility; those who are likely to be WIC eligible are provided with State-specific contact information and are encouraged to make certification appointments with their WIC local agencies. Additionally, users are provided with a printable summary of their responses and a list of examples of the documentation that is required at an initial certification appointment.

The WIC Prescreening Tool is accessible to all internet users via the “WIC Prescreening Tool” link on the WIC Eligibility Requirements page. The tool is accessed approximately 1,000 times per day by users across the country. Currently, the WIC Prescreening Tool is available in nine different languages: English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian, Somali, and Vietnamese. Metrics gathered from the tool provide data that can be used to help inform the development of WIC initiatives and collaboration with similar programs.

In 2022, FNS entered into an agreement with 18F, the U.S. General Service Agency’s (GSA) digital and technology consulting team, to explore whether FNS should provide an online application tool for State agency use and, if so, how that should be provided. The GSA 18F completed online application discovery research in early December 2022 to inform future development.

State Agency Model (SAM) Project

The SAM Project was an initiative to develop model WIC management information systems (MIS) through multiple State agency consortia. The SAM project also includes the transfer of these models to other WIC State agencies to eliminate duplication of systems development and streamlines the MIS procurement process. The SAM Project is consistent with FNS’ technology goal to improve WIC system functionality through the replacement of legacy systems. For many State agencies, this step was a necessary precursor to EBT implementation.

The three SAM systems are:

Successful Partners in Reaching Innovative Technology (SPIRIT), comprised of 11 ITOs and six geographic State agencies: Alaska, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Inter-Tribal Council (ITC) of Oklahoma, Indian Township Passamaquoddy Reservation, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Missouri, Montana, Muscogee Creek Nation, Osage Nation, Otoe-Missouria, Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy Reservation, and Wichita Caddo Delaware (WCD) Enterprises; The Mountain Plains State Consortium (MPSC), comprised of nine State agencies: Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Nevada, Inter Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN), North Dakota, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming; and Crossroads, comprised of four State agencies: Virginia, West Virginia, Alabama, and Rhode Island.

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)

FNS supported State agencies to implement EBT statewide by October 1, 2020 or sought an exemption from the statutory timeframe.

EBT systems enhance benefit delivery and improve accountability of food benefits and vendor payment systems. FNS continues to work with individual State agencies to plan, develop, and implement WIC EBT systems. As of the end of 2022, only 4 WIC State agencies have not achieved Statewide WIC EBT. As of fall 2022, 85 WIC State agencies, are delivering benefits to almost 96 percent of WIC participants via Statewide EBT. Seventeen State agencies (Acoma Canoncito & Laguna (ACL), Arkansas, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Eight Northern, Five Sandoval Pueblos, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Pueblo of Isleta, Pueblo of San Felipe, Santo Domingo Tribe, Texas, Utah, Wyoming and Zuni Pueblo) are using smart card or chip technology and 68 State agencies (Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Connecticut, Delaware, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Eastern Shoshone, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inter-Tribal Council of Oklahoma, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Minnesota, Montana, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Navajo Nation, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Northern Arapaho Tribe, Oklahoma, Omaha Nation, Oregon, Osage Nation, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Rhode Island, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Santee Sioux Tribe, South Carolina, South Dakota, Standing Rock Sioux, Tennessee, Three Affiliated Tribes, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Utah, Virgin Islands, Virginia, West Virginia, Wichita Caddo Delaware (WCD), Vermont, Washington, Washington DC, Winnebago Tribe and Wisconsin) have successfully implemented EBT using magnetic stripe cards, or online technology.

The remaining four (4) State agencies are actively pursuing projects to implement EBT statewide; and requested and received conditional approvals for exemption to the statutory timeframe for implementation, pursuant to provisions of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. These State agencies are: Georgia, Indian Township Passamaquoddy, Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy, and Puerto Rico.

Through its innovation and modernization work in 2023, FNS will assess how best to assist State agencies that have achieved Statewide EBT using offline technology but have identified the need to transition to online EBT to better serve participants.

Nutrition Risk Assessment

Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA): The VENA initiative was implemented in 2006 and updated in 2021 with the purpose of improving the WIC nutrition assessment process and to more closely align nutrition risk determination with WIC nutrition interventions. In 2021, VENA Training videos were developed and made available to WIC State agencies via USDA YouTube. In 2022, additional, targeted VENA trainings were initiated. In 2023 the additional training will continue to be developed and provided to WIC State agencies in the later part of 2023.

Outreach, Innovation, and Modernization

American Rescue Plan Act WIC Fund

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2, ARPA) made \$390 million available through 2024, to carry out outreach, innovation, and program modernization efforts, including appropriate waivers and flexibility, to improve participant experiences, increase participation in and redemption of benefits in WIC and the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP).

In 2022, FNS developed an investment strategy built on a solid foundation of stakeholder input, targeted research, and FNS program experience and subject matter expertise. The investment strategy with five priority areas that supports the Administration's commitments to improve health equity, reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, and improve child health outcomes by focusing on projects that improve program participation and retention and reduce disparities in program delivery.

In 2022, FNS initiated work in all five areas and obligated over \$80 million of the \$390 million appropriation.

1. Prioritize Outreach

FNS awarded a Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) and one initial task order to begin development of a national WIC outreach campaign to public relations firm, Porter Novelli Public Services Inc. FNS will work with the contractor to develop the strategic plan. Future tasks will include market research execution, brand strategy and visual identity development, creative development and production, media and advertising, strategic partnerships and outreach, and campaign evaluation.

FNS also awarded \$20 million to the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) for innovative outreach to existing and potential WIC participants. FRAC will provide funds to WIC State and local agencies, community organizations, and other nonprofits to use community-level data to test new ways of delivering WIC messaging and conducting outreach. The grant will also expand partnerships with community-based organizations to connect underserved populations with WIC.

2. Modernize Technology and Service Delivery

FNS partnered with the U.S. Digital Service (USDS) to conduct research and create a vision for modernizing the WIC certification process using technology tools, including streamlining the application process, allowing applicants and clients to submit documentation remotely, offering more virtual and text-based experiences, and focusing more face-to-face time in the WIC clinic on providing direct client services.

To support State agencies as they work toward this vision, in September 2022, FNS awarded a total of \$23,100,000 to 66 WIC State agencies to fund projects around planning and implementation of technology enhancements that improve the WIC participant experience.

FNS also entered into an Inter-Agency Agreement (IAA) with 18F for WIC online application discovery and, pending discovery, development.

3. Improve the Shopping Experience

FNS awarded \$9,784,204 in grants to 19 State agencies to implement projects focused on improving the WIC shopping experience, as evidenced by increasing the redemption of WIC benefits, improving customer satisfaction, and/or improving participant access to vendors, including for underserved communities and individuals. 2022 projects could focus on improving the in-store experience, planning for online shopping, and supporting online shopping pilots. FNS is planning subsequent grant opportunities for 2023-2024.

4. Expand Access to Farmers' Markets

FNS awarded a total of \$1,922,084 to 11 State agencies via three rounds of funding to FMNP State agencies. This funding enabled programs to continue operations despite discontinuation of certain, previously necessary, paper-based banking services. FNS is planning subsequent grant opportunities for 2023-2024.

5. Invest in and Diversify the Workforce

FNS entered into an Inter-Agency Agreement (IAA) with USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Combining the experience and expertise of FNS and NIFA, including NIFA's partnerships with Land-Grant Universities and Colleges, ARPA funds will be used to invest in research, education, and extension to increase the diversity and cultural competency of the WIC workforce. This \$21 million initiative will be implemented through a series of sequential funding opportunities. The first will be announced in 2023 with the purpose of developing a 5-year national WIC workforce strategy. Subsequent funding opportunities will be announced during 2023 and 2024.

Throughout 2023-2024, FNS will continue to execute the WIC and FMNP modernization strategy and accelerate where needed, while ensuring long-term sustainability of this modernization work.

WIC Online Shopping

FNS continues to support a cooperative agreement with the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition (GSCN) to develop and test models for online shopping in WIC via research and State agency pilots funded by sub-grants. In 2021, GSCN developed and released the Blueprint for WIC Online Shopping (the Blueprint). The Blueprint is a resource for State agencies and their partners that are working towards online shopping, and suggests activities to

successfully plan, implement, and maintain WIC online shopping projects. In 2022, GSCN awarded four WIC State agencies as sub-grantees with four additional State agency partners to develop WIC online shopping projects. Currently, the sub-grant projects are in the planning and preparation phase, and all projects are planning to go live with testing in calendar year 2023. Best practices and lessons learned from WIC online shopping projects will be documented in the updated versions of the Blueprint to assist future State agencies as they also begin to work toward online shopping. Additionally, FNS is working to expand online shopping through ARPA funding. In 2022, FNS awarded 12 grants to State agencies to work toward online ordering (primarily in the planning stage). FNS plans to provide additional support in 2023-2024 using ARPA funding.

In March 2021, FNS stood up a Task Force on Supplemental Foods Delivery as required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260, the Act). The independent Task Force complemented the work of GSCN, studying measures to streamline how WIC benefits are redeemed to promote convenience, safety, and equitable access to supplemental foods, including infant formula, for participants. USDA FNS received the Task Force's report with recommendations in September 2021.

GSCN's and the Task Force's efforts will inform USDA FNS' *WIC Online Ordering and Transactions* - proposed rule (RIN: 0584-AE85). This proposed rule will address key regulatory barriers to online ordering in the WIC Program by making changes to the provisions that prevent online transactions and types of online capable stores from participating in the Program. The proposed rule will also allow FNS to modernize WIC vendor regulations to reflect current technology. FNS anticipates publication in 2023, with a public comment period.

WIC EBT MIS Delivery Assessment: Blanket Purchase Agreement Call Order

Under the WIC Blanket Purchase agreement, WIC established a call order to assess the ability of delivering EBT and MIS through cloud-based computing. This effort engaged stakeholders, including WIC State agencies and the EBT and MIS industry, to assess options and feasibility of cloud-based computing. The assessment also considers the costs of developing such systems and potential savings in federal tax dollars with a new way of conducting WIC operations. Through its Innovation and Modernization work, FNS is currently assessing the best path forward to modernize WIC MIS to ensure long term viability.

Participant-Centered Service Optimization

In 2022, FNS continued participating in collaboration efforts with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, specifically the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Office of Head Start (OHS), to improve program coordination and service delivery to families with young children with the goal of increasing WIC participation among children one through four years of age. Additional partnerships with other programs that serve young children, e.g., childcare facilities, CACFP, Head Start and Early Head Start, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Maternal Infant and Early Child Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) and Tribal MIECHV Program, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will continue in 2023.

The Johns Hopkins University (JHU), through a cooperative agreement with FNS, completed the *Participant Research Innovation Laboratory for Enhancing WIC Services* in 2022. As a background, in 2019, JHU competitively awarded five WIC local agencies sub-grants to develop and implement interactive tools, technical resources, and innovative solutions that improve customer service in WIC clinics and ultimately encourage and improve retention of eligible children in WIC. JHU is in the process of completing the final report with the findings of these projects to be issued in 2023. FNS continued its cooperative agreement with the Council of State Governments (CSG) to establish the *WIC Innovation Grant*. The cooperative agreement establishes CSG as the lead organization to manage the sub-grant award process and fund up to \$6 million for certification enhancement projects in WIC State agencies. CSG will support and evaluate State and local efforts to streamline and improve the customer service experience in WIC. In March 2021, CSG awarded six sub-grants totaling \$5.2 million to three State agencies and three local agencies to carry out projects focused on improving the WIC certification process. CSG requested a no-cost extension (NCE) until September 2023, and all subgrantees have requested their own as well due to COVID-19 constraints, extending their project implementation dates no later than the end of the calendar year; all requests have been approved. The Subgrantee Closeout Meeting has been set for April 2023, where subgrantees will share their final reports and findings. FNS continues to support CSG in providing technical assistance to sub-grantees as they implement and evaluate their projects.

In 2022, FNS continued to provide technical assistance to Tufts University for the USDA WIC Telehealth Innovations Project. Through this cooperative agreement, Tufts will test and evaluate the use of telehealth innovations in delivery

of nutrition education, including breastfeeding support, to pregnant women and caregivers of young children participating in the WIC Program. Tufts awarded seven WIC State agencies as sub-grantees (District of Columbia, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Vermont) for this research through a national competition. State agency sub-grantees are currently completing their study design and evaluation plans in collaboration with Tufts University and its partners.

Participant centered, efficient service delivery is also a priority of WIC innovation and modernization work, described above.

WIC Studies and Evaluations

FNS published several reports related to WIC during 2022, which are available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/research-analysis>. These include:

WIC Report - Indicators of Diet Quality, Nutrition and Health for Americans by Program Participation Status, 2011–16. This study primarily uses 2011–2016 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) data to examine bivariate relationships between reported WIC participation and outcomes including diet quality, indicators of nutrition and health, food consumption patterns, and nutrient intakes among 1- to 4-year-old children. Most results presented in this report are unadjusted and descriptive only, and do not infer causality. They are intended to contribute to the evidence base needed to inform future research and, subsequently, WIC policy and practice.

Reviewing the Evidence for Maternal Health and WIC. This report addresses actions taken by the Food and Nutrition Service to comply with the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (PL 116-260; 134 STAT 1209 and 134 STAT 1221), which directs USDA to conduct a review of existing evidence and develop a plan to explore how participation in WIC is associated with maternal mortality, with emphasis on the needs of disadvantaged communities of color.

Third National Survey of WIC Participants. The National Survey of WIC Participants (NSWP) study series is designed to describe state and local agency characteristics, examine participants' characteristics, assess participants' experiences with WIC, and estimate improper payments resulting from certification errors in WIC. The study is conducted approximately every 10 years, and the current study is the third iteration (NSWP-III) in the series.

WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 2020. Since 1988, FNS has produced biennial reports on WIC participant and program characteristics (PC) for use in program monitoring and managing WIC information needs. The PC 2020 report summarizes demographic, income and health-related characteristics and behaviors of participants certified to receive WIC benefits in April 2020. As a response to COVID-19, the PC 2020 report also compares participant and program characteristics between participants certified to receive benefits in April 2020 and those certified to receive benefits in November 2020 in nine select state agencies.

Maternal and Child Health Outcomes Associated with WIC. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's report, "Maternal and Child Health Outcomes Associated with WIC," reviews evidence on whether participation in WIC is associated with nutrition and health outcomes for women and children.

WIC Infant and Toddler Feeding Practices Study-2: Fifth Year Report. The WIC Infant and Toddler Feeding Practices Study-2 (WIC ITFPS-2), also known as the "Feeding My Baby" study, is the only national study to capture data on caregivers and their children over the first 5 years of the child's life after enrollment in WIC, regardless of their continued participation in the program. This report focuses on the dietary intake patterns, eating behaviors, and weight status of children during the fifth year of life. The report also examines associations between WIC participation and key diet and health-related outcomes.

WIC Vendor Management Study: 2015 EBT Pilot. The WIC Vendor Management Study: 2015 Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Pilot examined compliance with program requirements and rates of violations among WIC EBT vendors in 2015 and tested a method to identify and measure errors that contribute to improper payments in an EBT environment.

National and State Level Estimates of WIC Eligibility and Program Reach in 2019. This report, the latest in a series of annual reports on WIC eligibility, presents 2019 national and state estimates of the number of people eligible for

WIC benefits, percentage of eligible population, and the US population covered by the program, including estimates by participant category. The report also provides estimates by region, state, U.S. territory, and race and ethnicity.

Changes in WIC Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A First Look at the Impact of Federal Waivers.

This preliminary report summarizes key changes, improvements, and challenges to WIC operations as delivered under the physical presence and remote benefit issuance waivers during the COVID-19 pandemic. These findings represent a first, high-level look at survey data collected from state and local WIC agencies to fulfill reporting requirements for waivers issued under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Table FNS- 53. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Participation & Program Financing

State or Territory	Average Monthly Participation				Program Grant ^{2/} (000)
	WOMEN	INFANTS	CHILDREN	TOTAL	
Alabama.....	23,928	28,878	55,854	108,661	\$117,721
Alaska.....	2,927	2,928	7,904	13,759	22,535
Arizona ^{1/}	28,519	31,916	80,568	141,003	146,501
Arkansas.....	14,271	16,761	24,976	56,008	73,589
California.....	193,496	175,523	567,038	936,058	1,064,011
Colorado ^{1/}	17,836	17,239	43,055	78,129	77,965
Connecticut.....	9,722	11,330	24,941	45,994	48,673
Delaware.....	3,650	4,229	9,820	17,699	16,441
District of Columbia.....	2,719	2,801	6,121	11,640	15,017
Florida.....	94,532	97,288	218,024	409,843	433,692
Georgia.....	42,024	47,105	102,568	191,697	220,199
Hawaii.....	5,558	5,254	15,043	25,855	33,291
Idaho.....	6,238	6,407	16,385	29,030	27,733
Illinois.....	35,502	42,918	77,099	155,519	223,369
Indiana.....	31,888	34,006	85,556	151,449	139,596
Iowa.....	12,395	12,659	30,932	55,987	48,204
Kansas.....	9,540	10,112	24,428	44,079	47,685
Kentucky.....	21,783	25,814	61,071	108,667	94,544
Louisiana.....	23,424	26,633	34,297	84,355	121,248
Maine ^{1/}	3,336	3,617	9,972	16,925	18,944
Maryland.....	22,898	27,321	63,945	118,783	122,026
Massachusetts.....	39,738	22,538	70,154	115,590	93,556
Michigan.....	20,918	44,475	116,010	200,223	204,234
Minnesota.....	14,064	20,385	58,415	99,718	106,116
Mississippi ^{1/}	20,882	18,799	34,255	67,118	93,970
Missouri.....	2,799	23,322	39,462	83,666	90,555
Montana.....	7,227	3,029	7,996	13,824	16,675
Nebraska ^{1/}	11,226	7,447	20,908	35,582	36,511
Nevada ^{1/}	2,492	12,102	29,248	52,576	54,156
New Hampshire.....	31,525	2,565	8,584	13,641	10,855
New Jersey.....	8,484	30,875	83,227	145,627	170,427
New Mexico ^{1/}	83,656	8,473	17,539	34,496	48,965
New York ^{1/}	56,292	83,782	219,546	386,984	502,882
North Carolina ^{1/}	2,000	57,790	144,676	258,758	215,464
North Dakota ^{1/}	38,097	2,223	5,994	10,218	17,586
Ohio.....	22,898	40,358	81,690	160,145	161,784
Oklahoma ^{1/}	20,628	22,353	47,130	90,111	98,341
Oregon.....	15,334	14,249	44,601	74,184	78,038
Pennsylvania.....	35,677	37,909	84,642	158,228	215,525
Rhode Island.....	3,563	3,816	8,809	16,188	19,767
South Carolina.....	18,707	22,120	45,265	86,092	94,347
South Dakota ^{1/}	2,897	3,404	8,765	15,066	23,672
Tennessee.....	28,569	31,046	55,184	114,799	134,249
Texas.....	191,356	171,841	335,789	698,986	553,835
Utah.....	8,656	8,554	20,247	37,457	42,224
Vermont.....	2,165	1,913	7,120	11,199	14,505
Virginia.....	25,115	27,895	68,123	121,132	99,321
Washington.....	25,993	24,439	71,230	121,663	147,524
West Virginia.....	6,769	7,991	19,211	33,972	40,297
Wisconsin.....	16,646	18,462	49,221	84,330	95,028
Wyoming ^{1/}	1,581	1,624	3,771	6,975	9,594
American Samoa.....	691	618	2,607	3,916	7,985
Guam.....	1,080	1,181	3,072	5,333	11,197
North Mariana Island.....	497	448	1,850	2,795	5,015
Puerto Rico.....	19,574	18,479	53,909	91,961	221,262
Virgin Islands.....	662	636	1,335	2,633	7,013
Anticipated adjustment.....					33,489
TOTAL.....	1,399,262	1,427,882	3,429,178	6,256,321	\$6,888,948

^{1/}Includes Indian Tribal Organizations ^{2/} Excludes obligations for WIC Infrastructure grants, Technical Assistance, Breastfeeding Peer Counselors, EBT/MIS, and Federal Administrative Oversight. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Note: These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

1 For necessary expenses to carry out the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.),
 2 [~~\$153,867,723,000~~]\$122,133,239,000, of which \$3,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30,
 3 [~~2025~~]2026, shall be placed in reserve for use only in such amounts and at such times as may become necessary to carry
 4 out program operations: *Provided*, That funds provided herein shall be expended in accordance with section 16 of the
 5 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$998,000 may
 6 be used to provide nutrition education services to State agencies and Federally Recognized Tribes participating in the
 7 Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this
 8 heading, [~~\$3,000,000~~]\$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, [~~2024~~]2025, shall be used to carry out section
 9 4003(b) of Public Law 115-334 relating to demonstration projects for tribal organizations: *Provided further*, That of the
 10 funds made available under this heading, \$3,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 4208 of Public Law 115-334:
 11 *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be subject to any work registration or workfare requirements as may be
 12 required by law: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available [for Employment and Training] under this heading
 13 [shall remain available through September 30, 2024: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading
 14 for]~~\$1,794,678,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be used to carry out section 28(d)(1), section~~
 15 4(b), [and] section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 [shall remain available through September 30, 2024],
 16 and for Employment and Training and Mandatory Other Program Costs: *Provided further*, That, if the Secretary
 17 determines that the amount provided in the preceding proviso either does not meet or exceeds the amount needed in the
 18 current fiscal year to carry out the activities described therein, the Secretary may transfer funds made available under
 19 this heading to or from the appropriation within such proviso, to remain available for the same time period as the
 20 appropriation to which the funds are transferred: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this
 21 heading may be obligated or expended in contravention of section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
 22 U.S.C. 1183A): *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to enter into contracts and
 23 employ staff to conduct studies, evaluations, or to conduct activities related to program integrity provided that such
 24 activities are authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this
 25 heading may be used to enter into contracts and employ staff to conduct studies and evaluations related to section 27 of
 26 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and the Emergency Food Assistance Program authorized by the Emergency Food
 27 Assistance Act of 1983, as amended: For making, after June 30 of the current fiscal year, benefit payments to
 28 individuals, and payments to States or other non-Federal entities, pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
 29 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), for unanticipated costs incurred for the last three months of the fiscal year, such sums as may be
 30 necessary: For necessary expenses to carry out the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) for the first
 31 quarter of fiscal year 2025, \$27,511,000,000 to remain available through September 30, 2025.

Change Description

The first change (line 9) provides funding for Healthy Fluid Milk incentive projects. This item was funded in 2023 through a General Provision.

The second change (line 12) specifies an appropriated level for certain activities and makes Mandatory Other Program Costs funds two-year funds.

The third change (line 16) allows for adjustments within the SNAP account for reasonable and necessary expenses associated with activities funded with two-year funds.

The fourth change (line 24) allows funds to be used for research on TEFAP and FDPIR programs.

The fifth change (line 27) provides such sums as necessary for the fourth quarter of 2024.

The sixth change (line 30) provides forward funding for the first quarter of 2025.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table FNS-54. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2023.....	\$153,867,723,000
Change in Appropriation.....	- 31,734,484,000
Budget Estimate, 2024	<u>122,133,239,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table FNS-55. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTE)

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc/Dec	FTE	Chg Dec Key
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimate	FTE	Estimate	FTE			
Participant Benefits:											
SNAP Benefits	\$101,803,982	-	\$127,379,769	-	\$104,348,000	-	\$107,896,671	-	+\$3,548,671	-	(1)
EA Payments	-	-	-	-	35,779,000	-	-	-	-35,779,000	-	
Subtotal, Participant Benefits.....	101,803,982	-	127,379,769	-	140,127,000	-	107,896,671	-	-32,230,329	-	
Contingency Reserve.....	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	-	-	-	
State Administrative Costs	5,313,427	-	5,536,316	-	5,707,550	-	5,874,192	-	+166,642	-	(2)
Nutrition Ed. & Obesity Prevention Grant Prog. . Employment and Training:	440,000	-	464,000	-	506,000	-	516,000	-	+10,000	-	(3)
Federal Funds 100%.....	123,900	-	123,900	-	123,900	-	123,900	-	-	-	
Federal Funds and Participant Costs 50%.....	501,878	-	511,929	-	525,935	-	539,565	-	+13,630	-	
Subtotal, Employment and Training.....	625,778	-	635,829	-	649,835	-	663,465	-	+13,630	-	(4)
Subtotal, State Administrative Funding.....	6,379,205	-	6,636,145	-	6,863,385	-	7,053,657	-	+190,272	-	
Mandatory Other Program Costs:											
Benefit & Retailer Redemption and Monitoring..	55,377	120	56,745	144	73,509	170	82,735	170	+9,226	-	5(a)
Certification of SSI Recipients for SNAP.....	20,454	-	20,726	-	21,045	-	21,399	-	+354	-	5(b)
Payment Accuracy and Cooperative Services.....	72,954	97	74,645	90	77,837	120	82,812	120	+4,975	-	5(c)
Web-Based Automation of Systems	7,500	2	7,689	2	7,898	4	8,150	4	+252	-	5(d)
Retailer Integrity and Trafficking	22,221	57	34,796	50	35,879	68	37,450	68	+1,571	-	5(e)
Computer Support	10,643	-	20,785	-	21,105	-	21,460	-	+355	-	5(f)
Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems.....	17,568	39	18,788	34	19,167	51	20,704	56	+1,537	+5	5(g)
Nutrition Education and Program Information	29,572	49	60,555	62	65,378	122	70,455	132	+5,077	+10	5(h)
Program Evaluation and Modernization	19,145	8	22,544	11	42,162	13	48,309	15	+6,147	+2	5(i)
FMMI.....	3,500	-	3,587	-	3,682	-	3,789	-	+107	-	5(j)
IT Modernization and Support.....	20,000	-	22,494	-	23,090	-	23,762	-	+672	-	5(k)
Driving System Impro to Simplify and Improve Enrollment Experience	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	+100,000	-	5(l)
Subtotal, Mandatory Other Program Costs	278,934	372	343,354	393	390,752	548	521,025	565	+130,273	+17	
Discretionary Other Program Costs:											
FDPIR Nutrition Education	998	-	998	-	998	-	998	-	-	-	
FDPIR Demonstration	-	-	3,000	-	3,000	-	5,000	-	+2,000	-	6(a)
Healthy Fluid Milk	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	-	+3,000	-	6(b)
Healthy Fluid Milk (GP).....	1,000	-	3,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	-4,000	-	6(b)
FDPIR Demonstration (GP).....	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal, Discretionary Other Program Costs	4,998	-	6,998	-	7,998	-	8,998	-	+1,000	-	(6)
Subtotal, Other Program Costs	283,932	372	350,352	393	398,750	548	530,023	565	+131,273	+17	
Subtotal, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.....	111,467,119	372	137,366,266	393	150,389,135	548	118,480,351	565	-31,908,784	+17	
Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico	2,037,976	-	2,501,805	-	2,815,630	-	2,962,426	-	+146,796	-	(7)
American Samoa	8,185	-	10,047	-	11,308	-	11,897	-	+589	-	(8)
FDPIR:											
USDA Foods in lieu of SNAP	104,976	-	63,331	2	99,150	1	96,401	1	-2,749	-	
Distributing Agencies Expenses and Nut. Ed.	57,174	-	62,669	-	63,000	-	68,600	-	+5,600	-	
Subtotal, FDPIR	162,150	-	126,000	2	162,150	1	165,001	1	+2,851	-	(9)
TEFAP Commodities ^{1/}	342,000	2	399,750	2	445,500	2	468,752	2	+23,252	-	(10)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	12,148	-	30,000	-	34,000	-	34,812	-	+812	-	(11)
Community Food Project.....	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	
Program Access.....	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	
Subtotal, Total Regular Appropriations	114,039,578	374	140,443,868	397	153,867,723	551	122,133,239	568	-31,734,484	+17	
CARES Act: FDPIR COVID Supplemental											
Emerg Supp (Div N): Benefits- PEBT.....	44,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Emerg Supp (Div N): PEBT Admin	1,100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Emerg Supp (Div N): SNAP Waiver Authority...	3,600,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Emerg Supp (Div N): COVID Relief -15%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Emerg Supp (Div N): SAE Mass Change.....	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Emerg Supp (Div N): Puerto Rico Supp.....	597,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Emerg Supp (Div N): AmSam Supp.....	2,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Emerg Supp (Div N): CNMI Supp	14,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Emerg Supp (Div N) Online Purchasing & Tech Imp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
American Rescue Plan: COVID Relief 15%.....	3,817,349	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
American Rescue Plan: Benefits P-EBT.....	-	-	25,000,000	-	20,000,000	-	-	-	+20,000,000	-	

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		FTE		Key
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimate	FTE	Estimate	FTE	Inc/Dec	Dec	
American Rescue Plan: P-EBT Admin.....	-	-	700,000	-	500,000	-	-	-	-500,000	-	-
American Rescue Plan: SAE Mass Change.....	1,150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: Online Purch & Tech Improvements.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: Puerto Rico Supp.....	966,120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: AmSam Supp.....	3,880	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: CNMI Supp	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: Extension of SNAP Waiver Authority.....	-	-	3,600,000	-	3,000,000	-	-	-	-3,000,000	-	-
Total Approps including Supp Funding	\$177,085,626	374	\$169,743,868	397	\$177,367,723	551	\$122,133,239	568	-55,234,484	+17	
Sequestration	-10,325		-12,879		-14,656		-15,681		-1,025		
Total Appropriation with Sequester.....	177,075,301	374	169,730,989	397	177,353,067	551	122,117,558	568	-55,235,509	+17	

¹ Up to 20 percent of the funding provided for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) for the procurement of commodities may be used for TEFAP administrative costs.

Table FNS-56. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTE)

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc/ Dec	FTE Inc/ Dec
Participant Benefits:										
SNAP Benefits.....	\$89,662,238	-	\$108,614,865	-	\$125,027,000	-	\$107,796,671	-	-\$17,230,329	-
State Option Reimbursable	69,000	-	93,273	-	100,000	-	100,000	-	-	-
Subtotal, Participant Benefits	89,731,238	-	108,708,138	-	125,127,000	-	107,896,671	-	-17,230,329	-
Contingency Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Administrative Costs.....	4,651,038	-	4,869,776	-	5,707,550	-	5,874,192	-	+166,642	-
Nutrition Ed. & Obesity Prevention Grant Prog.....	434,483	-	472,258	-	506,000	-	516,000	-	+10,000	-
Employment and Training:										
Federal Funds 100%	110,684	-	122,779	-	123,900	-	123,900	-	-	-
Federal Funds and Participant Costs 50%	439,472	-	516,325	-	525,935	-	539,565	-	+13,630	-
Subtotal, Employment and Training	550,156	-	639,104	-	649,835	-	663,465	-	+13,630	-
Subtotal, State Administrative Funding	5,635,677	-	5,981,138	-	6,863,385	-	7,053,657	-	+190,272	-
Mandatory Other Program Costs:										
Benefit & Retailer Redemption and Monitoring	46,613	120	42,562	144	73,509	170	82,735	170	+9,226	-
Certification of SSI Recipients for SNAP	19,594	-	12,532	-	21,045	-	21,399	-	+354	-
Payment Accuracy and Cooperative Services	48,794	97	59,259	90	77,837	120	82,812	120	+4,975	-
Web-Based Automation of Systems.....	5,313	2	4,993	2	7,898	4	8,150	4	+252	-
Retailer Integrity and Trafficking.....	18,998	57	28,028	50	35,879	68	37,450	68	+1,571	-
Computer Support.....	10,102	-	17,796	-	21,105	-	21,460	-	+355	-
Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems.....	12,477	39	10,334	34	19,167	51	20,704	56	+1,537	+5
Nutrition Education and Program Information.....	27,553	49	31,915	62	65,378	122	70,455	132	+5,077	+10
Program Evaluation and Modernization.....	24,163	8	13,006	11	42,162	13	48,309	15	+6,147	+2
FMMI	3,295	-	3,369	-	3,682	-	3,789	-	+107	-
IT Modernization and Support	18,827	-	20,786	-	23,090	-	23,762	-	+672	-
Driving System Improvements to Simplify and Improve the Enrollment Experience.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	+100,000	-
Subtotal, Mandatory Other Program Costs.....	235,729	372	244,580	393	390,752	548	521,025	565	+130,273	+17
Discretionary Other Program Costs:										
FDPIR Nutrition Education.....	991	-	850	-	998	-	998	-	-	-
Demo Projects Tribal Organizations	-	-	1,500	-	3,000	-	5,000	-	+2,000	-
Healthy Milk Incentives.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	-	+3,000	-
Healthy Fluid Milk (GP).....	-	-	2,995	-	4,000	-	-	-	-4,000	-
FDPIR Demonstration (GP).....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Discretionary Other Program Costs.....	991	-	5,345	-	7,998	-	8,998	-	+1,000	-
Subtotal, Other Program Costs.....	236,720	372	249,925	393	398,750	548	530,023	565	+131,273	-
Subtotal, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.....										
95,603,635	372	114,939,201	393	132,389,135	548	115,480,351	565	-16,908,784	-	
Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico.....	2,037,976	-	2,501,805	-	2,815,630	-	2,962,426	-	+146,796	-
American Samoa.....	8,185	-	10,047	-	11,308	-	11,897	-	+589	-
FDPIR:										
USDA Foods in lieu of SNAP.....	30,442	-	69,629	2	99,150	1	96,401	1	-2,749	-
Distributing Agencies Expenses and Nut. Ed.....	57,244	-	58,906	-	63,000	-	68,600	-	+5,600	-
Subtotal, FDPIR.....	87,686	-	128,535	-	162,150	-	165,001	-	+2,851	-
TEFAP Commodities ^{1/}	404,471	2	451,376	2	445,500	2	468,752	2	+23,252	-
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.....	12,148	-	30,000	-	34,000	-	34,812	-	+812	-
Community Food Project.....	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
Program Access	4,800	-	4,997	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
Subtotal, Total Regular Obligations	98,163,901	374	118,070,961	397	135,867,723	551	119,133,239	568	-16,734,484	+17
CARES ACT: FDPIR COVID Supp.....	54,478	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emerg Supp (Div N): Benefits-PEBT	31,228,649	-	18,886,199	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emerg Supp (Div N): PEPT Admin.....	583,471	-	465,455	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emerg Supp (Div N): SNAP Waiver Auth.....	3,584,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emerg Supp (Div N): COVID Relief Benefits-15%	7,634,699	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emerg Supp (Div N): SAE Mass Change.....	100,000	-	2,256	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emerg Supp (Div N): Puerto Rico Supp	597,600	-	108,272	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emerg Supp (Div N): AmSam Supp	2,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emerg Supp (Div N): CNMI Supp.....	14,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emerg Supp (Div N) Online Purch & Tech Imp	-	-	2,237	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc/ Dec	FTE Inc/ Dec
American Rescue Plan: COVID Relief Benefits-15% Benefit Bump.....	3,817,349	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: Benefits P-EBT	-	-	-	-	20,000,000	-	-	-	+20,000,000	-
American Rescue Plan: Admin	-	-	-	-	500,000	-	-	-	-500,000	-
American Rescue Plan: SAE Mass Change.....	241,299	-	444,923	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: Online Purch & Tech Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: Puerto Rico Supplemental ...	966,120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: AmSam Supplemental.....	-	-	3,880	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: CNMI Supplemental.....	-	-	7,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: Extension of SNAP Waiver Authority.....	-	-	3,600,000	-	3,000,000	-	-	-	-3,000,000	-
Total Obligations including Supp Funding	146,987,966	374	141,591,683	397	159,367,723	551	119,133,239	568	-40,234,484	+17
Rescission	-	-	-	-	-8,000	-	-	-	8,000	-
Recoveries	-	-	-58,000	-	-135,000	-	-	-	135,000	-
Unobligated Balance, Start of Year.....	-5,000,000	-	-6,110,000	-	-6,718,000	-	-6,273,000	-	445,000	-
Unobligated Balance, End of Year.....	6,110,000	-	6,718,000	-	6,273,000	-	6,341,638	-	68,638	-
Balance Lapsing.....	29,036,010	-	27,669,427	-	18,658,688	-	3,000,000	-	-15,658,688	-
Collections from Reimbursable Obligations.....	-69,000	-	-93,000	-	-100,000	-	-100,000	-	-	-
Sequestration.....	10,325	-	12,879	-	14,656	-	15,681	-	1,025	-
Total Appropriation with Sequester.....	177,075,301	374	169,730,989	397	177,353,067	551	122,117,558	568	-55,235,509	+17

1/ Up to 20 percent of the funding provided for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) for the procurement of commodities may be used for TEFAP administrative costs.

JUSTIFICATION OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement, compared to 2023 Estimated. The justification reflects a net decrease of \$31,734,484,000. This change includes:

- (1) A decrease of \$32,230,329,000 for SNAP Benefits (\$140,127,000,000 available in 2023).

SNAP provides eligible low-income recipients with monthly allotments of benefits to purchase food at authorized retail stores. In response to the Nation’s ongoing recovery from the pandemic, SNAP participation is expected begin declining in 2024. This pattern is consistent with participation trends following past economic crises. In 2024, SNAP participation is estimated to decrease by 1.3 million participants, from a pandemic high of 43.5 million participants in 2023 to 42.2 million in 2024. The overall cost of the program is expected to decrease significantly in 2024 due to the end of emergency allotment payments that were provided through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) beginning in 2020 and ending February 2023.

- (2) An increase of \$166,642,000 for State Administrative Expenses (SAE) (\$5,707,550,000 available in 2023).

SAE are Federal matching funds for such expenses as certification, quality control, IT systems, and fraud control. This increase is based on estimated inflationary increases in state and local government costs.

- (3) An increase of \$10,000,000 for Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Program (\$506,000,000 available in 2023).

These funds support the Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program, established by Section 241 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L.111-296). The funding is allocated to States through a statutory formula, and provides 100 percent Federal funding through two-year grants, which give States flexibility to target services where they can be most effective. This change is based on estimated inflation as provided by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) per the statute.

- (4) An increase of \$13,630,000 for Employment and Training (\$649,835,000 available in 2023).

These matching funds provide grants to States to conduct employment and training (E&T) programs to assist SNAP participants to prepare for and find work. States use flexible SNAP E&T funding to serve lower-skilled, vulnerable adults who often have limited access to employment services or job training otherwise. SNAP E&T programs are designed to promote self-sufficiency. The E&T grants allow State agencies to choose the components that make up their particular E&T programs and meet the specific needs of their SNAP recipients, including job search and job search

training; basic education or vocational training; job retention services, and other workforce opportunities. This increase is due to estimated inflationary increases in state and local government costs, as well as increased state investment in programs.

(5) An increase of \$127,773,000 for mandatory other program costs (\$390,752,000 available in 2023).

The overall change consists of the following:

- a. An increase of \$9,226,000 for Benefit & Retailer Redemption and Monitoring (\$73,509,000 and 170 FTEs available in 2023).

This will provide resources to support compliance specialists, investigators, quality assurance and data mining experts, as well as administrative reviewers. Funding for contracts will support benefit redemption activity, as well as most of the systems development and maintenance associated with retailer management. Of the increase, \$6.6 million is requested to support the Current Law Proposal: Develop State-of-the-Art-Systems for SNAP Retailer Management. The remainder is due to estimated inflationary costs and a 5.2 percent pay increase.

- b. An increase of \$354,000 for Certification of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Recipients for SNAP (\$21,045,000 available in 2023).

These funds are used for certifying SSI recipients for SNAP and utilizing Social Security Administration (SSA) data to ensure accurate SNAP benefit determinations. These funds are also available for data exchange and data mining efforts related to SSA and FNS data, as well as FNS oversight and technical assistance for State Agency SSA activities provided for SNAP certification and data analysis efforts. This increase is due to estimated inflationary costs.

- c. An increase of \$4,975,000 for Payment Accuracy and Cooperative Services (\$77,837,000 and 120 FTEs available in 2023).

This line supports a wide range of activities aimed at increasing payment accuracy and promotes integrity and efficiency in State administration of the program by promoting a State exchange of ideas and information. This line also provides funding for the Federal Quality Control (QC) system, and computer systems designed to provide states with greater access to SNAP integrity tools. These activities are a core part of USDA's program integrity investments. Additional resources are utilized to decrease fraud. The requested increase includes \$2 million to support the Current Law Proposal: FNS Enterprise Risk Management Program, as well as estimated inflationary costs and a 5.2 percent pay increase.

- d. An increase of \$252,000 for Web-Based Automation of Systems (\$7,898,000 and 4 FTEs available in 2023).

This line provides funding for IT, automation, and technology-based process improvement resources to improve SNAP recipient program integrity. The requested increase includes estimated inflationary costs, and a 5.2 percent pay increase.

- e. An increase of \$1,571,000 for Retailer Integrity and Trafficking (\$35,879,000 and 68 FTEs available in 2023).

This line provides funding for a "strike force" of retailer investigators, for oversight of the more than 250,000 retailers authorized to redeem SNAP benefits, and for other activities that promote retailer integrity efforts. The increase is due to estimated inflationary increases and a 5.2 percent pay increase.

- f. An increase of \$355,000 for Computer Support (\$21,105,000 available in 2023).

This line supports the essential systems needed to administer SNAP, including the Federal staff required to operate and maintain those systems. These systems include SNAP-specific systems, and FNS' internal computer systems that support the activities of Federal staff. The increase is due to estimated inflationary costs.

- g. An increase of \$1,537,000 including 5 FTEs for Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems (\$19,167,000 and 51 FTEs available in 2023).

This line supports efforts associated with nationwide EBT, including staff responsible for the oversight of EBT systems, and staff and systems associated with the collection and review of EBT data. Funds strengthen oversight efforts promoting integrity and efficiency in State administration of SNAP by enabling States to

travel, interact, and exchange ideas and information. Funds are also available to support the participation of farmers' markets in SNAP by providing equipment and support grants to new markets and those currently participating in the program. The requested increase includes \$900,000 to support the hiring of subject matter experts with specialized knowledge of payment system industry standards; see Current Law Proposal: Support EBT Modernization and EBT Benefit Theft Fraud Prevention. The remaining increase is due to estimated inflationary costs and a 5.2 percent pay increase.

- h. An increase of \$5,077,000 including 10 FTEs for Nutrition Education and Program Information (\$65,378,000 and 104 FTEs available in 2023).

This line supports Federal costs for SNAP nutrition education initiatives, and supports national projects, including program information and educational efforts to increase awareness of the nutrition benefits of SNAP. The increase includes \$2.5 million for two Current Law Proposals: Increase promotion of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans in SNAP Nutrition Education and Improve Integrity and Customer Service in TEFAP and FDPIR through increased Federal staffing. The remainder is due to estimated inflationary costs and a 5.2 percent pay raise.

- i. An increase of \$6,147,000 including 2 FTEs for Program Evaluation and Modernization (\$42,162,000 and 13 FTEs available in 2023).

FNS conducts a variety of studies, evaluations, and related activities that respond to the needs of policy makers and managers and help ensure that nutrition programs achieve their goals. This line supports efforts for SNAP, including the Federal staff needed to oversee this vital work. This request includes two Current Law Proposals: \$2.4 million for SNAP BOT Innovation Emerging Technology Grants and a one-time request for \$3 million to Fund Research on TEFAP and the FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration Projects. The remainder is due to estimated inflationary costs and a 5.2 percent pay raise.

- j. An increase of \$107,000 for the Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI) (\$3,682,000 available in 2023).

Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI) is an on-going project to enhance financial system transparency and reporting capabilities in advance of new OMB and Treasury initiatives to improve financial management and reporting government wide. This transparency and advanced functionality will support ensuring integrity in SNAP. An increase of \$107,000 is due to estimated inflationary costs.

- k. An increase of \$672,000 for IT Modernization and Support (\$23,090,000 available in 2023).

This line provides for the operations, maintenance, and enhancement costs associated with Federal systems and equipment. The increase is due to estimated inflationary costs.

- l. An increase of \$100,000,000 for Driving System Improvements to Simplify and Improve the Enrollment Experience (\$0 available in 2023).

This proposal establishes new funding for competitive multi-year grants to State Agencies for compelling State and local projects designed to drive system improvements in the SNAP client enrollment and participation experience. See Current Law Proposal: Driving System Improvements to Simplify and Improve the Enrollment Experience.

- (6) An increase of \$1,000,000 in discretionary funds (\$7,998,000 available in 2023).

- a. An increase of \$2,000,000 for demonstration projects for tribal organizations (\$3,000,000 available in 2023).

This increase would extend and expand FDPIR Self Determination Demonstration Projects, authorized by section 4003(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, to their fully authorized level of \$5 million. Please see Current Law Proposal: Extension and Expansion of FDPIR Self Determination Demonstration Projects.

- b. A decrease of \$1,000,000 for Healthy Milk Incentives (\$4,000,000 available in 2023).

Section 4208 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018, P.L. 115-334, provides cooperative agreements with governmental entities or nonprofit organizations. This item was funded as a General Provision in 2023.

- (7) An increase of \$146,796,000 for Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico (\$2,815,630,000 available in 2023).

Section 19(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (as amended by P.L. 110-246), provides a block grant to Puerto Rico to administer NAP benefits. The change is due to the estimated increase in the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) used to adjust the block grant annually.

- (8) An increase of \$589,000 for American Samoa (\$11,308,000 available in 2023).

Section 19(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (as amended by P.L. 110-246), provides a block grant to American Samoa to administer SNAP benefits. The change is due to the estimated increase in the TFP used to adjust the block grant annually.

- (9) An increase of \$2,851,000 for Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) (\$162,150,000 and 1 FTE available in 2023).

The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, provides for an alternative program to SNAP for low-income individuals living on or near qualifying Indian reservations or service areas in Oklahoma. This line provides for the food costs and administration of this program. FDPIR participants are generally able to choose whether they participate in SNAP or FDPIR. As SNAP benefits decline due to the end of emergency allotments, the Budget anticipates that more eligible Tribal members will choose to participate in FDPIR. Requested funding supports the return of participation to pre-pandemic levels.

- (10) An increase of \$23,252,000 for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) (\$445,500,000 and 2 FTEs available in 2023).

Section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 requires the Secretary to purchase USDA Foods for distribution through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). The section establishes a baseline funding level and a formula for annual adjustments based on food price inflation. The change is due to the estimated changes in the TFP and a 5.2 percent pay increase.

- (11) An increase of \$812,000 for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) (\$34,000,000 available in 2023).

This increase reflects an inflationary adjustment.

Table FNS-57. Summary of 2024 Mandatory Current Law Proposals for SNAP

Proposal	Amount (Thousands)
Develop State-of-the-Art Systems Retailer Management	\$6,600
FNS Enterprise Risk Management Program	2,000
Support EBT Modernization and EBT Benefit Theft Fraud Prevention	900
Increase promotion of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans in SNAP Nutrition Education	1,000
Improve integrity and customer service in TEFAP and FDPIR through increased Federal staffing.....	1,500
SNAP BOT Innovation Emerging Technologies Grant	2,400
Fund research on TEFAP and the FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration Projects	3,000
Driving System Improvements to Simplify and Improve the Enrollment and Participation Experience	100,000
<u>Extension and Expansion of FDPIR Self Determination Demonstration Project.....</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total.....	\$119,400

CURRENT LAW

Develop State-of-the-Art Systems for SNAP Retailer Management

Advancement in options for infrastructure, platform, software, and analytics make replacement of Store Tracking and Redemption System (STARS) and Anti-Fraud Locator Using EBT Retailer Transactions (ALERT) necessary for improving communication with customers, efficiency of internal workflows, management of long-term costs associated with emerging security requirements, and enhancement and maintenance of the system.

SNAP seeks to update, enhance, and streamline the STARS and ALERT system platform, architecture, and interfaces, and enhance system security and data encryption capabilities to address evolving cyber-security threats.

Advancing technologically to cloud-hosted, low/no-code applications will provide the following benefits:

- Enables the Agency to pay for infrastructure as services are consumed, rather than requiring ongoing investment, maintenance, and replacement of capital infrastructure;
- Ensures effective compliance with content security policies through resource availability, data redundancy, and disaster recovery;
- Allows data processing, systems integration, and security to be managed effectively by the USDA’s cloud service provider;
- Reduces technology constraints to ensure that program policy requirements and related protocols drive systems;
- Reduces the cost of enhancements and improves implementation timeframes when changes to program requirements occur;
- Reduces the cycle time for deploying security patches and software updates;
- Creates rich user interfaces that can be more readily accessed via multiple device and browser types; and
- Realizes Operations and Maintenance cost savings (patching, helpdesk support, data handling) and improves the customer experience by moving case management, along with interfacing systems, to a common platform.

Table FNS-58. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	6,600	6,500	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14,100
Outlays	6,600	6,500	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14,100

CURRENT LAW

FNS Enterprise Risk Management Program

This proposal will fund FNS implementation of a comprehensive Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) program across FNS program areas. OMB Circular No. A-123 directs Federal agencies to integrate and coordinate risk management and strong and effective internal controls into existing business activities and as an integral part of managing an Agency.

This proposal intends to take existing risk management processes, that may operate at times as a silo within a business area and formalize a comprehensive program across the agency. This proposal will fund resources to operate the program, leadership training, and implementation of further integrating ERM into FNS’s strategic planning process. The plan will include identification and implementation of risk mitigation strategies, tracking of the risk profile and similar activities in line with industry standard risk management principles and the OMB circular.

By incorporating ERM processes, FNS will achieve the following results:

- Break down silos and build transparency by improving communication about managing risk across the enterprise;
- Use root cause analysis to systematically and thoughtfully build risk management into work processes;
- Proactively identify and monitor risk to quickly and efficiently address issues with high impact and/or visibility to the program;
- Improve decision making and use of resources by allowing for quick pivots and implementation of a strategic response through advanced identification of risks and mitigation strategies;
- Increase efficiency by identifying clear focus areas for leaders, managers and staff, especially when facing multiple demands; and
- Prioritize workload and problem-solving issues with programmatic delivery affecting access, integrity, equity, and nutrition security using a systematic process applied across all FNS nutrition programs.

Table FNS-59. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority (SNAP)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$12,000
Outlays	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	12,000

CURRENT LAW***Support EBT Modernization and EBT Benefit Theft Fraud Prevention***

Title IV, Section 501 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, requires the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to promulgate regulations that require State agencies to implement EBT card security measures that effectively detect and prevent theft of benefits, including through card skimming, card cloning, and other similar fraudulent methods, using industry standards and considering feasibility.

FNS proposes to add five additional FTEs in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to hire subject matter experts with specialized knowledge of payment system industry standards as FNS moves away from the use of outdated magnetic stripe technology. This includes the use of chip cards and contactless payment methods, such as near-field communication (NFC) or quick response (QR) codes. FNS requires technical experts to assist with developing regulations, ensuring consistency with industry standards, and testing feasibility. Additional support is expected to further strengthen existing long-term efforts to expand SNAP online purchasing and the SNAP Mobile Payment Pilot.

Table FNS-60. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$900	\$927	\$955	\$983	\$1,013	\$1,043	\$1,075	\$1,107	\$1,140	\$1,174	\$10,317
Outlays	900	927	955	983	1,013	1,043	1,075	1,107	1,140	1,174	10,317

CURRENT LAW***Increase promotion of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans in SNAP Nutrition Education***

MyPlate serves as a key consumer resource that SNAP-Ed's state and local nutrition educators rely on to translate the Dietary Guidelines for Americans into easy-to-use consumer content and tools. CNPP's congressionally mandated, newly expanded work to reevaluate the Thrifty Food Plan every five years also means there is now an expanded need for MyPlate consumer translation of the market baskets into content grounded in the Dietary Guidelines, and innovation to help communities most in need. The proposed funding will make it possible for SNAP participants—particularly low-income communities and communities of color, who disproportionately suffer from diet-related chronic conditions due to systemic inequities—to have easy access to free, credible, consumer tested and actionable resources that are practical and can be personalized to help them shop and eat healthfully. The work to provide these entails evolving consumer tools, such as the consumer-tested Shop Simple with MyPlate web-based tool that uniquely provides users with USDA's SNAP resources all in one portable place; and identifying who or what organizations are valued as credible voices, and working with them to help reach these communities with evidence-based strategies and resources that meet people where they are culturally, financially, and personally.

Table FNS-61. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$10,000
Outlays	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	10,000

CURRENT LAW***Improve integrity and customer service in TEFAP and FDPIR through increased Federal staffing.***

This proposal would provide an additional \$1.5 million, adjusted annually for inflation, through the SNAP account to support additional federal staff for TEFAP and FDPIR. The addition of programmatic and operational staff will result in enhanced technical assistance, support to program stakeholders, and improve program integrity and customer service / experience. In recent years, an influx of funding provided to both programs from a variety of sources has made the Federal administration of the programs more complex and has increased the need for federal staff support and technical assistance to both TEFAP State agencies and FDPIR administering agencies.

Supplemental funding provided to support the emergency feeding network in recent years includes over \$2 billion in additional food and administrative funding through the trade mitigation program, nearly \$2 billion in additional food and administrative funding for coronavirus response, \$100 million in Reach and Resiliency grant funding, and \$4 million annually in Farm to Food Bank funding. There were also substantial increases in the amount of Section 32 bonus and other market support foods provided to these efforts, in addition to an increase in regularly appropriated food

funding for TEFAP as result of a recent re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan. Supplemental funds provided to FDPIR include \$100 million in coronavirus response funding, a \$4 million increase in nutrition education funding, and \$3 million annually from 2020 through 2023 for implementation of the FDPIR self-determination demonstration project.

Though the volume of USDA Foods purchases and additional resources provided to these programs has increased exponentially over the past few years, staff increases have not kept pace to support the additional oversight that these investments and initiatives require. This proposal would add 10 FTEs across the FNS national and regional offices to ensure that staffing mirrors the growth in both of these programs. This investment will also support alignment of work efforts across FNS National and Regional Offices.

Table FNS-62. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$15,000
Outlays	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	15,000

CURRENT LAW

SNAP BOT Innovation Emerging Technologies Grants

This proposal would fund a four-year competitive grant program for SNAP State agencies to develop, test, and implement emerging technologies aimed at strengthening the delivery of customer service by improving client communications and access, improving program efficiency, and reducing burden. The pilot would provide \$2 million each year in grants and would include a rigorous evaluation component to identify effective strategies and focus on customer experience. If these are successful, we would consider future funding opportunities.

One emerging technology, “bots,” otherwise known as Robotic Process Automation, or RPA, can be used to complete limited tasks in line with SNAP’s current non-merit personnel guidance. Bots have the potential to improve SNAP application timeliness rates, reduce errors, and increase efficiency by helping clear application backlogs and reduce repetitive tasks done by eligibility workers. Bots also have the potential to improve client access to program and case specific information. While other Federal assistance programs such as Medicaid have supported bots in eligibility determinations, SNAP has not yet tested this technology.

The grants will allow States to test innovations they otherwise might not be able to afford under normal administrative funds. A rigorous evaluation, including an examination of customer service impacts, and data collection under these grants will allow SNAP the ability to evaluate the impact of emerging technologies on client access and program efficacy.

The proposal seeks an additional \$400,000 per year for two staff in financial management to support the new grant program.

Table FNS-63. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$9,600
Outlays	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,600

CURRENT LAW

Fund research on TEFAP and the FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration Projects

This proposal would provide one-time funding for critical studies of TEFAP and FDPIR and they role they play in efforts to improve nutrition security.

TEFAP supports the emergency feeding network by distributing USDA-purchased, domestically grown foods for use by emergency feeding organizations including soup kitchens, food recovery organizations, and food banks, which work to distribute the foods directly to low-income households. Historically, TEFAP provided about \$300-600 million of food annually, but additional funding provided by through trade mitigation efforts and various COVID relief supplementals have significantly increased TEFAP resources in recent years. This proposal would provide \$2 million to support a

formal research study on TEFAP States and eligible recipient agencies to better understand access, program coverage, and service models with a nutrition security lens.

Since 2020, Congress has provided funding for demonstration projects with Indian Tribal Organizations administering TEFAP to enter into self-determination contracts to purchase USDA Foods, as authorized by Section 4003(b) of the 2018 Farm Bill. This proposal would also provide \$1 million for an evaluation of the FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration Projects, allowing FNS to better understand whether the stated goals of the demonstration project were achieved. The study will consider what worked well and what could be improved in future contracts in the self-determination and self-governance sphere. Key questions will include which foods were purchased, whether the demonstration was associated with higher participation, if there were observed economic impacts in local Tribal economies, links with nutrition education, how Tribes used the overall budget and lessons observed from the contracting processes. The results will include ideas around best practices that could be applied to future demonstrations or expansion of the program.

Table FNS-64. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,000
Outlays	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000

CURRENT LAW

Driving System Improvements to Simplify and Improve the Enrollment and Participation Experience

Establish funding for competitive multi-year grants to State Agencies for State and local projects to incentivize positive changes in SNAP that are consistent with Administration priorities. SNAP would coordinate this work with the Administration’s ongoing Facing Financial Shock work. The goals would be to fund the most compelling proposals that focused on increased enrollment rates and reduced barriers / burden to program enrollment and re-enrollment; streamline eligibility determinations to increase State capacity and speed benefit delivery time; and improve customer service and client experience. The evaluation process would focus on the client experience impact of this effort.

Funds would be used to support a specified list of efforts such as:

- Automate creation of required reports: Enhance system reporting functionality so that all FNS required reports are automatically generated and do not require additional enhancements or one-off data requests.
- Mobile Accessibility: Enhance or redevelop system interfaces to ensure user applications can be submitted via a range of mobile devices, browsers, and network speeds. This would broaden the reach of online SNAP tools to a user base that is frequently dependent on mobile devices for internet access.
- Plain Language Adoption: Update notices to conform to the plain language model notices in FNS’ Model Notice Toolkit. States could also propose additional activities to revise paper and digital content to use plain language, with the encouragement to share outputs from their user research.
- Online application connection to eligibility systems: Some States do not currently have their online applications connected to their eligibility systems, causing workers to have to take time to re-key items from the application into the system. States could use additional matching funds to enhance this process.
- Enhance client portals: Create or enhance client portals that allow applicants to view the status of their application, a list of verification documents that are still outstanding, and copies of electronic notices.

Table FNS-65. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$1,000,000
Outlays	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	1,000,000

CURRENT LAW

Extension and Expansion of FDPIR Self Determination Demonstration Projects

This proposal would extend and expand the FDPIR Self Determination Demonstration Project by increasing the annual appropriation amount from \$3 million to its full \$5 million authorization level. Section 4003(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334, the 2018 Farm Bill) authorized \$5 million for USDA to establish a demonstration project for one or more Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) administering the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) to enter into self-determination contracts (i.e., 638 contracts) to purchase USDA Foods for the FDPIR food package for their Tribe. Three million was appropriated in 2020 and 2021 for implementation of this section with seven self-determination contracts awarded using these funds. An additional \$3 million was provided in 2022, which supported further expansion of the project, including the award of new contracts.

Continued and increased funding for the demonstration project is of utmost importance to FDPIR ITOs and other stakeholders who view the project positively. The project addresses many local Tribal needs such as the inclusion of preferred traditional foods, added flexibilities in delivery schedules and storage, and Tribal choice of food procurement. The contracts that have been awarded to date also are by and large supporting Tribal producers, thus allowing ITOs to bolster Tribal economies and increase food sovereignty with project funds. In many cases, these producers are expanding normal agricultural, husbandry, and fishing operations to meet the needs of the demonstration project. Increasing funding to the fully authorized amount will allow FNS to continue supporting these producers’ participation in the project, thereby providing assurance to them that their investments were merited and that USDA considers them to be long-term FDPIR stakeholders.

Increased funds will also support additional participation in the demonstration project by new producers and ITOs, and cover some Federal administrative costs associated with coordinating and tracking the Tribally-procured foods. Increasing funding for the demonstration project to the fully authorized amount would send a strong message to stakeholders regarding FNS’ commitment to Tribal sovereignty in the program.

Table FNS-66. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$20,000
Outlays	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	20,000

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTEs*Table FNS-67. SNAP Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTE (thousands of dollars, FTE)*

State/Territory/Country	2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE
Alabama	\$590	4	\$814	5	\$1,075	6	\$1,430	7
Arkansas.....	144	1	174	-	230	-	306	-
Arizona.....	-	-	21	-	28	-	37	-
California.....	5,062	32	6,078	35	8,028	48	10,682	50
Colorado.....	3,180	20	3,067	18	4,051	24	5,390	25
Connecticut	158	1	424	2	560	3	746	3
District of Columbia.....	-	-	3,171	18	4,189	25	5,573	26
Delaware	197	1	174	1	230	1	306	1
Florida	1,267	8	2,267	13	2,995	18	3,984	19
Georgia.....	4,187	26	4,339	25	5,732	34	7,626	35
Hawaii	165	1	271	2	358	2	477	2
Iowa.....	-	-	153	1	202	1	269	1
Illinois	4,187	26	3,247	19	4,290	26	5,708	27
Indiana.....	181	1	730	4	965	6	1,283	6
Kentucky	308	2	348	2	459	3	611	3
Massachusetts.....	2,661	17	2,642	15	3,491	21	4,644	22
Maryland	784	5	4,659	27	6,155	37	8,189	38
Maine.....	-	-	195	1	257	2	342	2
Michigan	311	2	515	3	680	4	904	4
Minnesota.....	415	3	369	2	487	3	648	3
Missouri.....	311	2	522	3	689	4	917	4
North Carolina.....	461	3	709	4	937	6	1,247	6
New Hampshire.....	159	1	522	3	689	4	917	4
New Jersey	4,111	26	4,617	26	6,099	37	8,115	38
Nevada.....	-	0	21	-	28	-	37	-
New York.....	2,880	18	3,936	22	5,199	31	6,918	32
Ohio.....	773	5	702	4	928	6	1,234	6
Oklahoma	309	2	355	2	468	3	623	3
Oregon.....	810	5	841	5	1,111	7	1,479	7
Pennsylvania.....	1,229	8	2,858	16	3,775	23	5,023	23
Puerto Rico.....	-	-	70	-	92	1	122	1
South Carolina.....	482	3	702	4	928	6	1,234	6
South Dakota.....	-	-	174	1	230	1	306	1
Tennessee	171	1	174	1	230	1	306	1
Texas	3,548	22	5,354	31	7,073	42	9,411	44
Utah.....	633	4	709	4	937	6	1,247	6
Virginia	161,247	117	189,565	70	193,420	97	198,489	100
Washington	148	1	702	4	928	6	1,234	6
Wisconsin.....	519	3	730	4	965	6	1,283	6
West Virginia	519	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wyoming.....	-	-	174	-	230	-	306	-
Total, Available.....	202,107	374	247,095	397	269,418	551	299,603	568

The geographic breakdown data reports only Federal administrative costs. Non-administrative costs such as grants to states and benefits are excluded.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table FNS-68. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$16,271	\$20,250	\$26,470	\$28,664
	Personnel Compensation, Field	25,082	30,376	39,704	42,996
11.0	Total personnel compensation	41,353	50,626	66,174	71,660
12.0	Personal benefits	17,915	14,804	28,360	30,712
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	59,268	65,430	94,534	102,372
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	1,545	2,100	5,200	8,100
22.0	Transportation of things.....	165	200	250	300
23.3	Communications, utilities and misc. charges	234	250	260	275
24.0	Printing and reproductions.....	678	700	750	800
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	81,990	81,990	81,990	81,990
26.0	Supplies and materials	434,913	580,000	608,000	634,000
31.0	Equipment.....	907	1,000	1,100	1,200
41.0	Grants, subsidies and contributions	146,339,266	140,766,740	158,475,639	118,204,202
	Total, other objects	146,859,698	141,432,980	159,173,189	118,930,867
	Reimbursable obligations	69,000	93,273	100,000	100,000
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	146,987,966	141,591,683	159,367,723	119,133,239

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) works to raise nutrition levels of low-income households by ensuring access to a healthful diet through nutrition assistance and nutrition education. SNAP provides eligible low-income recipients with monthly allotments of benefits to purchase food at authorized retail stores.

Eligibility and allotment amounts are based on household size, income, and expenses. Eligibility is also based on assets, citizenship or legal immigration status, and other factors. Benefits are adjusted annually to reflect changes in the June cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (a low-cost market basket of foods that meet the recommendations of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* for a four-person reference family). The Federal Government pays the full cost of benefits and funds approximately half of the expenses incurred by the States to administer the program.

The SNAP account also includes the Nutrition Assistance Programs for Puerto Rico (NAP), American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); and the funding for USDA Foods used in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

FACTS IN BRIEF**Program Participation**

SNAP participation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 averaged 41.21 million persons per month, representing approximately a 1 percent decrease from the average monthly participation in 2021. The following table displays data on benefit costs and participation for 2018 through 2022:

Table FNS-69. SNAP Benefit Costs and Participation

SNAP	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Avg. Participation (Millions)	40.78	35.70	39.85	41.55	41.20
Benefit Costs (Billions)	\$60.9	\$55.62	\$74.10	\$108.52	\$114.49
Average/Person/Month.....	\$124.50	\$129.83	\$154.94	\$217.65	\$231.58
% Of Population Participating.....	12.3	10.7	11.9	12.3	12.2
Persons Unemployed (Millions).....	6.4	6.2	11.7	9.6	6.2

Participation Rates among Eligible People

The most recent figures from *Trends in SNAP Participation Rates: Fiscal Year 2016 to Fiscal Year 2020* shows that in 2020, 78 percent of all those who were eligible for SNAP participated in the program. This indicates that the program is effectively serving those most in need of nutrition assistance. Beginning in 2021, FNS began issuing an annual outreach priorities memo to encourage States to target outreach efforts to underserved communities, such as veterans, college students, and immigrant communities and mixed status families.

Characteristics of SNAP Households

The most recent analysis of household characteristics data, examining 2020 indicates that:

- 81 percent of SNAP households included a child, an elderly (age 60 or older) person, or a person with disabilities;
- The gross income of 81 percent of SNAP households was below the Federal poverty level;
- 36 percent of SNAP households had income at or below 50 percent of poverty;
- 54 percent of SNAP households had income at or below 75 percent of poverty;
- 41 percent of SNAP participants lived in households with earnings.

Program Integrity

Recent data demonstrates that the program integrity efforts of FNS and its State partners are yielding results and continue to trend in the right direction. Trafficking continues to be very low. The latest trafficking rate was 1.6 percent in the period 2015 to 2017. Trafficking most typically occurs when SNAP benefits are traded for cash or are not used for their intended purpose. In spite of holding trafficking to a low level, more work remains. In 2022, FNS again increased efforts to prevent and identify fraud and hold bad actors accountable for misuse of the program.

FNS is responsible for monitoring retailers participating in SNAP and holding them accountable for abiding by the rules. Efforts to support retailer integrity included:

- Continued training of compliance staff;
- Studied authorized stores and data to determine which warrant further investigation: 22,510;

- Imposed sanctions against retailers determined to have committed violations against SNAP: 2,344; and
- Disqualified retailers permanently from SNAP due to trafficking or falsifying an application: 999.

By law, SNAP State agencies are responsible for identifying and holding accountable recipients who break the rules. FNS continued to support recipient integrity through:

- Awarding six SNAP Fraud Framework Implementation Grants totaling approximately \$3.6 million to fund innovative State projects designed to reduce recipient fraud and enhance integrity using principles from the SNAP Fraud Framework (Texas, Wisconsin, California, District of Columbia, Illinois, and Wyoming)
- This assistance is a continuation of FNS' efforts surrounding the SNAP Fraud Framework, a collection of procedures, innovative ideas, and best practices that FNS issued to State agencies in May 2018.
- Awarding a contract to assess emerging trends in recipient fraud. This contract's findings will be available in late 2023, and FNS plans to use these findings to inform future updates to the SNAP Fraud Framework.

FNS continued development of a nationwide National Accuracy Clearinghouse (NAC). This real-time data matching tool is intended to reduce improper payments by preventing duplicate participation across States.

- Submission of the NAC interim final rule to the Federal Register. This interim final rule, finalized in 2022, codifies the requirements for NAC data matching by State agencies. Published on October 3, 2022.
- Development of the new NAC system is ongoing. The new NAC system will build on the success of the NAC pilot, and it will be implemented nationwide by October 4, 2027, as required by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill).
- Incorporation of enhanced security measures to protect participant personally identifiable information (PII) through a system design that eliminates the need to retain the most sensitive PII of SNAP participants and applicants.
- The NAC is estimated to produce a net reduction in Federal SNAP spending of approximately \$463 million over five years, and a decrease in improper SNAP benefit payments of nearly \$498 million over five years due to detection and prevention of duplicate participation.

Participant Characteristics

The following data describes general characteristics of SNAP recipients during an average month in the fiscal year, in terms of both individuals and households:

Table FNS-70. Characteristics of SNAP Recipients

October Characteristics of SNAP Recipients	2017	2018	2019	2020
Individuals:				
Average Number (in Millions).....	41.5	39.3	35.7	36.4
% Children.....	43.5	43.6	43.0	42.0
% Elderly.....	13.1	14.2	16.0	16.2
% Disabled Nonelderly Adults.....	9.5	9.5	10.0	11.8
% Female.....	57.2	57.4	57.4	57.3
% Nonelderly Adults Registered for Work.....	28.9	28.8	28.8	25.9
Average Household Size.....	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9
Households:				
Average Number (in Millions).....	20.6	19.7	19.7	18.7
% Receiving Maximum Benefit.....	37	37	37	37
% Certified 12 Months or More.....	74	75	75	77
% with Earned Income.....	31	30	30	28
% with AFDC/TAFN Income.....	5	4	4	4
Average Gross Monthly Income.....	\$837	\$844	\$844	\$890
Average Net Monthly Income.....	\$384	\$383	\$383	\$408
% With Zero Gross Income.....	19	19	19	19
% with Zero Net Income.....	36	36	36	35
% with Gross Monthly Incomes Less than \$400.....	28	28	28	27
% Gross Income Below Poverty Guidelines.....	81	81	81	81
% Gross Income Below 50% of Poverty Guideline.....	38	38	38	36
Average Shelter Deduction.....	\$406	\$418	\$418	\$441

October Characteristics of SNAP Recipients	2017	2018	2019	2020
Average Shelter Expense	\$622	\$635	\$635	\$671
% at Shelter Cap (Maximum shelter deduction).....	15	14	14	13

Source: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Quality Control Sample – Data may not match fiscal year data from other sources

General Activities

Regulations Issued in 2022

During 2022, two SNAP rulemaking actions were published in the *Federal Register*:

- 1) June 14, 2022: Final rule: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Civil Rights Update to the Federal-State Agreement. Updates SNAP civil rights assurance template language for the Federal-State agreement and reflects existing requirements and protections established by Federal law and existing policy.
- 2) June 27, 2022: Proposed Rule: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Revision of Civil Right Data Collection Methods. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) proposed to revise Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations that cover the collection and reporting of race and ethnicity data by State agencies on persons receiving benefits from SNAP. This rule would remove regulatory language that provides an example that State agencies might collect race and ethnicity data by observation (also referred to as “visual observation”) when participants do not voluntarily provide the information on the application form.

Online Purchasing Pilot

The 2014 Farm Bill mandated a pilot to test the feasibility and implications of allowing retail food stores to accept SNAP benefits through online transactions. The Online Purchasing Pilot is required to be secure, private, easy to use, and provide similar support to that found for SNAP transactions in a retail store. Benefits cannot be used to pay for fees of any type, such as delivery, service, or convenience fees. The goal is to ensure that the foundational infrastructure necessary for running SNAP transactions online operates in a safe and secure manner.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, FNS expanded SNAP Online Purchasing to additional States and retailers. SNAP online purchasing is currently operational in 49 States and the District of Columbia and more than 99 percent of all households receiving SNAP now have access to online purchasing. The expansion of SNAP online purchasing to independently owned and operated retail stores beyond those included in the original pilot continues to be a priority for the Agency. SNAP is providing customer service and technical assistance to all interested parties and released a request for proposals in 2022 with award scheduled for Quarter 1 in 2023 for the creation of a technical assistance center (via a grant award to a non-profit) to increase the Agency’s capacity to provide technical assistance tailored to the needs of small retailers. As such, FNS expects numerous additional smaller retailers to stand up online purchasing in 2023. The pilot uses technology to improve customer service and food access, so that SNAP participants can shop for food using the internet like all other consumers.

Grants to Improve Program Access and Eligibility Determination

FNS awarded Process and Technology Improvement Grants (PTIG) to local and State SNAP agencies and community partners. The grants are authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, which provides FNS the authority to award \$5 million dollars in funds each year. The 2022 PTIG awarded projects focused on support efforts to expand enrollment of underserved populations, aid in the transition from pandemic operations and improve disaster response operations, and modernize SNAP customer service, client communication, and administrative processes.

For 2022, FNS awarded five grants:

- Colorado Department of Human Services – \$517,961
- Dakota County Department of Employment and Economic Assistance (MN) – \$623,950
- Montana Department of Health and Human Services – \$1,530,000
- New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services – \$675,000
- New York City Human Resources Administration (NY) – \$1,649,845

Treasury Offset Program

FNS continues efforts to collect debts owed to SNAP. For example, current and former recipients who are delinquent in their repayment of SNAP over issuances are referred to the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) to initiate collection activity. TOP is the collection mechanism by which Federal payments to individuals, such as tax refunds and Federal salary payments, are offset to pay outstanding debts. Approximately \$210 million in delinquent debt was collected through TOP in 2022, as collections returned to levels that are more consistent with those prior to the pandemic health emergency. More than \$3.3 billion has been collected through TOP (and its predecessor, the Federal Tax Refund Offset Program) since FNS began this effort as a pilot project in 1992. These claims may not have been collected without Federal collection programs being made available to the State agencies that manage these debts.

SNAP Outreach

FNS strives to provide access to nutrition assistance program benefits to every eligible person who needs and seeks assistance. State agencies administering SNAP may conduct outreach to inform low-income households about the availability, eligibility requirements, application procedures and the benefits of SNAP.

State Outreach Plans: States have the option of providing outreach as part of their program operations, and FNS reimburses up to 50 percent of the allowable administrative costs for these activities. During 2022, 46 States had approved outreach plans.

SNAP Outreach Priorities Memo: In July 2022, FNS issued a memo outlining priority areas for Fiscal Year 2023 outreach plans. The memo encouraged States to target their outreach activities to certain underrepresented or particularly vulnerable populations and to collaborate with organizations that are both located within and staffed by those from underserved communities. Target groups included students, immigrant communities, mixed status families, veterans, and older adults. The memo also encouraged States to utilize outreach to support SNAP participants in the transition from COVID-19 federal public health emergency flexibilities to normal program operations.

SNAP Administration Performance Improvement Initiatives

Systems Improvement Support and Technical Assistance for States: FNS works with States throughout their integrated eligibility system development and implementation to provide oversight and technical assistance to mitigate system-rollout challenges and ensure customer service and integrity in SNAP administration. In surveys conducted by FNS, States report that the technical assistance is helpful, insightful, and invaluable for ensuring compliance with SNAP policy. Training participants also consistently report that the trainings are informative and useful. In an effort to provide more proactive technical assistance on the front end of new system development, in 2018, USDA awarded a 5-year contract on system technical assistance. FNS continued in 2022, the final year of the contract. Eight States received technical assistance (Alaska, Hawaii, Nebraska, Mississippi, Missouri, U.S. Virgin Islands, West Virginia, and Wyoming). The contractor focused on strengthening FNS' capacity to ensure that State eligibility systems fully meet SNAP certification policy requirements, direct technical assistance to targeted States in various phases of an eligibility system upgrade and delivered associated trainings to FNS staff.

System Implementation Monitoring for State Agencies: Failed eligibility system efforts result in high costs to State agencies, FNS, and clients in terms of lost productivity, decreased access to benefits for eligible households, and poor customer service. FNS provides robust oversight and technical assistance to States that implement new eligibility systems that fail to fully meet the SNAP certification policy requirements. FNS also works closely with States that previously received warning letters as they implement corrective actions (including the District of Columbia, New Mexico, and Rhode Island).

SNAP Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program (SNAP-Ed) - Promoting Healthier Eating Habits and Active Lifestyles

The goal of SNAP-Ed is to improve the likelihood that persons eligible for SNAP and other means tested programs will make healthy food choices and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the current *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. Under current regulations, State SNAP agencies provide nutrition education and obesity prevention services to eligible individuals. States seeking Federal funding for SNAP-Ed must submit a State SNAP-Ed plan to FNS for approval each year that outlines the State's SNAP-Ed activities and a corresponding budget.

In 2022 SNAP-Ed funding was approximately \$472 million, and in 2021, SNAP-Ed funding was approximately \$431.2 million. State allocations are determined with 50 percent based on the State's percentage of national baseline

SNAP-Ed expenditures and 50 percent based on the State's percentage of national SNAP participation for the 12-month period from February 1 to January 31 prior to the start of the fiscal year.

SNAP-Ed activities must be evidence-based and provide nutrition education and obesity prevention activities through individual and group-based strategies, comprehensive multi-level interventions, and/or community and public health approaches. The 2022 SNAP-Ed Guidance, released in May 2022, continued policies from the previous year and incorporated new information based on the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA). New in the 2022 guidance is clarification that college students are now temporarily eligible under the exemptions created by the CAA to receive SNAP-Ed services.

SNAP-Ed Data Improvement: To address provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill, FNS entered into a national agreement with Kansas State University Research Foundation to utilize the National Program Evaluation and Reporting Systems (N-PEARS) for SNAP-Ed electronic data collection and reporting. Through this agreement, N-PEARS will be available to all State agencies beginning in 2023 for required annual planning and data reporting. N-PEARS will improve SNAP-Ed's ability to collect, manage, and aggregate data to measure program effectiveness and accountability at the national level through the development of online modules for the new SNAP-Ed plan submission and annual reporting forms. In 2022, the new annual plan modules were released for optional use as beta-test for select States. Useful feedback obtained during this phase is being incorporated into the final version of the annual plan module.

SNAP-Ed Connection: This online clearinghouse, required by the 2018 Farm Bill, serves as a resource center to empower SNAP-Ed providers to excel in program delivery. It strengthens the SNAP-Ed program by providing nutrition education and obesity prevention resources and enhancing collaboration to reduce duplication of efforts. Providers use the SNAP-Ed Library on the website to showcase and share materials. Nutrition professionals may receive continuing education credits from SNAP-Ed Connection webinars. Directors use the SNAP-Ed Evaluation Framework and find evaluation tools to measure the impact of their work. SNAP-Ed educators and the public use the Seasonal Produce Guide to learn about local and seasonal foods to make food dollars stretch. This project also communicates important SNAP-Ed guidance, news, and success stories to SNAP-Ed staff and the public. There were 29 new success stories added in 2022, up from 17 added in 2021.

SNAP-Ed Toolkit: The SNAP-Ed Toolkit is a searchable on-line database of important resources that guide and support SNAP-Ed providers and educators with the planning, implementation, evaluation, and reporting of evidence-based SNAP-Ed programs. It includes four main components: evidence-based interventions, the SNAP-Ed Evaluation Framework, training resources, and a clearinghouse with a SNAP-Ed publication database. The toolkit is designed to help State SNAP-Ed administrative and implementing agencies identify both evidence-based interventions and appropriate evaluation indicators to include in their SNAP-Ed Plans. Accomplishments for 2022 include the implementation of equity-focused webinars and learning opportunities for SNAP-Ed providers, adding new interventions to the SNAP-Ed toolkit, and development of a clearinghouse with an annotated bibliography of literature that supports SNAP-Ed outcomes.

SNAP-Ed Recipes: The MyPlate Kitchen website provides recipes and resources to support building healthy and budget-friendly meals. The website currently includes 863 SNAP-Ed recipes that are maintained and updated by FNS. In 2022, FNS selected 419 of those recipes for Spanish translation and verification. Those translated recipes will now be updated and included on the MyPlate Kitchen website. In 2023, the remaining 444 recipes will be translated. In addition, FNS intends to add new culturally diverse entries to MyPlate Kitchen. Each new recipe will be evaluated for authenticity, healthfulness, cost, and convenience.

SNAP-Ed Equity: In alignment with Administration priorities, FNS facilitated a SNAP-Ed Toolkit equity-focused webinar series to SNAP-Ed grantees and stakeholders that included topics on authentic community engagement, staff recruitment, development and retention, and the needs assessment process through an equity lens. In 2023, SNAP-Ed will review program practices and identify strategies to increase equity in SNAP-Ed implementation.

Nutrition Education Branch: In late 2022, FNS created a Nutrition Education Branch within the SNAP organization solely dedicated to SNAP-Ed. The new branch of 5 nutritionists and a branch chief will increase capacity to coordinate and collaborate with Federal, State and local partners, and will support the Administration's efforts to address nutrition security.

Incentive Programs to Increase Healthy Food Purchases in SNAP

Encouraging SNAP families to purchase more healthy foods remains an important priority for FNS. In 2022, FNS continued to work with program partners to provide flexibilities to help improve access to healthy food options for SNAP families through incentive programs.

Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP): The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) program was established by the 2014 Farm Bill to incentivize the purchase of fruits and vegetables by SNAP clients. It replaces the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive pilots initiated by the 2008 Farm Bill. GusNIP is collaboratively administered by FNS and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Under GusNIP, in 2022, FNS and NIFA awarded \$38 million to 8 organizations in 12 States. In 2021, more than \$34 million was awarded to 39 grantees in 24 States. In addition, a total of 43 awards were made in the Produce Prescription Program. FNS works collaboratively with NIFA and the GusNIP Technical Assistance Center to support GusNIP grant awardees.

Retailer Incentives: The 2018 Farm Bill directs FNS to issue guidance for retailers to incentivize fruits, vegetables, low-fat dairy, and/or whole grain products that are identified for increased consumption, consistent with the most recent dietary recommendations. Incentives are often funded by private non-profit organizations or State governments and follow a model in which SNAP customers receive a dollar-for-dollar match or discount at the point of sale toward the purchase of SNAP-eligible incentive foods. In 2022, five entities were operating incentive projects funded with private or State funds to encourage the purchase of healthy foods among SNAP families. These are Meijer grocery stores operating nationwide, Menominee Food Co-op in Wisconsin; Seattle, Washington, with 5 neighborhood grocers; 4 Weaver Street Markets in North Carolina; and Central Texas Food Bank in Austin.

Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive Project: The 2018 Farm Bill also established a competitive grant(s) for Healthy Fluid Milk Incentives (HFMI) projects to develop and test methods to increase the purchase and consumption of fluid milk by SNAP households by providing an incentive for the purchase of fluid milk at the point of purchase. The Farm Bill authorized up to 20 million for HFMI. To date, USDA has received appropriations of \$1 million in 2020, \$1 million in 2021, and \$3 million for award in 2022.

- In April 2022, the 2020 pilot at the four Lowe’s Supermarkets in Littlefield, Lubbock, and San Angelo, Texas concluded project operations. The cumulative redemption rate across all four stores was two percent. SNAP shoppers redeemed 22 coupons valued at \$89 out of 1,156 issued coupons valued at \$4,054 across all four stores. FNS has since approved a no-cost extension to operate for another 12 months, beginning in January 2023, after Lowe’s transitions to a new POS system provider. The extension will include an additional 30 Lowe’s locations in Texas, with all participating Lowe’s locations offering an automatic 50 percent discount at the point of purchase.
- In June 2022, the 2021 pilot expansion launched at Jubilee Food Market in Waco, TX and at eight Wakefern Food Cooperative locations under the ShopRite banner in New Jersey. The pilot expansion will operate through May 2023.
- On September 22, 2022, USDA awarded nearly \$3 million to Auburn University’s Hunger Solutions Institute (Auburn). The project will begin operations in January 2023 and will operate through September 2025. Three incentive delivery models will be tested: 1) dollar for dollar paper coupon for any eligible SNAP item; 2) dollar for dollar electronic coupon via the store’s loyalty card app for any eligible SNAP item; and 3) a 50 percent discount at the point of purchase. Auburn will exponentially expand the HFMI project to include 116 stores across four States, including 65 stores located in the Priority Zones (56 percent) and 8 stores located on Federal Indian reservations.
 - Alabama: 18 JMBL, Inc. Supermarkets; 1 Wrights Market
 - California: 77 Mother’s Nutritional Centers
 - Georgia: 1 Carver Market; 5 Little Giant Farmer’s Market
 - South Dakota: 14 Buche Foods grocery stores

Elderly Access

Ensuring seniors have access to nutritious food continues to be a priority for FNS. Potentially eligible seniors do not apply for SNAP benefits at the same rate as the general SNAP population or other vulnerable populations. In 2022, FNS continued operation of three demonstration project types to improve access to the elderly. All FNS approved demonstration projects must maintain cost neutrality and include a rigorous evaluation component.

Combined Application Projects (CAPs) are a partnership between the Social Security Administration (SSA), FNS and State and local agencies to streamline application procedures for individuals receiving SSI benefits. The projects strengthen access to nutrition benefits for the elderly and people with disabilities while improving the administration of SNAP. The combination of standardized benefits or standardized shelter deductions, reduced recertification requirements and eliminating the need for SSI recipients to visit the local SNAP office has significantly increased participation among the elderly and people with disabilities. In 2022, 17 States operated CAP demonstration projects: Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.

Elderly Simplified Application Projects (ESAPs) are demonstration projects that support participation among the elderly and disabled population by utilizing a shorter SNAP application, waiving the recertification interview, allowing longer certification periods, and minimizing the need to provide verification. In 2022, Arizona, New York, Ohio, Texas, and Virginia implement new ESAPs. In addition, 13 other States continued to operate ESAPs: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Vermont, and Washington.

Standard Medical Deductions are demonstration projects that ease verification requirements for senior and disabled households with out-of-pocket medical expenses over \$35 per month. In 2022, 23 States operated Standard Medical Deduction projects (Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, and Wyoming).

Payment Accuracy

FNS did not issue national or State SNAP payment error rates for 2021 due to incomplete data. Appropriations legislation provided State agencies the option to suspend certain Quality Control (QC) regulatory requirements from March 2020 until June 30, 2021, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. As a result of States opting to suspend the QC regulatory requirements, FNS had only 3 months of validated data for 2021, covering July 2021 through September 2021. As of July 1, 2021, QC has resumed and FNS will issue national and State SNAP payment error rates for 2022 on June 30, 2023.

During the suspension of certain QC regulatory requirements, FNS provided guidance to stakeholders to enable States and regions to conduct training and technical assistance reviews throughout the suspension to improve improper payment measurement procedures. FNS also worked closely with regional offices to conduct training on how COVID-related certification adjustments impact the QC review and to otherwise assist regions with preparation for restart, FNS also provided waivers permitting telephone interviews instead of face-to-face interviews for QC in order to assist States in reaching households selected for review during continued social distancing measures.

FNS Regional Offices work directly with State agencies to assist them in developing effective corrective action plans to reduce payment errors. Regional Offices provide technical assistance to States through data analysis, policy interpretation, training, development and monitoring of corrective action plans, facilitating the information exchange with and among States through annual payment accuracy conferences, and State exchange funding. Regional Offices review and validate that States complete corrective actions as required.

Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP)

FNS' role in D-SNAP operations include analyzing and responding to State agency requests to operate D-SNAP, waiving applicable certification and issuance policies for ongoing SNAP households to ease program administration, providing on-site monitoring of State operations to ensure timely and accurate delivery of benefits, and providing operational guidance to States as needed. The D-SNAP review process allows FNS to provide individualized technical assistance to help States most effectively serve the nutrition assistance needs of its disaster-impacted population. In addition, FNS assists States in planning for future disasters by reviewing D-SNAP guidance and sharing best practices through webinar and conference presentations throughout the year. FNS also requires each State agency to submit and annually review a D-SNAP plan.

The following summarizes State reported disaster assistance provided in 2022:

Table FNS-71. SNAP Disaster Assistance

State	Disaster	Total Households (New cases and ongoing HHs)	Total Issuance (D-SNAP benefits and supplements)
California (Jul, Aug, Sept, Oct).....	Wildfires	44	\$22,777
New Jersey (Sept).....	Hurricane Ida	459	223,383
Kentucky (Dec)	Tornadoes	1,305	734,826
Arkansas (Dec).....	Tornadoes	32	10,383
Colorado (Dec, Jan).....	Wildfires	24	10,661
Tennessee (Dec).....	Tornadoes	9	5,187
New Mexico (Apr, May, Jun, Jul).....	Wildfires	986	446,309
Kentucky (Jul, Aug).....	Flooding	12,443	4,225,570
Total.....		15,302	5,679,096

Employment and Training (E&T)

Background

The Food Security Act of 1985 required States to establish an E&T Program to help able-bodied SNAP recipients find work or gain the skills, training, and experience that lead to employment. SNAP participants who are not specifically exempted by statute are subject to work requirements as a condition of eligibility. Work requirements include:

- Registering for work.
- Participating in a SNAP E&T program or workfare program if assigned.
- Not voluntarily quitting a job or reducing work hours to less than 30 hours per week.

In addition to the work requirements, able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) must comply with additional requirements in order to receive benefits for more than three months in a 36-month period. ABAWDs in non-waived areas must meet at least one of the following requirements:

- Work at least 20 hours a week;
- Participate for at least 20 hours a week in qualifying education or training activities; or
- Participate in workfare in order to receive benefits for more than 3 months in a 36-month period.

In 2022, States reported that approximately 10.3 million participants were subject to SNAP work requirements and registered for work, per the FNS-583 report analysis data as of December 19, 2022. A majority of SNAP participants are exempt from work requirements due to age, disability, caregiver responsibilities, or because they are already working or participating in a work training program.

SNAP E&T is a Federally funded, State administered program. States use flexible E&T funding to design programs that help SNAP recipients gain skills, education, or experience to help them obtain regular employment. States have a great deal of flexibility in designing E&T programs that meet the needs of their participants and local economy.

States submit an annual plan to FNS that details what E&T services, called components, the State plans to offer, including supervised job search and job search training, workfare, basic education or vocational training, and job retention services. States also submit expenditure, quarterly participation, and annual outcome reporting measures that reflect job entry, retention, and earnings. These national reporting measures are broken down by key characteristics that reflect the diversity of the SNAP population. States are required to establish reporting measures for each E&T activity designed to serve more than 100 participants.

In 2021, States served an estimated 214,000 participants through their E&T programs.

Funding: SNAP E&T is funded under four funding streams:

Table FNS-72. SNAP E&T Funding Streams

Budget Item	Description	2022 Obligations (Thousands)
100 Percent Federal Grant	Base funding for E&T administration, allocated annually to States based on the percentage of work registrants and ABAWDs in each State	\$102,779
ABAWD 100 Percent Federal Grant	Additional grants for States that guarantee certain activities aimed at the ABAWD population.	20,000
Federal 50 percent Administrative Grants	50 percent reimbursement for States that exceed their 100 percent Federal grant	429,850
Federal 50 percent Participation Grants	50 percent reimbursement for transportation and childcare costs to ensure successful participation in E&T programs. States are not allowed to use 100 percent grants for participant reimbursement	86,475
TOTAL		\$639,104

Employment and Training (E&T) Pilot Grants: The Agricultural Act of 2014 provided \$200 million for up to ten pilots. The Agricultural Act also provided funding for a rigorous, longitudinal evaluation of the ten pilots. FNS received the final evaluation reports in 2022. Key findings include:

- Earnings increased in three pilots and employment increased in five pilots for the treatment group compared to the control group.
- An increase in employment did not mean that earnings increased.
- Pilots generally did not decrease SNAP participation or improve food security.
- The cost of pilot services outweighed benefits in most pilots.

DATA and National Partnership Grants: In 2022, FNS awarded Data and Technical Assistance Grants (DATA) to four State SNAP agencies and community partners. SNAP E&T Data and Technical Assistance grants will support improved, data-driven SNAP E&T programs in California, Virginia, Kentucky, and the District of Columbia. Grantees received between \$650,000 and \$1 million to strengthen program data collection. The State agencies will use data to better understand disparities in program participation in order to identify strategies for advancing equity in their E&T programs. The total amount awarded was \$3,435,105.

In 2022, FNS awarded approximately \$3 million in three-year SNAP E&T National Partnership Grants to two grantees: the Association of Community College Trustees and Strada Collaborative. These are non-profit organizations with large networks of community colleges or community college associations with experience providing workforce development services to people with low incomes, including SNAP participants. Both grantees will use grant funds to support training and other technical assistance so more community colleges become third-party SNAP E&T providers. Grantees will use the funds to develop materials, train subject matter experts, and work with member or affiliate organizations to expand SNAP E&T.

Technical Assistance: Since 2015, FNS has operated the *SNAP to Skills Project* (S2S), a technical assistance effort that provides States tools and resources to develop job-driven SNAP E&T programs. Through S2S, FNS offers direct technical assistance to States. In 2022, S2S used a “rapid response” approach to TA, meaning States could request TA for projects that were targeted in scope and limited in duration to 1-3 months. The participating States were California, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, and Ohio. This technical assistance is central to FNS’ efforts to improve the quality of State SNAP E&T programs and to help SNAP recipients move towards economic self-sufficiency.

In addition to this direct technical assistance, S2S creates new tools and resources each year for all States. All of these resources are housed on the S2S website, <https://snaptoskills.fns.usda.gov>. The website is designed to be a “one-stop shop” for States interested in building employer-driven programs and expanding their 50/50 program. In 2023, FNS anticipates releasing new SNAP to Skills resources focused on helping States and SNAP E&T providers offer Work Based Learning components and expand the use case management best practices.

Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems

Eligible SNAP households are issued a plastic benefit card, similar to a debit card, to make food purchases. In most States, EBT cards are also used for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and other cash benefit programs. These systems are interoperable, which means that recipients may shop at FNS-authorized food retailers in any State.

FNS continues oversight of States as their EBT contracts end and they procure EBT services through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. This process includes State RFP approvals, contract approvals, as well as oversight of State conversions from one EBT vendor's system to a new vendor's system. In 2022, FNS approved four RFPs, ten contracts, and reviewed and approved 56 EBT contract amendments. The number of contract amendments remained significantly higher in 2022 than the historical average of about 10 per year. This was due to COVID-19 public health emergency, and the fact that every State continued to execute various amendments, change orders, or updates to carry out Pandemic EBT benefits, Emergency Assistance, or accommodate other flexibilities in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Retailer File System (RFS): RFS is the combination of three distinct applications builds on a single platform, providing users with the means to digitize, share, and manage electronic retailer records. The system allows users to upload documents through a scanning application or through the Store Tracking and Redemption System (STARS), perform document quality control tasks, and view electronic records.

Anti-fraud Locator using EBT Retailer Transactions (ALERT): During 2022, FNS released several updates to ALERT, the system for fighting SNAP retailer fraud. The updates ensure continuity of system operations as well as enhancements using the best-suited prevalent architectures and technologies available in the IT industry. These updates enhance FNS's ability to identify fraudulent activity by implementing updates to existing scans; updating algorithms and Watch List qualifications; creating new patterns to identify suspect retailers; and data mining studies using various statistical tools to identify suspicious behavior.

STARS: Four releases of STARS were completed in 2022. STARS is the system used by FNS to manage retailer participation in SNAP. Several system enhancements were made in 2022 to ensure the system remains aligned with the needs of end-users and supports financial reconciliation activities.

Studies and Evaluations

FNS published five major reports related to SNAP during 2022. The reports are available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/research-analysis>. These include:

- **Expanding Opportunities and Reducing Barriers to Work: Final Summary Report (Evaluation of SNAP Employment & Training Pilots)** presents findings drawn from the 10 pilot-specific final evaluation reports. The pilot-specific reports and four issue briefs are also available.
- **Update to Feasibility Study of Implementing USDA's SNAP in Puerto Rico:** Congress directed FNS to update findings on administrative, operational, and program integrity changes needed to change from Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) to SNAP in Puerto Rico as presented in the 2010 feasibility study. The study findings are presented in a report and an implementation plan.
- **Best Practices in the SNAP Employment and Training Program: 2016–2020** is the second in a series of reviews of effective employment and training (E&T) program components and practices focusing on SNAP E&T and other public workforce programs in literature published from 2016 to 2020.
- **Evaluation of the Implementation of Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives (FINI): Final Report** presents the final findings from the Congressionally mandated grant program and evaluation. The report includes information about the number of incentives issued and redeemed at FINI retailers and characteristics of the retailers involved in the grant program.
- **Indicators of Diet Quality, Nutrition, and Health for Americans by Program Participation Status, 2011–2016: The SNAP Report** uses National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data to examine the relationship between SNAP participation and indicators of diet quality, nutrition, and health. The study compares SNAP participants with income-eligible and higher income nonparticipants, by age and gender.

Community Food Projects

The Community Food Projects program is authorized under Section 25 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008. The Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program supports the development of Community Food Projects with a one-time infusion of Federal dollars to make such projects self-sustaining. While funding was set at \$5 million per year in the 2008 Farm Bill, Section 4026 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 increased that amount to \$9 million beginning in 2015. This grant program is administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Farmers' Markets and Direct-Marketing Farmers

In 2022, FNS continued work through a grant to a non-profit organization to increase the participation of farmers and markets in SNAP; and thereby improve access to fresh fruits and vegetables by SNAP recipients. This grant was awarded in 2019, with approximately \$4 million provided to the grantee over 4 years. FNS's goal is to gradually move farmers and markets from a subsidized equipment program to a more cost-efficient application-based solution that enables processing via smart devices that are owned by a farmer or market.

In 2021, FNS awarded a multi-year grant to a non-profit organization to support the participation of farmers online. In 2022, an ecommerce platform was developed and tested for use by farmers to accept SNAP benefits online. This grant will provide a subsidized ecommerce platform to assist SNAP authorized farmers in their ability to accept online SNAP payments.

In 2022, FNS also continued working with States to provide SNAP-authorized farmers/markets with SNAP-only equipment (i.e., equipment that can only process SNAP transactions, but not debit/credit transactions), at no cost to the farmers/markets. Twenty-nine States asked for and received such funding in 2019 and several States extended access to these funds for one final fiscal year in 2022.

As of September 30, 2022, the number of SNAP-authorized farmers markets and direct marketing farmers totaled 6,038. Final redemption numbers for 2022 totaled \$72,801,104 which is 24 percent increase over 2021.

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR PUERTO RICO (NAP)**Program Mission**

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 added a new Section 19 to the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, which replaced SNAP in Puerto Rico with a block grant, effective July 1, 1982. Section 19 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, retains the authority for the Puerto Rico nutrition assistance block grant. The block grant requires that Puerto Rico submit and gain approval from the Secretary for a program plan each year. The plan must assess the food and nutrition needs of the island's neediest residents, describe the assistance needed, describe how it would be provided to the neediest residents, describe the amount of administrative expense needed, and meet such other requirements as the Secretary might prescribe by regulation. The Secretary is required to provide for the review of programs for assistance under Section 19 and is allowed to provide appropriate technical assistance for such programs. As of 2021, no benefits are provided in the form of cash.

On May 15, 2020, FNS approved the NAP Relief Comprehensive Plan Amendment and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) and Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) for the Puerto Rico Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) Plan. The June NAP Relief benefits were approved to be issued in May. The CARES and FFCRA funding of \$295 million were distributed in June and July 2020 by issuing the maximum allotment to all households. All elderly households' benefits were increased by an additional amount of \$16 in June and July 2020. On February 24, 2021, FNS approved the NAP Relief Comprehensive Plan for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA) for \$597 million to issue maximum household benefits in March, April, May, and June 2021. All elderly households' benefits will increased by an additional amount of \$24. On July 28, 2021, FNA approved Puerto Rico's NAP (PR NAP) American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Plan for \$966.12 million beginning July 2021 for a 12-month period, until June 2022 to issue an additional \$58 benefit allotment to all NAP households. NAP elderly household benefit levels increased by an additional \$11 over the \$58 for an anticipated 12-month period.

Facts in Brief

- On average, an estimated 1.49 million people were served monthly during 2022.
- In 2022, total benefit costs were \$2.439 billion for the Regular NAP.
- Puerto Rico spent an estimated \$31 million of Federal funds on administrative activities in 2022, which are matched by an equivalent amount of State funds.

Federal Responsibilities of the Block Grant

Puerto Rico proposes its annual program plan that estimates the costs of benefits, administration, and other projects in July for the fiscal year beginning on the following October 1. FNS must review and approve the Commonwealth’s annual plan and monitor program operations to ensure program integrity. These monitoring activities include reviewing financial reports of obligations and expenditures and on-site management reviews of selected program operations. The cost of these components for 2019 through 2022 are as follows:

Table FNS-73. Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico Summary of Funding

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual
Benefits Costs.....	\$1,889,307	\$1,906,371	\$1,985,094	\$2,243,383
Administrative Costs	29,229	28,760	31,373	28,150
Nutrition Education Program.....	45	35	35	41
Total Federal Funds.....	1,918,581	1,935,166	2,016,502	2,271,574
State Administrative Costs	29,229	28,760	31,373	28,150
Total Program Costs.....	1,947,810	1,963,926	2,047,875	2,495,683

NAP Relief Grant

Table FNS-74. NAP 2020 and 2021 Supplemental Relief

	20/21 FFCRA CARES	2021 ARPA	2021 NAP PEBT	2022 NAP PEBT
Benefits Costs.....	\$294,051	\$250,459	\$725,245	\$283,212
Administrative Costs	2,743	50	1,777	554
Nutrition Education Program.....	-	-	-	-
Total Federal Funds.....	296,794	250,509	727,022	283,766
State Administrative Costs	-	-	-	-
Total Program Costs.....	296,794	250,509	727,022	283,766

Participation

From its inception, the NAP in Puerto Rico served a much higher proportion of the total population than the United States as a whole, due to the significantly lower living standards in Puerto Rico. This continues to be the case under the block grant program. An average of 1.49 million persons were served monthly or about 4 percent of Puerto Rico’s total estimated population of 3.2 million participated in the program in 2022. Average monthly participation for 2019 through 2021 actual and 2022 estimate is as follows:

Table FNS-75. Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico Summary of Participation

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimate
Average Number of Person (million)	1.34	1.43	1.53	1.49
Average Number of Households	726,387	758,367	858,345	837,655
Average Household Size (persons).....	1.84	1.88	1.79	1.77
Average Benefit per Household	\$299	\$294	\$292	\$274

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICAN SAMOA

Program Mission

The American Samoa Nutrition Assistance Program (AS NAP) was authorized by Public Law 96-597 (December 24, 1980) and began on July 1, 1994. The program is now operating under the authority of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, Section 19.

- A monthly average of 4,349 persons, or about 8.7 percent of American Samoa’s total estimated population of 49,710 (based on 2020 Census) was served and issued ASNAP benefits during 2022.
- In 2022 average monthly benefits cost \$737,967 or \$169.69 per person. American Samoa spent \$1,427,877 for administrative activities for 2022. The block granting provides for 100 percent of administrative and benefit costs.
- In 2022, American Samoa received \$8,841,384 for P-EBT and \$567,067 for the administration of the program.
 - Number of students served: 12,894
 - Total benefits issued: \$7,393,922
 - Administrative cost: \$357,269.32
- The program serves the low-income elderly, blind, and disabled population.
- American Samoa utilizes printed food coupons.

For 2022, American Samoa’s block grant increased to \$10.047 million. The budget consisted of the following:

- \$8,310,303 for benefits
- \$1,736,697 for administration

Federal Responsibilities of the Block Grant

American Samoa submits a memorandum of understanding (MOU) each fiscal year specifying how the program will be operated, including eligibility requirements to stay within the capped block grant amount. FNS must review and approve the annual MOU and monitor program operations to ensure program integrity. These monitoring activities include reviewing financial reports of obligations and expenditures and on-site management reviews of selected program operations.

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Program Mission

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands’ (CNMI) nutrition assistance program began on July 2, 1982. The program was authorized by Public Law 96-597 (December 24, 1980), which allowed USDA to extend programs administered by the Department to CNMI and other territories.

Section 4031 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 authorizes a feasibility study on implementing SNAP (in a manner similar to SNAP in the States) or an appropriate alternative in CNMI. In August 2016, the feasibility study was completed and published. CNMI opted to use the additional funding appropriated under the Agricultural Act of 2014 to enhance their existing Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP), which was an authorized option. CNMI’s enhanced NAP called E-NAP increases the income eligibility limits, increases the allotment benefits for each of the islands, implements a new eligibility system with Electronic Benefit Transfer interface capabilities, and adjusts resources (staffing and administrative costs) as needed.

Facts in Brief

- In 2022, CNMI’s annual NAP block grant was increased from \$12.148 million to \$30 million to meet CNMI’s upward adjustments to the NAP income eligibility standards and the maximum monthly allotments. Yearly funding is provided to the CNMI based on an approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Per the MOU, funds provided to the CNMI is operated based on a 24-months performance period contingent the funds are expended consistent with the approved spending plan. Funds unobligated by the CNMI during the initial 12 months are used in the latter 12 months for Program Benefits. Approximately, \$6.8 million was carried over from 2021 to 2022.

- In 2022, CNMI was approved \$30 million from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for nutrition assistance program of which \$7.5 million was allocated for 2022.
- In 2022, CNMI's P-EBT plan for SY 2020-2021 for Summer Benefits was approved. CNMI was provided P-EBT funds in total of \$5,731,875 of which \$5,519,676 was allocated for P-EBT summer benefits and \$212,199 for P-EBT administrative costs. Approximately, 12,005 school aged children and children in child care were served for average summer benefits of \$441 per child.
- For 2022, CNMI was operating on a total budget of \$50,062,414 to implement NAP and summer benefits for SY 2020-2021.
- In the NAP Program, an average of 4,861 households were served per month during 2022 for an average of \$3,159,063 per month or \$649.82 per household.
- CNMI NAP is allowed to set the eligibility standards within the capped block grant.
- CNMI NAP utilizes food coupons.
- CNMI NAP is currently negotiating with an EBT vendor to engage in a contract with CNMI to implement NAP EBT.

Federal Responsibilities of the Block Grant and Enhanced Funds

The CNMI submits a memorandum of understanding (MOU) each fiscal year, specifying how the program will be operated, including eligibility requirements to stay within the capped block grant amount. FNS must review and approve the annual MOU and monitor program and fiscal operations to ensure program integrity. These monitoring activities include reviewing financial reports of obligations and expenditures and on-site management reviews of selected program operations.

In addition to the MOU negotiations process, if CNMI is making changes to the approved E-NAP, a revised plan must be submitted to FNS for review and approval.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (FDPIR)

Program Mission

FDPIR is an alternative nutrition assistance program to SNAP for income-eligible households residing on Indian reservations and income-eligible Indian tribal households in designated areas near reservations or in designated service areas in Oklahoma. FDPIR is authorized by Section 4(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, to allow Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) or an agency of the State government to operate a food distribution program for households who prefer USDA Foods to SNAP benefits. Each month, participating households receive a food package to help them maintain a nutritionally balanced diet. Participants may select from approximately 150 products including a wide selection of fresh produce as well as offerings of traditional foods. The variety of foods available in the FDPIR food package includes:

- Fresh, frozen, and canned fruits and vegetables, as well as dried fruits and bottled juices
- Frozen and canned beef, chicken, pork, fish, and bison
- Pasta, cereal, rice, flour, bakery mix, yellow cornmeal, blue cornmeal, and other enriched and whole grains
- Dried and canned beans and soups
- Peanut butter and peanuts
- Shell eggs and dried egg mix
- Cheese, low-fat milk, nonfat dry, and evaporated milk
- Vegetable oil and butter

Facts in Brief

Federal administrative funding is provided to ITOs and State agencies to support the administrative cost of operating the program. Administrative funding is also provided for nutrition education related activities, which can include individual nutrition counseling, group cooking demonstrations, nutrition classes, and the dissemination of resources, including recipes using USDA Foods. Households may not participate in FDPIR and SNAP in the same month.

Table FNS-76. FDPIR Participation and Costs

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average Participation (in Thousands).....	93.0	90.2	87.2	47.9	45.2
Per Person Per Month Food Cost (Entitlement)....	\$62.02	\$71.96	\$73.63	\$77.37	\$87.02
Total FNS Food Cost (in Millions).....	\$69.25	\$76.09	\$68.14	\$30.44	\$47.2

Note: Total Per Person Food Costs differ from commodity procurement obligations due to inventory level changes.

Self-Determination Demonstration Project: During 2022, FNS implemented the FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration Project authorized under the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L 115-334, the 2018 Farm Bill). The demonstration project allows for FNS to enter self-determination contracts with Tribes to purchase food for distribution to their FDPIR participants in lieu of USDA purchasing the food. FNS received a total of \$6 million in 2020 and 2021 appropriations combined to carry out this demonstration project. Contracts were awarded to 8 Tribal Organizations to participate in the demonstration project with some contracts expected to last up to three years. Participating Tribal Organizations are purchasing a variety of products including meats, fish, grains and fresh produce. FNS also entered into a formal agreement with the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to support and manage the contract execution of the demonstration project. BIA has longstanding experience and expertise in self-determination and, through the partnership, assisted FNS in drafting, negotiating, managing, and executing self-determination contracts for the selected Tribal Organizations. In 2022, FNS received an additional \$3 million to continue to support the demonstration project. During the year, FNS engaged in three Tribal consultation meetings with Tribal leaders to receive input and feedback on project criteria and expansion. On October 18, 2022, FNS successfully published Federal Notice 87 FR 63023, which announced a second solicitation of proposals for new FDPIR Tribal Organizations to participate. FNS expects to award new self-determination contracts under the solicitation by the end of 2023. A project website was launched and can be viewed at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fdpi/self-determination>.

Food Package: FNS continues its commitment to improve the food package offered under FDPIR through the FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group. The Work Group, consisting of National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (NAFDPIR)-appointed representatives, including nutritionists, and FNS and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) staff, is focusing on ways to better meet the nutritional needs and food preferences of program participants nationwide. The Work Group seeks to enhance the food package by exploring ways to increase the variety, flexibility and acceptability of products offered while maintaining its high nutritional value. Since 2015, FNS and its procurement partner, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), have awarded contracts to deliver a selection of traditional foods including blue cornmeal, ground bison, frozen wild salmon, catfish, traditionally harvested wild rice and walleye. The traditional foods are among the wide variety of nutrient-dense options offered in the FDPIR Food Package, with items available from each food group (fruit, vegetables, grains, protein foods, dairy) to support a healthy dietary pattern as recommended by the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. In support of enhanced variety in 2022, the Work Group voted to have AMS conduct market research on five new foods to add to the food package: frozen strawberries, low-sodium turkey deli meat, frozen stir fry mix, olive oil, and bison stew meat.

Nutrition Education Activities: In 2022, FNS awarded \$995,604 in FDPIR Nutrition Education (FDPNE) Grants to 13 grantees benefiting FDPIR participants across nine States. The grants promote the healthy foods offered in FDPIR and align with the goals of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025*. In 2020, FNS initiated work on a two-year cooperative agreement with the Oklahoma Tribal Engagement Partners (OKTEP) to develop and implement a nutrition paraprofessional pilot project. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate impact on Tribal partners, implementation of in-person paraprofessional training was put on hold during 2021. In 2022, OKTEP conducted one in-person training in Minnesota for 11 FDPIR local agency staff and developed additional nutrition education turn-key resources that will be publicly made available to FDPIR programs. FNS awarded a \$1 million non-competitive cooperative agreement to OKTEP to conduct additional regional in-person trainings for FDPIR local agency staff each year until 2025.

Beginning in 2022, administrative funds for nutrition education increased to \$4 million to allow for more dedicated funds to be disseminated to Tribal organizations for nutrition education activities. This is a 16-fold increase over the previous annual funding level of \$250,000. FDPIR administrative funds for nutrition education are separate and distinct from the FDPNE grant awards and will be made available annually. FNS received feedback from Tribal leaders and Tribal nutrition and health professionals on how funds should be allocated and culturally appropriate approaches to nutrition education and technical assistance needed to empower tribes to determine and build their

capacity to utilize additional funds. FNS released the funding allocation plan which provides each tribe a baseline allocation of \$17,500. Tribes can request additional funding above and beyond the baseline allocation non-competitively as needed. FNS also released an updated guide for allowable expenses that provides Tribes more flexibility to utilize the funds in a way that better supports their cultural needs and preferences when delivering nutrition education.

FDPIR Automated Inventory System: In 2018, FNS began to replace the Automated Inventory System (AIS), an old, non-web-based system used by most Indian Tribal Organizations to manage inventory and food issuance for FDPIR. In 2022, FNS continued work on the new Integrated Food Management System (IFMS), an updated food ordering and inventory system, which will provide enhanced security and improved business processes that support FDPIR operations including new required features such as eligibility determination and tailgating ability. Implementation of IFMS to additional ITOs continued during the year with a total of 78 ITOs out of 117 ITOs (or 68 percent) using the system by the end of 2022.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**Table FNS-77. Summary of Benefit Costs, Participation and State Administrative Funding 2022**

State or Territory	Persons (1,000's)	Households (1,000's)	Total Value of Benefits Issued (\$1,000's)	Average Monthly Benefit per Person	State Administrative, Nutrition Education, and Employment & Training Funding (\$1,000's)
Alabama.....	894	511	\$2,688,036	\$250.45	\$46,429
Alaska.....	102	49	368,250	301.70	11,257
Arizona.....	865	416	2,020,148	194.68	68,110
Arkansas.....	328	169	697,555	177.37	40,250
California.....	5,397	3,385	17,958,620	277.30	1,227,258
Colorado.....	604	340	1,700,700	234.65	80,572
Connecticut.....	400	240	1,218,265	253.73	75,681
Delaware.....	143	76	374,436	218.30	18,583
District of Columbia.....	148	91	486,096	274.16	35,242
Florida.....	3,125	1,772	5,957,763	158.89	77,244
Georgia.....	1,735	889	5,438,102	261.18	121,867
Hawaii.....	191	116	966,028	421.30	22,955
Idaho.....	132	67	256,367	161.76	9,651
Illinois.....	2,062	1,128	5,976,502	241.55	169,477
Indiana.....	716	356	1,809,969	210.64	61,905
Iowa.....	315	174	616,042	163.21	25,409
Kansas.....	209	104	617,021	246.25	29,237
Kentucky.....	624	321	1,539,921	205.60	80,759
Louisiana.....	962	540	2,812,908	243.76	95,382
Maine.....	182	110	533,079	244.58	16,660
Maryland.....	917	508	2,448,809	222.54	91,027
Massachusetts.....	1,164	730	3,430,766	245.53	80,007
Michigan.....	1,473	823	4,439,913	251.12	147,812
Minnesota.....	489	277	1,718,865	293.13	79,912
Mississippi.....	469	263	1,128,509	200.56	29,732
Missouri.....	661	326	1,327,445	167.24	67,499
Montana.....	102	51	171,338	140.60	14,383
Nebraska.....	169	84	300,895	148.42	27,312
Nevada.....	565	325	1,632,189	240.83	30,593
New Hampshire.....	77	41	219,841	236.42	8,864
New Jersey.....	933	501	2,841,085	253.87	174,056
New Mexico.....	571	312	1,699,151	247.92	29,780
New York.....	3,159	1,930	10,541,572	278.05	384,271
North Carolina.....	1,814	975	5,271,014	242.16	136,908
North Dakota.....	52	26	111,665	179.28	12,230
Ohio.....	1,883	1,148	4,812,526	212.98	125,003
Oklahoma.....	767	415	2,259,184	245.43	48,687
Oregon.....	758	455	2,272,275	249.93	161,769
Pennsylvania.....	2,064	1,206	5,592,614	225.79	209,013
Rhode Island.....	156	97	461,218	246.24	20,764
South Carolina.....	674	359	2,038,545	252.03	28,275
South Dakota.....	79	38	179,833	189.40	11,257
Tennessee.....	947	540	2,179,233	191.67	100,058
Texas.....	3,938	1,869	11,483,570	243.03	198,008
Utah.....	197	93	509,524	214.99	21,498
Vermont.....	77	46	233,012	250.83	12,110
Virginia.....	899	477	2,748,805	254.74	162,395
Washington.....	935	566	2,804,453	249.88	118,223
West Virginia.....	359	206	1,013,102	235.04	20,933
Wisconsin.....	738	393	2,091,427	236.05	71,255
Wyoming.....	38	22	89,098	193.49	9,681
Guam.....	39	16	160,862	340.89	1,978
Virgin Islands.....	24	13	98,254	335.14	3,726
Anticipated Adjustment.....	5,123	4,382	-23,731,537	49.00	1,028,190
TOTAL.....	41,198	21,603	\$108,614,865	\$231.58	\$5,981,138

NOTE: These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding.

* The total benefits issued includes the FFCRA and CARES Act funding and an additional \$4 billion in Contingency Reserve Funding.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**Table FNS-78. Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Participation and Funding 2022**

State or Territory	Average Monthly Participation	Food Costs ^{1/}	Admin Funding ^{2/}	Total
Alaska	223	\$231,946	\$47,260	\$279,206
Arizona.....	4,211	4,612,196	1,761,603	6,373,798
California	2,078	2,014,498	3,374,604	5,389,102
Colorado.....	183	163,507	226,307	389,814
Idaho	823	846,649	721,996	1,568,646
Kansas	390	387,334	109,152	496,486
Michigan	1,067	1,021,881	1,298,296	2,320,176
Minnesota.....	1,061	1,203,051	1,840,340	3,043,391
Mississippi	713	645,777	356,536	1,002,313
Montana	1,915	2,055,268	3,284,284	5,339,552
Nebraska	729	681,636	508,512	1,190,148
Nevada	710	559,882	456,963	1,016,845
New Mexico.....	1,415	1,266,645	1,687,366	2,954,011
New York.....	157	141,153	425,986	567,139
North Carolina.....	521	533,409	153,223	686,632
North Dakota.....	3,673	3,725,911	3,269,396	6,995,307
Oklahoma.....	15,848	16,981,685	10,917,654	27,899,339
Oregon	244	283,855	705,890	989,745
South Dakota.....	5,836	6,596,499	4,463,411	11,059,911
Texas	30	17,039	169,850	186,889
Utah.....	193	183,204	71,615	254,819
Washington	1,544	1,475,242	2,064,226	3,539,467
Wisconsin.....	1,250	1,216,866	2,027,559	3,244,425
Wyoming.....	381	374,953	276,603	651,556
AMS/WBSCM/Comp Payment.....	-	339,074	-	339,074
Anticipated Adjustment.....	-	22,069,677	18,687,751	40,757,428
TOTAL.....	45,193	\$69,628,837	\$58,906,383	\$128,535,219

SOURCE: FPRS FNS-152 data – Food distributed to participants in fiscal year 2022.

^{1/} Total value of entitlement foods. Costs do not include bonus commodities, food losses, storage and transportation for certain items (Group A fruits and vegetables, all Group B commodities), the value of food used for nutrition education, or the Department of Defense Regional Pilot.

^{2/} Administrative funding represents the total of Federal outlays and unliquidated obligations.

NOTE: These data are based in part on preliminary reports submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revisions are received. Totals reflect Federal obligations and differ from State reported data.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**Table FNS-79. Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations *Quantity and Value of Commodities 2022***

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
APPLESAUCE, UNSWEETENED, CUP	294,840	\$345,782
APRICOTS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	182,250	239,533
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK, LOW-SODIUM.....	71,145	50,888
BEANS, CANNED, GREEN, LOW-SODIUM.....	401,483	303,369
BEANS, CANNED, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, LOW-SODIUM	249,008	171,498
BEANS, CANNED, PINTO, LOW-SODIUM	142,290	106,151
BEANS, CANNED, REFRIED, LOW-SODIUM.....	73,440	77,143
BEANS, CANNED, VEGETARIAN, LOW-SODIUM.....	146,880	98,945
BEANS, DRY, PINTO, NO SALT ADDED	241,920	179,865
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN.....	1,466,640	5,062,765
BEEF, ROUND ROAST, FROZEN	800,000	4,151,252
BEEF, CANNED	108,000	493,304
BEEF, STEW, CANNED.....	360,000	763,920
BISON, GROUND, FROZEN	200,000	1,838,900
BLUEBERRIES, HIGHBUSH, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED.....	280,000	599,128
BUTTER, SALTED.....	246,240	756,326
BUTTERY SPREAD, LIGHT, ZERO GRAMS TRANS FAT	279,350	434,665
CARROTS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	291,600	199,600
CARROTS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	396,000	337,986
CATFISH, FILLETS, FROZEN	342,000	2,494,320
CEREAL, CORN FLAKES	116,640	168,665
CEREAL, CORN SQUARES	75,600	175,899
CEREAL, OAT CIRCLES.....	98,784	160,127
CEREAL, RICE CRISPS.....	79,380	148,623
CEREAL, WHEAT BRAN FLAKES	87,208	128,113
CEREAL, WHEAT FARINA	76,500	92,508
CEREAL, WHEAT SHREDDED.....	110,700	144,871
CHEESE, AMERICAN	1,346,400	3,455,441
CHEESE, AMERICAN, REDUCED FAT	475,200	1,084,901
CHICKEN, BONELESS BREAST, FROZEN	663,000	2,573,610
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED.....	114,450	275,655
CHICKEN, WHOLE, BAGGED, FROZEN.....	316,800	439,742
CORN, CANNED, CREAM STYLE, LOW-SODIUM.....	255,150	252,040
CORN, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED.....	892,550	705,887
CORNMEAL, BLUE.....	76,032	117,850
CORNMEAL, YELLOW.....	342,720	144,324
CRACKERS, UNSALTED.....	229,644	501,169
CRANBERRY SAUCE, CANNED.....	73,440	99,695
USDA DoD FRESH PRODUCE	-	7,683,401
EGG NOODLES.....	322,560	875,280
EGG MIX, DRIED.....	144,000	1,535,972
FLOUR, 100% WHITE WHOLE WHEAT	160,000	62,480
FLOUR, ALL PURPOSE, ENRICHED	2,056,320	801,673
FLOUR, BAKERY MIX, LOWFAT	280,800	422,737
FRUIT AND NUT MIX, DRIED.....	209,664	600,629
JUICE, APPLE, UNSWEETENED	1,075,111	791,811
JUICE, CHERRY APPLE, UNSWEETENED	321,030	291,182
JUICE, CRANBERRY APPLE, UNSWEETENED	178,350	176,813
JUICE, GRAPE, UNSWEETENED	677,730	574,461
JUICE, ORANGE, UNSWEETENED.....	606,390	460,912
JUICE, TOMATO, LOW-SODIUM.....	107,010	46,535
MACARONI AND CHEESE	178,133	165,485

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
MILK, SKIM, EVAPORATED, CANNED.....	297,432	331,135
MILK, NONFAT, DRY.....	89,856	362,659
MILK, 1%, UHT.....	2,734,078	1,321,093
MIXED FRUIT, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP.....	358,020	369,587
MIXED VEGETABLES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	291,600	253,287
OATS.....	90,720	104,763
OIL, VEGETABLE.....	449,064	482,819
PASTA, ENRICHED.....	618,540	566,812
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP.....	672,255	761,872
PEANUT BUTTER.....	241,920	316,735
PEANUTS, ROASTED, NO SALT ADDED.....	103,680	146,966
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP.....	489,848	523,886
PEAS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	316,800	418,239
PLUMS, DRIED, UNSWEETENED.....	108,000	297,195
PORK CHOPS, FROZEN.....	494,000	1,479,864
PORK, HAM, FROZEN.....	468,480	1,360,154
POTATOES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	73,440	49,878
POTATOES, DEHYDRATED FLAKES.....	210,000	383,242
PUMPKIN, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	109,350	168,075
RAISINS, UNSWEETENED.....	155,520	242,822
RICE, WHITE.....	120,960	63,863
SALMON, WILD FILLETS, FROZEN.....	216,000	2,666,232
SOUP, CANNED, TOMATO, LOW-SODIUM.....	177,375	186,208
SOUP, CANNED, VEGETABLE, LOW-SODIUM.....	106,425	118,404
SOUP, CREAM OF CHICKEN, REDUCED SODIUM.....	248,325	259,516
SOUP, CREAM OF MUSHROOM, REDUCED SODIUM.....	283,800	323,994
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	218,700	171,979
SPINACH, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	33,915	44,945
TOMATOES, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED.....	125,150	109,257
TOMATO SAUCE, LOW-SODIUM.....	309,825	251,486
TORTILLAS, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH.....	144,000	152,280
TUNA, LIGHT, CANNED.....	129,600	385,884
WALLEYE, FILLETS, FROZEN.....	72,000	892,800
SUBTOTAL COMMODITY ENTITLEMENT.....	28,879,058	59,431,763
Anticipated Transportation and Storage.....	-	\$8,139,530
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expenses.....	-	339,074
Anticipated Adjustment.....	-	1,718,470
TOTAL COMMODITY ENTITLEMENT.....	28,879,058	69,628,837
TOTAL – ALL COMMODITIES.....	28,879,058	69,628,837
GRAND TOTAL – FDPPIR.....	28,879,058	69,628,837

Source: WBSCM—Sales Order and contract information.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**Table FNS-80. Firms Authorized to Receive & Redeem Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits 2022**

State	Retailers	Wholesalers	Drug and/or Alcohol Treatment Program	Shelter for Battered Women and Children	Communal Dining Facility	Group Living Arrangement	Homeless Meal Provider	Meal Delivery Service
Alabama.....	4,871	-	25	1	-	18	2	-
Alaska.....	533	-	12	-	-	-	-	1
Arizona.....	3,838	-	4	1	-	-	1	3
Arkansas.....	2,675	-	12	-	-	-	1	-
California.....	24,503	-	69	2	1	-	10	2
Colorado.....	3,108	-	4	-	1	1	1	2
Connecticut.....	2,480	-	13	-	2	-	-	-
Delaware.....	833	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
District of Columbia.....	440	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Florida.....	15,226	-	49	-	1	20	3	2
Georgia.....	9,825	-	5	-	2	3	-	-
Guam.....	245	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hawaii.....	915	-	10	-	-	1	-	2
Idaho.....	1,141	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Illinois.....	9,344	-	4	-	9	10	2	8
Indiana.....	5,541	-	2	1	-	-	3	8
Iowa.....	3,003	-	10	-	1	-	1	2
Kansas.....	2,073	-	11	-	6	6	1	3
Kentucky.....	4,547	-	70	-	-	-	1	-
Louisiana.....	4,329	-	7	-	-	-	7	-
Maine.....	1,421	-	6	1	8	3	-	1
Maryland.....	3,752	-	5	-	4	16	3	1
Massachusetts.....	5,408	-	45	1	3	97	3	-
Michigan.....	9,519	-	11	-	16	28	3	14
Minnesota.....	3,589	-	-	-	4	-	-	4
Mississippi.....	3,198	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Missouri.....	4,971	-	8	-	-	-	3	2
Montana.....	786	-	3	-	9	9	1	-
Nebraska.....	1,406	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
Nevada.....	1,924	-	6	-	1	-	3	-
New Hampshire.....	1,055	-	3	-	-	1	1	1
New Jersey.....	5,797	-	10	-	-	1	2	-
New Mexico.....	1,663	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
New York.....	16,943	1	102	-	18	183	5	29
North Carolina.....	9,155	-	2	-	-	-	1	1
North Dakota.....	574	-	3	-	17	1	-	5
Ohio.....	9,965	-	22	-	1	1	-	4
Oklahoma.....	3,699	-	13	-	-	-	1	-
Oregon.....	3,401	-	27	-	3	28	6	1
Pennsylvania.....	10,261	-	11	-	2	16	19	11
Rhode Island.....	917	-	2	-	3	3	-	-
South Carolina.....	5,120	-	1	-	-	1	1	1
South Dakota.....	755	-	3	-	9	16	-	3
Tennessee.....	6,517	-	19	-	-	17	-	-
Texas.....	21,629	-	22	-	-	5	2	-
Utah.....	1,564	-	4	-	2	-	-	-
Vermont.....	692	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Virgin Islands.....	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia.....	6,318	-	10	-	-	2	-	2
Washington.....	4,936	-	16	-	2	7	3	5
West Virginia.....	2,161	-	11	-	-	-	1	-
Wisconsin.....	4,326	-	1	-	17	-	3	9
Wyoming.....	375	-	3	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL.....	253,376	1	693	7	144	494	96	127

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**Table FNS-81. Firms Authorized to Receive and Redeem Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits 2022**

State	Private Restaurant/Meal Delivery	Sr Citizens Center/Residential Building	Grand Total
Alabama.....	-	-	4,917
Alaska.....	-	-	546
Arizona.....	551	-	4,398
Arkansas.....	-	-	2,688
California.....	2,905	-	27,492
Colorado.....	-	-	3,117
Connecticut.....	-	-	2,495
Delaware.....	-	-	836
District of Columbia.....	-	-	441
Florida.....	-	-	15,301
Georgia.....	-	1	9,836
Guam.....	-	-	245
Hawaii.....	-	-	928
Idaho.....	-	-	1,141
Illinois.....	5	141	9,523
Indiana.....	-	1	5,556
Iowa.....	-	-	3,017
Kansas.....	-	-	2,100
Kentucky.....	-	-	4,618
Louisiana.....	-	-	4,343
Maine.....	-	-	1,440
Maryland.....	2	1	3,784
Massachusetts.....	-	3	5,560
Michigan.....	13	3	9,607
Minnesota.....	-	1	3,598
Mississippi.....	-	-	3,199
Missouri.....	-	-	4,984
Montana.....	-	2	810
Nebraska.....	-	-	1,418
Nevada.....	-	-	1,934
New Hampshire.....	-	1	1,062
New Jersey.....	-	1	5,811
New Mexico.....	-	-	1,664
New York.....	-	5	17,286
North Carolina.....	-	-	9,159
North Dakota.....	-	-	600
Ohio.....	-	-	9,993
Oklahoma.....	-	-	3,713
Oregon.....	-	1	3,467
Pennsylvania.....	-	-	10,320
Rhode Island.....	10	-	935
South Carolina.....	-	-	5,124
South Dakota.....	-	-	786
Tennessee.....	-	1	6,554
Texas.....	-	-	21,658
Utah.....	-	-	1,570
Vermont.....	-	-	694
Virgin Islands.....	-	-	109
Virginia.....	3	-	6,335
Washington.....	-	-	4,969
West Virginia.....	-	-	2,173
Wisconsin.....	-	-	4,356
Wyoming.....	-	-	379
TOTAL.....	3,489	162	258,589

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

1 For necessary expenses to carry out disaster assistance and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program as authorized by
 2 section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note); the Emergency Food
 3 Assistance Act of 1983; special assistance for the nuclear affected islands, as authorized by section 103(f)(2) of the
 4 Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–188); and the Farmers’ Market Nutrition
 5 Program, as authorized by section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, [~~\$457,710,000~~]\$517,070,000, to remain
 6 available through September 30, [2024]2025: *Provided*, That none of these funds shall be available to reimburse the
 7 Commodity Credit Corporation for commodities donated to the program: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any
 8 other provision of law, effective with funds made available in p [2023]2024 to support the Seniors Farmers’ Market
 9 Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, such funds
 10 shall remain available through September 30, [2024]2025: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under
 11 section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)), the Secretary may use up to 20 percent for costs
 12 associated with the distribution of commodities.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table FNS-82. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2023	\$457,710,000
Change in Appropriation	<u>+59,360,000</u>
Budget Estimate, 2024	<u>\$517,070,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table FNS-83. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTE)

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc/ Dec	FTE Inc/Dec	Chg Key
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE			
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Commodity Supplemental Food Program.....	\$325,000	-	\$332,000	-	\$338,640	-	\$390,000	-	+\$51,360	-	(1)
Farmer's Market	21,000	-	26,000	-	26,000	-	26,000	-	-	-	
TEFAP Admin	79,630	-	81,000	-	92,000	-	100,000	-	+8,000	-	(2)
Nuclear Affected Islands	574	-	574	-	574	-	574	-	-	-	
Disaster Assistance.....	496	-	496	-	496	-	496	-	-	-	
Total Regular Appropriations.....	426,700	3	440,070	3	457,710	3	517,070	3	+59,360	-	
Direct Appropriations:											
TEFAP Farm Bill Projects.....	3,772	-	3,772	-	3,772	-	3,772	-	-	-	
Sequestration.....	228	-	228	-	228	-	228	-	-	-	
Total Direct Appropriations.....	4,000	3	4,000	3	4,000	3	4,000	3	-	-	
Supplemental Appropriations:											
FFCRA.....											
TEFAP FFCRA Food Supplemental	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TEFAP FFCRA Admin Supplemental	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
CARES Act.....											
TEFAP Food CARES Act.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TEFAP Admin CARES Act.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Emergency Supplemental (Division N).....											
TEFAP COVID.....	400,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
CSFP COVID.....	13,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
American Rescue Plan.....											
CSFP Rescue Plan Supplemental	37,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal.....	450,000	3	-	3	-	3	-	3	-	-	
Total Adjusted Appropriations.....	880,700	3	444,070	3	461,710	3	521,070	3	+59,360	-	
Transfers In:											
Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program ¹	19,426	-	19,426	-	19,426	-	19,426	-	-	-	
Sequestration.....	1,174	-	1,174	-	1,174	-	1,174	-	-	-	
Nutrition Services Incentive Program ²	1,348	-	1,438	-	2,193	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Transfers In.....	21,948	-	22,038	-	22,793	-	20,600	-	-	-	
Total Adjusted Appropriation.....	902,648	3	466,108	3	484,503	3	541,670	3	+59,360	-	
Less Transfers and Direct Appropriation:											
SFMNP, NSIP, Sequesters & TEFAP Farm Bill	-25,948	-	-26,038	-	-26,793	-	-24,600	-	-	-	
Total CAP Appropriation.....	876,700	3	440,070	3	457,710	3	517,070	3	+59,360	-	

¹ Section 4402(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007(a)) authorizes the transfer of \$20,600,000 from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) for the SFMNP.

² Section 311(d)(3) of the Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. 3030a) authorizes the transfer of NSIP funds from HHS for the purchase of USDA Foods and related expenses for the elderly. The NSIP amount for 2024 will be determined at a later date.

Table FNS-84. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTE)

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc/Dec
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE		
Discretionary Obligations:										
Commodity Supplemental Food Program.....	\$330,779	-	\$323,586	-	\$338,640	-	\$390,000	-	+\$51,360	-
Farmer's Market	29,641	-	40,910	-	26,000	-	26,000	-	-	-
TEFAP Admin	88,657	-	88,949	-	92,000	-	100,000	-	+8,000	-
Nuclear Affected Islands	574	-	574	-	574	-	574	-	-	-
Disaster Assistance.....	322	-	312	-	496	-	496	-	-	-
Total Regular Discretionary Obligations.....	449,973	3	454,331		457,710	3	517,070	3	+59,360	-
Mandatory Direct Obligations:										
TEFAP Farm Bill Projects.....	4,000	-	7,544	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-
Sequestration	-236	-	-228	-	-228	-	-228	-	-	-
Total Regular Mandatory Obligations.....	3,764	-	7,316	-	3,772	-	3,772	-	-	-
Supplemental Obligations:										
FFCRA										
TEFAP FFCRA Food Supplemental	182,057	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEFAP FFCRA Admin Supplemental	12,465	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CARES Act										
TEFAP Food CARES Act.....	43,855	-	290	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEFAP Admin CARES Act	965	-	1,048	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Supplemental (Division N)										
TEFAP Commodity COVID Supplemental.....	327,737	-	1,174	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEFAP Admin COVID Supplemental	73,280	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CSFP Commodity COVID Supplemental	10,400	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CSFP Admin COVID Supplemental	2,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan										
CSFP Food Rescue Plan Supplemental	35,484	-	128	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CSFP Admin Rescue Plan Supplemental	1,516	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Supplemental Obligations.....	690,359	3	2,663	3	-	3	-	3	-	-
Obligations from Transfers In:										
Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program	24,908	-	24,866	-	21,174	-	21,174	-	-	-
Sequestration.....	-1,174	-	-1,174	-	-1,174	-	-1,174	-	-	-
Total Senior Farmer's Market Obligations.....	23,734	-	23,692	-	20,600	-	20,600	-	-	-
Nutrition Services Incentive Program ^{1/}	1,332	-	1,061	-	2,193	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Transfers In	25,066	-	24,753	-	22,793	-	20,600	-	-	-
Total Adjusted Obligations.....	1,169,162	3	489,063	3	484,275	3	541,442	3	+59,360	-
Recoveries (non-add)*	27,336	-	32,163	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Lapsing (non-add)*	1,510	-	350	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, SOY (non-add)*.....	247,474	-	42,637	-	49,895	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, EOY (non-add)*	42,637	-	49,895	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total CAP Obligations.....	1,169,162	3	489,063	3	484,275	3	541,442	3	+59,360	-

*non-add lines are for display purposes only. Individual amounts are already calculated within each applicable program line above.

^{1/} Section 311(d)(3) of the Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. 3030a) authorizes the transfer of NSIP funds from HHS for the purchase of USDA Foods and related expenses for the elderly. The NSIP amount for 2024 will be determined at a later date.

JUSTIFICATION OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

The numbers of the following listing relate to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement, compared to 2023 Estimated. The Commodity Assistance Program (CAP) account combines administrative funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program, the Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs, Commodity Supplemental Food Program and assistance to the six Nuclear Affected Islands of The Republic of the Marshall Islands and Disaster Relief. The Justification reflects an increase of \$59,630,000. This change includes:

- (1) An increase of \$51,360,000 for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (\$338,640,000 and 3 staff years available in 2023).

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) works to improve the health of low-income elderly persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. The program is administered in parts of all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and through five Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs). FNS also provides administrative grants to States from the appropriated funds.

According to the Census Bureau, the elderly population in the United States has been growing over the past several years and will continue to grow by an additional 27 percent by 2050. SNAP data shows that, of the proportion of the elderly population who are eligible, only about 41 percent currently receive SNAP benefits; meaning that many low-income, elderly persons rely on other sources of food assistance through food banks and food pantries, and programs such as CSFP.

CSFP requests a total appropriation of \$390 million in 2024 to continue to serve the full caseload of 764,000. This increase is due to current and projected prices for commodities as well as the assumption that, as the pandemic wanes, participation will return to higher levels. Currently, the program is experiencing lower-than-normal participation levels during the pandemic, which is a reversal of the increased participation trend seen in 2019 and early 2020. However, by 2024, FNS expects that participation will return to the robust levels seen pre-pandemic. CSFP is currently able to support caseload due to an infusion of resources from supplemental spending bills in 2021. Those additional resources will be depleted during 2023.

- (2) An increase of \$8,000,000 in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (\$92,000,000 available in 2023).

This funding is used for grants to States to support the storage and distribution of USDA Foods distributed through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) network of emergency feeding organizations (EFOs). The funding is allocated among States using a statutory formula that considers poverty and unemployment. States are required to pass through at least 40 percent of these funds to EFOs and must match any funding retained for State administrative expenses.

The Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983, as amended, authorizes \$100 million annually for TEFAP administrative funding; however, despite the ongoing demand for additional administrative funds, administrative appropriations have never reached this level. In 2022 TEFAP administrative funding appropriations were set at \$81 million. To fund the operational resources necessary to operate TEFAP, States divert resources from food funding and other programs. In 2022 State agencies were permitted to convert up to 20 percent of their TEFAP food funds into administrative funds to meet operational needs and opted to convert almost the full amount (\$49.95 million) of TEFAP food funds into administrative funds.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

Table FNS-85. Geographic Breakdown by State (thousands of dollars)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE
Maryland	-	-	\$324	2	\$337	2	\$354	-
New York	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	-
Virginia.....	\$2,063	3	2,985	1	2,995	1	3,008	3
Total, Available.....	2,063	3	3,309	3	3,335	3	3,366	3

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table FNS-86. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$133	\$166	\$143	\$150
	Personnel Compensation, Field	199	250	214	224
11	Total personnel compensation	332	416	357	374
12	Personal benefits.....	143	155	153	160
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	475	571	510	534
	Other Objects:				
26.0	Supplies and materials	904,423	330,047	318,482	374,601
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	264,264	158,445	165,283	166,307
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	1,169,162	489,063	484,275	541,442

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STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The Commodity Assistance Program (CAP) account combines funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, administrative expenses for The Emergency Food Assistance Program, assistance to the six Nuclear Affected Islands of The Republic of the Marshall Islands, Disaster Relief, the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, and the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM**Program Mission**

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) provides supplemental USDA Foods to low-income elderly persons ages 60 and over. Prior to passage of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79, the 2014 Farm Bill), CSFP also served pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age six. However, Section 4102 of the 2014 Farm Bill amended CSFP's eligibility requirements to phase women, infants, and children out of CSFP and transition it to a seniors' only program. As of February 2020, all women, infants, and children have been phased out of the program.

In FY 2022, the program was administered in parts of all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and through 8 Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs). The foods provided are purchased by USDA with funds appropriated for the program each year. CSFP participants receive monthly food packages that include foods such as canned fruits packed in extra light syrup, low-sodium or no salt added canned vegetables, dry beans, unsweetened juices, canned meats, poultry, and fish that are lower in sodium and fat, peanut butter, whole grain cereals and pasta, and reduced fat or nonfat dairy products. FNS also provides administrative grants to States from the appropriated funds.

Facts in Brief

In calendar year 2022, a total of 760,547 monthly caseload slots were allocated to participating States and ITOs (CSFP caseload is assigned by calendar year). The 2022 caseload allocation was provided in April 2022 under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-103).

For FY 2022, total program participation averaged 658,960 monthly.

Program Participation and Caseload Utilization

Each year, to the extent that resources are available, FNS assigns a base caseload to all States and ITOs participating in the program. Base caseload equals the greatest of 1) monthly average participation for the previous fiscal year; 2) monthly average participation for the final quarter of the previous fiscal year; or, in certain limited circumstances, 3) participation during September of the previous fiscal year. Base caseload cannot exceed total caseload for the previous year. If resources are available to support total caseload in excess of base caseload, States may also be eligible to receive additional caseload, which is assigned based on State requests for such caseload increases and FNS' determination of the number of slots that States can effectively use.

Table FNS-87. CSFP Average Monthly Participation

Participation ¹	2019	2020	2021	2022 (Year to date)
Women	0	0	0	0
Infants.....	0	0	0	0
Children under 6.....	18	1	0	0
<i>Total WIC Type</i>	18	1	0	0
Elderly	702,546	692,466	661,117	658,960
<i>Total, CSFP.....</i>	702,564	692,467	661,117	658,960

¹ Based on National Databank version 8.2 data through September 2022. Due to rounding, the sum of the average participation by women, infants, children, and elderly may not equal the total average participation.

Administrative Funding

Section 4201 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill, P.L. 107-171) established the method for calculating administrative funds for State agencies in CSFP. State agencies are provided an administrative grant per assigned caseload slot, adjusted each year for inflation. For FY 2022, \$84.47 was the legislatively mandated administrative grant per assigned caseload slot, up from \$82.43 in FY 2021. Allowable administrative costs include

nutrition education, warehousing, food delivery, participant certification, and other costs associated with State and local administration of the program.

Technical Assistance

FNS continues to maintain a CSFP Sharing Gallery on the FNS website to provide a way for State and local partners to find nutrition education resources appropriate for seniors. Stakeholders may submit resources for inclusion on the nutrition education Sharing Gallery.

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Program Mission

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) supplements the diets of needy Americans through donations of nutritious USDA Foods to States. States provide the food to local agencies for distribution to households for home consumption and to organizations that prepare meals for needy people. Recipients of household food packages must meet program eligibility criteria set by the States. USDA also provides TEFAP administrative funding to States to support the storage and distribution of USDA Foods and foods from other sources, including private donations.

Facts in Brief

TEFAP foods and administrative funds are allocated to States based on a formula that considers the number of unemployed people in each State and the number of persons in each State with incomes below the poverty level.

States may direct their TEFAP foods to: 1) distribution to needy households, 2) provision of meals to the needy at emergency feeding sites, or 3) a combination of the two.

Each State is responsible for selecting organizations to participate in the program, allocating foods and administrative funds among such organizations, and establishing eligibility criteria. Many local TEFAP agencies are faith-based organizations, and many depend significantly on volunteers.

Administrative Funding

TEFAP administrative funds are provided to States under the CAP account to help defray State and local costs associated with the transportation, processing, storage, and distribution of USDA Foods or foods secured from other sources, including the private sector. FY 2022 appropriations also permitted each State to convert up to twenty percent of TEFAP food funds to administrative funds. Additionally, unless expressly prohibited by appropriations legislation, States can convert any amount of their administrative funds to food funds to purchase additional USDA Foods. States can also use administrative funds to support food rescue activities such as gleaning and other food recovery efforts. In these ways, administrative funds are efficiently leveraged to increase the total flow of food, from all sources, through the TEFAP network. In FY 2022, TEFAP also received administrative funds provided under Division B, Title 1, Office of the Secretary of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

Entitlement Foods

A variety of healthful foods were purchased specifically for distribution in TEFAP in FY 2022 including fresh, frozen, and canned fruits and vegetables; protein items such as meat, fish, eggs, nuts, and beans; whole grain and enriched grains; and dairy products such as milk and cheese. Several of the USDA Foods available through TEFAP require commercial kosher or halal certification, and many more may be acceptable to kosher or halal observant communities without certification. The TEFAP Fresh Produce Box, introduced in FY 2021, provides additional fresh produce options to meet the needs of diverse communities. In FY 2022, FNS published several online resources about accessing items appropriate for kosher or halal observant communities through TEFAP. Informed by extensive outreach with State agencies and other stakeholders in FY 2022, FNS will work with the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in FY 2023 to identify additional opportunities to incorporate kosher and halal food items in TEFAP and to provide ongoing technical assistance to State agencies and food banks.

Bonus Food

In FY 2022, USDA purchased additional food items under its market support authorities and donated them for distribution through TEFAP. The total amount of bonus products purchased in FY 2022 for distribution through TEFAP outlets was \$517 million. Bonus USDA Foods included: pears, dates, raisins, hazelnuts, great northern beans, grapefruit, oranges, pink salmon, Alaska pollock, chicken, pistachios, grapes, haddock, perch, Atlantic pollock, plums, nectarines, peaches, bison, sweet potatoes, almonds, figs, walnuts, sweet cherries, rockfish, shrimp, and whiting.

TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Grants

With \$100 million in funds provided through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FNS developed a new grant program to expand TEFAP's reach into remote, rural, tribal, and/or low-income areas that are underserved by the program. In June 2022, FNS awarded more than \$39.4 million in TEFAP Reach and Resiliency round one grants to 38 TEFAP state agencies. The 38 awards represent a variety of unique and impactful projects, each tailored to the specific needs of the requesting state. Activities taking place with TEFAP Reach and Resiliency grant funds include: professional studies and assessments of TEFAP reach, cultural competency training for eligible recipient agency (ERA) staff, expanded mobile distribution infrastructure, critical freezing and cooling investments in rural areas, and targeted outreach activities in tribal areas. FNS will announce a second opportunity to award the remaining grant funds in FY 2023.

Farm to Food Bank Projects

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334, the 2018 Farm Bill) provided State agencies the opportunity to initiate Farm to Food Bank projects to harvest, process, package, or transport donated commodities for use by TEFAP emergency feeding organizations (EFOs). In FY 2022, FNS allocated \$7.54 million among 29 TEFAP State agencies that submitted plans to implement Farm to Food Bank Projects. Projects included diverting unused agricultural products at risk of going to waste to emergency feeding organizations for distribution to people in need, streamlining the processes for gleaning leftover produce for donation to EFOs and increasing the capacity of EFOs to distribute fresh produce.

FY 2022 TEFAP Spending

In FY 2022, \$81 million was appropriated for TEFAP administrative funds. In addition, the Secretary was authorized to make available up to twenty percent of TEFAP food funds to support administrative costs. The FY 2022 appropriation for TEFAP entitlement food, provided in the SNAP account, was \$393.61 million, which included the funding authorized by Section 27(a)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 as amended by Section 4018the 2018 Farm Bill.

In FY 2022, \$500 million in supplemental funding for TEFAP was provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Division B (P.L. 116-136) as part of USDA's Food Systems Transformation initiative. Of the \$500 million, State agencies had the option to accept their share of up to \$100 million as administrative funds. TEFAP state agencies chose to accept a total of \$99,734,761 as administrative funds, and the remaining \$400,265,239 was used for TEFAP food purchases.

Table FNS-88. TEFAP Summary

(in millions)	2019	2020	2021	2022
State Administrative Expenses	148.6	137.3	158.4	136.2
Bonus Foods ¹	403.0	716.2	701.0	517.0
Entitlement Foods ²	254.9	92.2	319.9	465.4
Trade Mitigation Foods	1,059.3	1,93.3	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	\$1,865.8	\$2,138.9	\$1,179.3	\$1,118.6
Supplemental Funding via the FFCRA (Food and Admin funds).....	0.0	214.3	0.0	0.0
Supplemental Funding via the CARES Act (Food and Admin	0.0	392.2	0.0	500.0
funds) COVID Division N Funding (Food and Admin funds).....	0.0	0.0	397.3	0.0
Total, Including Disaster Funding	\$1,865.8	\$2,745.4	\$1,576.6	\$1,618.6

1/ Includes barter foods

2/ From SNAP Account

The State Administrative Expenses shown in the table above include administrative funds, food funds converted to administrative funds, and administrative funds recovered from the previous year. In FY 2022, of the \$80 million eligible for conversion, States chose to convert \$49.4 million into administrative funds.

The entitlement foods line also includes administrative funds that States chose to use instead to increase their food entitlements. In FY 2022, \$1.6 million in administrative funds were converted to food funds.

WIC FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

The WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) provides a direct link between nutrition and the Nation's small resource farmers by providing women, infants older than 4 months, and children up to the age of five participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), benefits to purchase and consume fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs directly from farmers, farmers' markets and roadside stands. As a result, the FMNP has enhanced local agricultural economies by promoting the development of farmers' markets, which has increased the customer base for small local farmers. During FY 2022, the FMNP was operated by 52 State agencies, including U.S. Territories and federally recognized ITOs.

In FY 2021, the last year for which data is available, the FMNP provided benefits to 1,197,470 WIC participants. The participants redeemed their benefits at 4,928 authorized farmers' markets and roadside stands, providing revenue to 14,956 farmers.

In FY 2022, FNS supported modernized access to benefits in the Farmers Market Nutrition Programs by issuing guidance on options for alternative coupon processing to include the process for State agencies to implement operational flexibilities and regulatory waivers in support of electronic solutions.

Table FNS-89. WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Funding (\$ in thousands).....	\$22,309	\$22,597	\$29,829	\$40,409
WIC Recipients	1,560,475	1,181,3145	1,197,470	*
Farmer's Markets**.....	4,815	4,612	4,928	*
Farmers.....	15,069	15,110	14,956	*

NOTE: Funding includes new authority and prior year resources.

*/ Data not yet available

**/ Farmers' Markets data includes roadside stands.

SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) awards grants to States, U.S. Territories, and federally recognized ITOs to provide low-income seniors with benefits that can be exchanged for fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey directly from farmers, farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs (CSAs).

Farmers' markets play a key role in developing local and regional food systems that support farmers and help grow rural economies. In FY 2022, the SFMNP was operated by 55 State agencies, including U.S. Territories and ITOs. In FY 2021, the last year for which data is available, the SFMNP provided benefits to 80,012 low-income older Americans. The participants redeemed their benefits at 5,367 authorized farmers markets, roadside stands and CSAs providing revenue to 15,568 farmers. The SFMNP supports local farmers by increasing the sustainability of the land and of the local economy through bringing additional customers to their markets.

The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized the SFMNP through 2023 at a level of \$20.6 million per year.

Table FNS-90. SFMNP Summary

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Funding (\$ in thousands).....	\$20,991	\$21,083	\$23,718	\$24,357
SFMNP Recipients.....	832,111	725,687	780,012	*
Farmers.....	19,203	14,767	15,568	*
Farmers' Markets	3,292	2,401	2,860	*
Roadside Stands	2,363	2,316	2,438	*
Community Supported Ag Programs.....	124	71	69	*

NOTE: Funding includes new authority and prior year resources.

*/ Data not yet available

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Certain islands in nuclear-affected zones of the Republic of the Marshall Islands receive nutrition assistance as authorized by the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-188). Under the terms of a memorandum of understanding between USDA and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the assistance is currently provided as cash in-lieu of USDA Foods and administrative funds. USDA previously provided nutrition assistance under this account to the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288) assigns certain responsibilities relating to disaster food assistance to the Secretary of Agriculture. Other duties have been assigned to the Secretary by Executive Order 12673. These include using, pursuant to the authority of the Act, funds appropriated under Section 32 to purchase USDA Foods for assistance in major disasters or emergencies when other food supplies are not readily available.

FNS supported a disaster household distribution request from Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe in North Dakota, which experienced a resurgence of COVID-19 exposures in their Tribal community. USDA Foods were also distributed to households in the Village of Teller, Alaska where the community experienced shortages of their normal subsistence items such as reindeer, salmon, and spring birds. Shortly after, in September, communities in Alaska experienced an unusual yet severe storm, Typhoon Merbok, which FNS worked closely with federal partners and stakeholders on the ground to meet community needs. In late September, Hurricane Fiona arrived causing major devastation in Puerto Rico followed by Hurricane Ian, which vastly impacted cities throughout the state of Florida and also hit the surrounding state of South Carolina. Both Hurricanes led to Presidentially declared major disasters and/or emergency declarations in Puerto Rico, Florida, and South Carolina with FNS providing disaster relief.

NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM (NSIP)

NSIP provides cash and USDA Foods to States and ITO's for distribution to local organizations that prepare nutritionally sound meals served through meals-on-wheels programs or in senior citizen centers and similar settings where the elderly participate in social and rehabilitative activities. The program promotes good health through nutrition assistance and by reducing the isolation experienced by the elderly.

In 2003, Congress transferred NSIP funding and the allocation of resources in this program from USDA to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). However, State Units on Aging, which include ITO's, could still choose to receive all or part of their NSIP allotments in the form of USDA Foods. They are also eligible to receive bonus food, as available. USDA's role is to purchase and deliver food to States that elect to receive it. DHHS provides funding to USDA for purchases of USDA Foods and related administrative expenses. FNS and DHHS' Administration for Community Living enter into an agreement annually to ensure the effective provision of USDA Foods to State Units on Aging.

CSFP PROJECTS, PARTICIPATION AND FOOD COST FY 2022 (CSFP)**Table FNS-91. CSFP Projects, Participation and Food Costs**

State or Territory	Projects	Elderly	Food Cost \$\$ ¹	Admin Cost \$\$ ²
Alabama	4	6,436	\$2,563,222	\$649,810
Alaska.....	2	2,446	1,054,366	215,069
Arizona.....	2	19,806	7,788,144	1,876,066
Arkansas.....	7	7,917	3,328,922	678,407
California.....	10	101,046	39,493,895	8,974,051
California, Shingle Spring Band.....	1	411	237,862	50,683
Colorado.....	6	13,097	5,428,637	1,074,868
Connecticut.....	1	2,552	968,721	240,656
Delaware.....	1	1,396	564,888	150,590
District of Columbia.....	1	5,128	2,007,820	457,069
Florida.....	7	9,318	3,927,302	829,753
Georgia.....	2	6,117	2,657,627	533,431
Hawaii.....	4	3,536	1,366,504	286,226
Idaho.....	1	2,084	807,556	187,946
Illinois.....	3	10,263	4,071,440	1,376,023
Indiana.....	6	4,815	1,950,606	477,853
Iowa.....	1	2,501	960,991	281,963
Kansas.....	4	4,431	1,801,787	476,448
Kentucky.....	6	28,265	10,966,171	2,978,341
Louisiana.....	1	33,754	14,509,942	3,980,625
Maine.....	5	5,988	2,465,507	755,503
Maryland.....	5	3,237	1,286,278	347,384
Massachusetts.....	1	2,303	886,848	228,071
Michigan.....	22	62,318	24,365,283	6,335,449
Minnesota.....	6	8,816	3,456,018	950,457
Minnesota, Red Lake.....	1	84	28,038	7,096
Mississippi.....	1	13,012	5,878,815	1,100,649
Missouri.....	5	20,489	8,000,787	1,842,669
Montana.....	12	4,308	1,574,359	495,419
Nebraska.....	9	5,720	2,262,033	613,445
Nevada.....	-	9	3,347	4,195
New Hampshire.....	3	3,731	1,524,766	585,717
New Jersey.....	1	2,640	1,028,779	261,686
New Mexico.....	4	6,140	2,564,446	583,352
New York.....	5	10,624	4,236,987	1,214,093
North Carolina.....	3	33,954	13,706,403	3,004,612
North Dakota.....	5	1,671	701,345	152,160
North Dakota, Spirit Lake Tribe.....	1	195	71,408	37,903
Ohio.....	13	27,087	11,251,405	2,609,881
Oklahoma.....	2	4,560	1,835,963	404,697
Oklahoma, Seminole Nation.....	1	174	55,731	21,371
Oklahoma, Wichita Tribe.....	1	208	51,274	20,062
Oregon.....	1	1,969	818,964	194,365
Pennsylvania.....	17	32,796	13,114,930	3,059,349
Puerto Rico.....	1	2,607	1,086,650	155,946
Rhode Island.....	1	1,829	712,588	177,810
South Carolina.....	4	6,832	2,884,673	586,055
South Dakota.....	2	3,008	1,173,397	323,015
South Dakota, Oglala Sioux.....	1	372	129,135	36,491
Tennessee.....	4	7,860	3,431,074	815,561
Texas.....	12	66,892	26,726,643	5,893,769
Utah.....	1	2,782	1,238,061	273,515
Vermont.....	1	1,736	671,330	189,150
Virginia.....	6	9,690	3,988,123	915,575
Washington.....	13	4,874	1,904,312	519,831
West Virginia.....	2	8,798	3,503,288	844,700
Wisconsin.....	4	10,876	4,221,345	903,026
Wyoming.....	1	197	90,840	17,992
AMS/WBSCM Admin. Exp.....	-	-	2,851,074	-
Anticipated Adjustment.....	-	-	(5,937,002)	700,115
TOTAL³	254	658,960	\$261,929,514	\$64,156,311

SOURCE: FPRS FNS-153 data - Food distributed to participants in fiscal year 2022.

^{1/} Total values of FNS funded entitlement foods. Costs do not include free, bonus or trade mitigation commodities, food losses, storage and transportation for certain items (Group A fruits and vegetables, all Group B commodities), or the value of food used for nutrition education.^{2/} Total outlays and unliquidated obligations.^{3/} Totals may not add due to rounding.

NOTE: These data are based in part on preliminary reports submitted by State and local agencies and subject to change as revisions are received.

COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP)**Table FNS-92. FY 2022 CSFP Quantity and Value of Commodities**

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
APPLESAUCE, CANNED, UNSWEETENED	2,913,863	\$ 2,845,614
APRICOTS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	2,872,238	3,705,129
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK, LOW-SODIUM	3,567,899	2,472,747
BEANS, CANNED, GREEN, LOW-SODIUM	7,427,734	5,523,224
BEANS, CANNED, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, LOW-SODIUM.....	1,759,955	1,247,659
BEANS, CANNED, PINTO, LOW-SODIUM.....	2,214,377	1,514,342
BEANS, CANNED, VEGETARIAN, LOW-SODIUM.....	2,032,320	1,372,138
BEANS, DRY, BABY LIMA, NO SALT ADDED.....	524,160	695,328
BEANS, DRY, GREAT NORTHERN, NO SALT ADDED	362,880	252,370
BEANS, DRY, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, NO SALT ADDED	1,008,000	893,119
BEANS, DRY, PINTO, NO SALT ADDED	1,088,640	844,828
BEEF, CANNED.....	3,061,800	13,671,814
BEEF, CANNED, CHILI WITH BEANS.....	2,533,680	3,493,651
BEEF, CANNED, STEW.....	2,757,132	5,100,984
CARROTS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,494,450	1,046,795
CEREAL, CORN AND RICE.....	1,828,440	2,656,986
CEREAL, CORN FLAKES	476,280	851,711
CEREAL, CORN SQUARES	1,254,960	2,954,645
CEREAL, OAT CIRCLES.....	1,907,703	3,348,271
CEREAL, RICE CRISPS	1,284,255	2,369,606
CEREAL, WHEAT BRAN FLAKES	817,566	1,296,016
CEREAL, WHEAT FARINA	1,319,625	1,600,260
CEREAL, WHEAT SHREDDED	1,970,460	2,777,277
CHEESE, AMERICAN, REDUCED FAT.....	14,413,200	32,976,497
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED/POUCHED	4,953,938	14,423,265
CORN, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED.....	5,460,528	4,433,853
GRITS	1,285,632	754,861
JUICE, APPLE, UNSWEETENED	14,732,510	11,030,764
JUICE, CHERRY APPLE, UNSWEETENED.....	642,060	616,353
JUICE, CRANAPPLE, UNSWEETENED.....	2,140,200	1,867,622
JUICE, GRAPE, UNSWEETENED.....	13,732,985	12,191,804
JUICE, ORANGE, UNSWEETENED	3,958,290	3,021,032
JUICE, TOMATO, LOW-SODIUM	4,030,710	1,984,789
LENTILS, DRY	1,088,640	727,238
MILK, 1%, UHT	21,410,852	10,831,242
MILK, NONFAT, DRY	2,785,536	11,172,171
MIXED FRUIT, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	4,660,943	4,809,762
MIXED VEGETABLES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	1,485,338	1,363,080
OATS	3,046,640	3,483,437
PASTA, ENRICHED	8,755,620	7,984,908
PASTA, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH.....	129,600	113,141
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	4,348,980	4,930,025
PEANUT BUTTER.....	3,466,320	4,495,809
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	4,321,733	4,627,948
PEAS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	692,550	703,339
PLUMS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	656,100	790,523
POTATOES, DEHYDRATED FLAKES.....	1,447,500	2,815,647
POTATOES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	4,314,600	2,699,456
RAISINS, UNSWEETENED.....	963,090	1,604,103
RICE, BROWN.....	2,352,000	2,457,911
RICE, WHITE.....	4,193,280	2,073,927
SALMON, PINK, CANNED	2,522,250	7,724,049

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
SOUP, CANNED, VEGETABLE, LOW-SODIUM	3,157,275	3,378,708
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	2,278,125	1,936,281
SPINACH, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,746,612	2,277,790
SWEET POTATOES, CANNED, LIGHT SYRUP	1,652,400	2,059,774
TOMATOES, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED	4,455,988	3,606,641
TUNA, LIGHT, CANNED	1,225,800	3,656,958
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	198,986,238	\$ 238,159,221
Anticipated Transportation and Storage	0	\$19,547,536
AMS/WBSCM/Comp Payment.....		700,115.00
Anticipated Adjustment.....	0	47,405.00
<i>TOTAL COMMODITY ENTITLEMENT</i>	198,986,238	\$ 258,454,277
<i>BONUS COMMODITIES</i>		
BEANS, DRY, GREAT NORTHERN, NO SALT ADDED	1,008,000	\$ 675,566
RAISINS, UNSWEETENED	505,440	835,073
SALMON, PINK, CANNED	638,970	1,955,556
<i>TOTAL BONUS COMMODITIES</i>	2,152,410	\$ 3,466,195
<i>CSFP ARPA COMMODITIES ^{1/}</i>		
CORN, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED	12,137	\$ 9,042
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	12,137	9,042
<i>TOTAL - ALL COMMODITIES</i>	201,150,785	\$ 261,929,514

Source: WBSCM – Sales Order and Contract Information

^{1/} Funding authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2

NOTE: Totals may not add due to rounding.

WIC FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM, PARTICIPATION AND PROGRAM COSTS FY 2021 AND 2022**Table FNS-93. Participation and Program Financing for FY 2021 and 2022**

State or Territory	Women	Infants	Children	Total	FY 2021 Grant	FY 2022 Grant
Alabama	1,490	-	4,138	5,628	\$131,722	\$167,394
Alaska.....	1,386	731	3,444	5,561	215,440	273,783
Arizona.....	-	-	996	996	225,325	286,346
Arkansas.....	3,307	-	5,690	8,997	181,993	231,278
California.....	54,438	24,441	167,458	246,337	2,429,230	3,087,089
Colorado.....	1,334	4	4,355	5,693	418,773	532,181
Connecticut.....	10,560	4,514	26,949	42,023	347,752	441,926
Delaware.....	1,777	-	4,851	6,628	304,593	387,079
District of Columbia.....	2,774	2,385	7,365	12,524	329,031	418,136
Florida	9,651	-	18,669	28,320	362,896	588,253
Georgia.....	5,388	2,880	13,908	22,176	1,686,141	2,778,169
Guam 3/.....	2,391	1,080	4,243	7,714	422,622	537,072
Illinois	3,223	856	7,999	12,078	308,146	391,594
Indiana.....	5,657	2,915	17,427	25,999	544,111	691,461
Iowa.....	1,524	521	3,941	5,986	215,418	273,755
Kentucky	329	93	525	947	28,577	52,714
Louisiana	947	678	3,729	5,354	139,587	259,991
Maine.....	5,483	2,905	14,936	23,324	416,782	573,610
Maryland	6,796	4,593	22,458	33,847	797,918	1,014,002
Massachusetts.....	6,375	10	18,937	25,322	523,873	665,743
Michigan.....	10,172	4,709	28,796	43,677	436,721	554,990
Minnesota.....	1,623	111	2,958	4,692	135,971	172,793
Mississippi 2/.....	-	-	-	-	-	298,730
Montana.....	572	323	1,905	2,800	89,476	113,707
Nebraska.....	905	-	2,469	3,374	89,737	114,039
Nevada.....	1,368	951	4,745	7,064	399,918	508,220
New Hampshire 4/.....	-	-	-	-	-	136,768
New Jersey	23,417	-	17,364	40,781	1,228,345	1,560,993
New Mexico 2/.....	2,198	755	4,940	7,893	309,800	393,696
New York	49,482	16,956	122,052	188,490	5,858,776	8,716,200
North Carolina.....	5,081	-	6,760	11,841	271,480	344,999
Ohio.....	6,501	2,813	15,680	24,994	551,484	700,831
Oklahoma Chickasaw.....	778	427	1,613	2,818	89,737	114,039
Oklahoma Osage Tribe.....	200	136	640	976	61,410	78,040
Oklahoma Choctaw Nation	445	321	1,598	2,364	89,737	114,039
Oregon.....	11,396	8,155	31,600	51,151	1,642,249	2,086,986
Pennsylvania.....	46,252	28,080	70,209	144,541	2,396,860	3,045,953
Puerto Rico.....	4,022	-	9,189	13,211	1,806,900	2,296,226
Rhode Island.....	2,044	9	4,690	6,743	146,184	185,772
South Carolina.....	1,076	-	2,220	3,296	147,477	187,415
Tennessee	2,061	-	4,188	6,249	145,268	184,608
Texas	3,827	-	7,809	11,636	1,225,662	1,557,583
Vermont.....	538	190	2,215	2,943	87,489	111,182
Virginia	1,019	539	2,381	3,939	82,278	110,914
Virgin Islands.....	445	-	997	1,442	90,404	114,886
Washington.....	7,149	-	23,896	31,045	960,288	1,220,344
West Virginia 3/.....	-	-	-	-	89,696	113,987
Wisconsin.....	14,102	3,093	36,860	54,055	1,274,617	1,619,796
Anticipated Adjustment.....	-	-	-	-	(95,979)	496
TOTAL.....	321,503	116,174	759,792	1,197,469	\$29,641,915	\$40,409,808

^{1/} Participation data reflects Fiscal Year 2021. Participation data for Fiscal Year 2022 is not due until February 2023.

^{2/} Includes Tribal Organizations.

^{3/} Did not operate the program in FY 2021. Some admin funds spent in preparation in case the program would be operated, remaining funds will be recovered.

^{4/} New program in FY 2022.

* Totals may not add due to rounding.

NOTE: These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding.

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COSTS FY 2022 (TEFAP)**Table FNS-94. Entitlement and Bonus Commodities**

State or Territory	Entitlement Commodities	Build Back Better Commodities	Bonus	Total Food
Alabama.....	\$5,387,164	\$6,324,781	\$7,792,463	\$19,504,409
Alaska.....	810,711.25	1,408,716.71	1,271,749.74	3,491,177.70
Arizona.....	6,323,015.84	10,306,126.49	12,849,389.76	29,478,532.09
Arkansas.....	5,433,547.61	4,576,433.26	5,627,082.63	15,637,063.50
California.....	44,761,981.95	49,411,091.81	66,209,824.10	160,382,897.86
Colorado.....	8,763,942.39	6,607,790.99	9,231,648.66	24,603,382.04
Connecticut.....	3,463,122.19	3,197,812.17	3,583,363.30	10,244,297.66
Delaware.....	1,105,109.40	2,259,758.69	2,769,826.20	6,134,694.29
District of Columbia.....	1,566,272.10	153,420.35	660,147.13	2,379,839.58
Florida.....	29,636,451.29	28,835,794.74	35,004,017.70	93,476,263.73
Georgia.....	11,358,172.77	14,046,284.26	16,314,178.53	41,718,635.56
Hawaii.....	1,781,629.62	1,054,931.83	1,090,284.52	3,926,845.97
Idaho.....	2,082,246.61	1,417,515.55	2,184,924.49	5,684,686.65
Illinois.....	19,249,507.87	15,548,892.08	18,227,487.67	53,025,887.62
Indiana.....	8,902,446.42	8,933,311.12	10,719,210.69	28,554,968.23
Iowa.....	2,585,512.16	3,827,048.33	3,611,806.05	10,024,366.54
Kansas.....	2,514,845.47	3,534,523.55	3,599,673.71	9,649,042.73
Kentucky.....	4,573,116.90	6,109,570.10	8,041,846.16	18,724,533.16
Louisiana.....	7,739,571.44	7,914,567.52	8,201,272.84	23,855,411.80
Maine.....	1,404,214.90	1,883,690.68	2,922,146.04	6,210,051.62
Maryland.....	8,222,959.06	640,993.24	1,711,103.78	10,575,056.08
Massachusetts.....	12,820,926.65	4,945,450.86	8,068,378.02	25,834,755.53
Michigan.....	9,185,141.35	16,322,631.03	17,172,125.57	42,679,897.95
Minnesota.....	6,496,603.99	3,198,886.86	5,194,666.94	14,890,157.79
Mississippi.....	3,460,179.68	4,396,063.11	5,612,055.01	13,468,297.80
Missouri.....	5,727,670.90	7,543,219.57	7,931,537.64	21,202,428.11
Montana.....	1,585,911.78	1,378,163.22	1,390,712.12	4,354,787.12
Nebraska.....	1,234,213.04	1,681,635.40	2,207,105.81	5,122,954.25
Nevada.....	5,532,161.60	4,585,770.89	6,647,865.00	16,765,797.49
New Hampshire.....	1,143,237.49	1,062,251.03	1,738,817.36	3,944,305.88
New Jersey.....	8,503,356.45	8,743,598.28	12,356,686.05	29,603,640.78
New Mexico.....	2,708,826.35	3,983,919.24	5,504,915.89	12,197,661.48
New York.....	26,584,003.81	22,287,091.15	32,207,781.74	81,078,876.70
North Carolina.....	9,221,017.22	12,873,783.80	15,543,920.87	37,638,721.89
North Dakota.....	868,937.59	880,718.86	1,087,342.63	2,836,999.08
Ohio.....	11,468,014.07	14,506,898.45	19,136,479.38	45,111,391.90
Oklahoma.....	6,642,133.37	4,580,578.63	6,754,046.26	17,976,758.26
Oregon.....	6,518,326.27	3,597,113.56	7,015,254.23	17,130,694.06
Pennsylvania.....	11,416,978.34	20,653,697.82	22,373,461.57	54,444,137.73
Rhode Island.....	1,585,518.13	994,185.09	778,213.32	3,357,916.54
South Carolina.....	6,009,757.87	5,571,189.22	9,099,493.98	20,680,441.07
South Dakota.....	1,439,413.93	897,560.07	1,241,006.56	3,577,980.56
Tennessee.....	8,821,541.50	8,267,339.98	10,259,931.89	27,348,813.37
Texas.....	32,438,093.99	36,896,348.94	52,985,977.41	122,320,420.34
Utah.....	1,680,139.03	3,226,141.34	3,293,628.95	8,199,909.32
Vermont.....	640,585.79	314,865.86	1,359,963.77	2,315,415.42
Virginia.....	7,506,762.73	5,028,515.65	7,498,466.34	20,033,744.72
Washington.....	6,693,579.96	7,230,016.81	12,081,375.68	26,004,972.45
West Virginia.....	2,215,869.67	5,589,241.22	3,376,603.18	11,181,714.07
Wisconsin.....	6,259,725.40	4,547,740.35	6,098,597.70	16,906,063.45
Wyoming.....	645,333.96	384,230.61	840,811.65	1,870,376.22

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

State or Territory	Entitlement Commodities	Build Back Better Commodities	Bonus	Total Food
Northern Mariana Islands *.....	219,050.00	-	-	219,050.00
Guam.....	227,028.15	576,155.70	194,098.80	997,282.65
Puerto Rico.....	12,846,131.76	2,677,984.89	7,513,137.15	23,037,253.80
Virgin Islands.....	206,289.00	426,808.14	426,098.44	1,059,195.58
AMS/WBSCM Admin Exp.....	3,314,969	-	-	3,314,969
Anticipated Adjustment	1,596,449	-	-	1,596,449
TOTAL.....	\$403,129,420	\$397,842,850	\$516,614,004	\$1,317,586,274

*Cash in-Lieu of commodities are provided to the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). FNS provided CNMI with \$207,075 in Build Back Better funds based on the funding allocation process. In total CNMI was provided with \$426,125 as cash-in-lieu of commodities.

** Build Back Better funding was provided under the Division B, Title 1 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (PL 116-136).

*** States with a zero indicates no food orders were purchased using the specified food dollars or the state declined the administrative funds.

NOTE: Totals may not add due to rounding.

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COSTS FY 2022 (TEFAP)**Table FNS-95. Administrative Funds/Entitlement and Bonus Commodities**

State or Territory	TEFAP Admin	Build Back Better Administrative Funds	Total Administrative Funding
Alabama	\$2,181,440	\$1,509,536	\$3,690,976
Alaska	286,636.00	206,856.00	493,492.00
Arizona.....	3,566,548.00	2,288,373.00	5,854,921.00
Arkansas.....	797,552.00	965,237.00	1,762,789.00
California	21,531,202.00	12,303,908.00	33,835,110.00
Colorado.....	1,647,363.00	1,400,923.00	3,048,286.00
Connecticut	926,647.00	898,941.00	1,825,588.00
Delaware	197,038.00	287,101.00	484,139.00
District of Columbia.....	237,055.00	230,351.00	467,406.00
Florida.....	6,248,120.00	6,220,397.00	12,468,517.00
Georgia.....	3,828,735.00	3,006,692.00	6,835,427.00
Hawaii.....	370,701.00	386,955.00	757,656.00
Idaho	657,353.00	434,994.00	1,092,347.00
Illinois.....	3,017,139.00	3,843,656.00	6,860,795.00
Indiana	1,444,395.00	1,913,940.00	3,358,335.00
Iowa	576,866.00	816,132.00	1,392,998.00
Kansas.....	1,042,975.00	500,000.00	1,542,975.00
Kentucky.....	2,024,067.00	1,474,953.00	3,499,020.00
Louisiana.....	3,026,758.00	1,827,519.00	4,854,277.00
Maine.....	280,922.00	336,181.00	617,103.00
Maryland.....	2,511,120.00	1,404,277.00	3,915,397.00
Massachusetts	2,261,967.00	1,963,800.00	4,225,767.00
Michigan	4,529,339.00	3,389,227.00	7,918,566.00
Minnesota.....	1,523,101.00	1,300,219.00	2,823,320.00
Mississippi.....	1,002,116.00	1,157,744.00	2,159,860.00
Missouri.....	1,285,049.00	1,723,181.00	3,008,230.00
Montana	652,142.00	295,286.00	947,428.00
Nebraska	644,907.00	428,910.00	1,073,817.00
Nevada	1,133,996.00	1,112,658.00	2,246,654.00
New Hampshire.....	176,043.00	306,058.00	482,101.00
New Jersey.....	4,735,067.00	2,505,541.00	7,240,608.00
New Mexico.....	1,388,363.00	779,940.00	2,168,303.00
New York.....	10,866,095.00	6,355,759.00	17,221,854.00
North Carolina	5,239,896.00	3,115,167.00	8,355,063.00
North Dakota.....	160,440.00	178,549.00	338,989.00
Ohio	5,566,264.00	3,720,873.00	9,287,137.00
Oklahoma.....	911,484.00	1,231,974.00	2,143,458.00
Oregon	1,808,435.00	1,211,179.00	3,019,614.00
Pennsylvania	6,177,349.00	4,068,249.00	10,245,598.00
Rhode Island	393,576.00	150,000.00	543,576.00
South Carolina	1,265,908.00	1,495,476.00	2,761,384.00
South Dakota.....	167,705.00	236,461.00	404,166.00
Tennessee.....	2,533,957.00	2,093,596.00	4,627,553.00
Texas.....	10,018,892.74	8,760,767.00	18,779,659.74
Utah.....	903,192.00	662,920.00	1,566,112.00
Vermont	107,059.00	163,410.00	270,469.00
Virginia	3,265,596.00	2,000,707.00	5,266,303.00
Washington	3,239,271.00	2,112,457.00	5,351,728.00
West Virginia.....	972,648.00	627,414.00	1,600,062.00
Wisconsin.....	2,555,412.00	1,527,261.00	4,082,673.00
Wyoming.....	151,504.00	139,724.00	291,228.00

State or Territory	TEFAP Admin	Build Back Better Administrative Funds	Total Administrative Funding
Northern Mariana Islands.....	0.00	207,075.00	207,075.00
Guam.....	63,326.00	72,290.00	135,616.00
Puerto Rico.....	4,025,248.00	2,332,259.00	6,357,507.00
Virgin Islands.....	105,610.00	-	105,610.00
Anticipated Adjustment	(1,596,449)	-	(1,596,449)
TOTAL.....	\$134,635,141	\$99,683,053	\$234,318,194

NOTE: Totals may not add due to rounding.

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)**Table FNS-96. FY 2022 TEFAP Quantity and Value of Commodities**

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
ALASKA POLLOCK, FILLETS, FROZEN	408,480	\$1,667,603
ALASKA POLLOCK, BREADED STICKS, FROZEN.....	912,000	2,604,140
APPLES, FRESH.....	4,245,948	2,712,021
APPLES, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	158,400	281,767
APPLESAUCE, CANNED, UNSWEETENED	6,927,638	6,948,465
APPLESAUCE, CUPS, UNSWEETENED	1,398,600	2,065,210
APRICOTS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	3,105,563	4,033,171
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK, LOW-SODIUM.....	5,645,379	4,019,227
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK-EYED PEAS, LOW-SODIUM.....	1,743,053	1,601,834
BEANS, CANNED, GARBANZO, LOW-SODIUM	782,595	562,856
BEANS, CANNED, GREEN, LOW-SODIUM.....	16,694,343	12,468,535
BEANS, CANNED, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, LOW-SODIUM.....	3,291,340	2,298,517
BEANS, CANNED, PINTO, LOW-SODIUM	4,828,979	3,242,801
BEANS, CANNED, REFRIED, LOW-SODIUM.....	1,101,600	1,169,158
BEANS, CANNED, VEGETARIAN, LOW-SODIUM.....	2,814,720	1,942,975
BEANS, DRY, BLACK-EYED PEAS, NO SALT ADDED.....	443,520	559,726
BEANS, DRY, GREAT NORTHERN, NO SALT ADDED	1,209,600	768,953
BEANS, DRY, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, NO SALT ADDED.....	887,040	771,334
BEANS, DRY, LIMA, NO SALT ADDED.....	685,440	894,866
BEANS, DRY, PINTO, NO SALT ADDED	6,249,600	4,530,672
BEANS, FROZEN, GREEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	349,920	316,580
BEEF, CANNED	1,733,400	7,838,040
BEEF, CANNED, STEW	4,466,520	8,383,092
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN.....	6,453,360	23,774,309
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN, LFTB OPTIONAL	1,520,000	5,468,692
BLUEBERRIES, Highbush, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED.....	316,800	572,497
CARROTS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	2,988,900	2,187,469
CARROTS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	388,800	262,958
CATFISH, FILLETS, FROZEN	532,000	3,937,560
CEREAL, CORN FLAKES	1,040,040	1,425,840
CEREAL, CORN RICE BISCUITS	52,920	100,704
CEREAL, CORN SQUARES.....	151,200	345,324
CEREAL, OAT CIRCLES.....	1,694,354	2,836,997
CEREAL, RICE CRISP	257,985	432,507
CEREAL, SHREDDED WHEAT.....	619,920	828,990
CEREAL, WHEAT BRAN FLAKES.....	468,734	695,246
CEREAL, WHEAT FARINA	784,125	945,196
CHEESE, AMERICAN, REDUCED FAT	1,189,200	2,600,206
CHEESE, CHEDDAR	1,243,200	3,289,224
CHICKEN, SPLIT BREAST, FROZEN.....	2,496,000	8,089,715
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED	5,798,813	16,706,513
CHICKEN, WHOLE, FROZEN	14,295,600	19,577,292
CORN, CANNED, CREAM, LOW-SODIUM.....	1,567,350	1,338,962
CORN, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED.....	12,424,968	9,879,424
CORN, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	356,400	301,224
CRACKERS, UNSALTED.....	654,876	1,371,756
CRANBERRIES, DRIED, INDIVIDUAL PORTION.....	97,875	330,465
EGG NOODLES.....	875,520	2,686,289
EGGS, FRESH.....	6,986,250	6,546,282
EGG MIX, DRIED	288,000	3,856,932
FLOUR, 100% WHITE WHOLE WHEAT.....	1,960,000	893,900

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
FLOUR, ALL-PURPOSE, ENRICHED	5,526,360	2,388,664
FLOUR, BAKERY MIX, LOWFAT	351,000	\$490,010
FRUIT AND NUT MIX, DRIED.....	803,712	2,313,016
GRITS	1,824,768	984,753
JUICE, APPLE, UNSWEETENED	6,878,498	5,084,883
JUICE, CHERRY APPLE, UNSWEETENED	1,319,790	1,113,939
JUICE, CRANBERRY APPLE, UNSWEETENED.....	71,340	60,629
JUICE, GRAPE, UNSWEETENED	1,997,485	1,780,894
JUICE, ORANGE, UNSWEETENED.....	1,319,790	942,139
JUICE, TOMATO, LOW-SODIUM.....	963,090	465,945
LENTILS, DRY	2,298,240	1,510,639
MACARONI AND CHEESE	7,944,710	9,793,975
MILK, 1%, FRESH.....	6,446,898	2,378,619
MILK, 1%, UHT.....	8,987,533	5,323,313
MILK, SKIM, FRESH	1,440,779	488,082
MIXED PRODUCE, FRESH.....	3,888,775	2,930,047
MIXED FRUIT, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP.....	9,597,488	9,870,052
MIXED VEGETABLES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	1,831,613	1,720,795
OATS, ROLLED	2,366,321	2,665,419
OIL, VEGETABLE	7,671,510	7,849,845
ORANGES, FRESH	1,048,572	578,921
PASTA, ENRICHED.....	14,822,320	13,996,842
PASTA, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH	309,600	482,836
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP.....	9,171,585	10,099,596
PEACHES, FROZEN	69,696	110,512
PEANUT BUTTER	9,408,777	12,288,664
PEANUTS, ROASTED, NO SALT ADDED	414,720	589,784
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP.....	6,998,220	7,065,090
PEARS, FRESH.....	812,740	657,623
PEAS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,458,000	1,470,111
PEAS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	1,306,800	1,214,370
PEAS, DRY, SPLIT.....	604,800	351,079
PLUMS, DRIED, UNSWEETENED.....	108,000	294,510
PORK, CANNED	1,440,000	3,273,563
PORK CHOPS, FROZEN.....	3,002,000	9,099,704
PORK, HAM, FROZEN	4,693,104	11,728,446
POTATOES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	6,334,200	3,958,740
POTATOES, DEHYDRATED FLAKES	2,512,500	4,749,726
POTATOES, FRESH.....	3,080,000	987,888
PUMPKIN, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED.....	1,312,200	1,964,606
RAISINS, UNSWEETENED.....	1,088,838	1,974,949
RICE, BROWN.....	1,302,000	1,310,207
RICE, WHITE.....	23,167,200	10,792,570
SALMON, PINK, CANNED	1,076,160	3,341,615
SOUP, CREAM OF CHICKEN, REDUCED SODIUM	1,773,750	2,065,659
SOUP, CREAM OF MUSHROOM, REDUCED SODIUM.....	2,344,650	3,011,498
SOUP, TOMATO, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	2,263,800	2,572,571
SOUP, VEGETABLE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	4,238,025	4,844,017
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	14,343,075	11,725,148
SPINACH, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,339,653	1,745,191
SWEET POTATOES, FRESH.....	456,000	199,500
TOMATO SAUCE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	5,335,875	4,451,792
TOMATOES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	6,355,807	5,318,114

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
TORTILLAS, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH	1,764,000	1,926,277
TUNA, LIGHT, CANNED	1,495,800	4,637,559
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	348,369,030	\$397,998,952
Anticipated Adjustment	-	64,255,688
Cash-In-Lieu of Commodities – CNMI	-	219,050
AMS/WBSCM/Comp Payment	-	3,314,969
TOTAL ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	348,369,030	\$465,788,659

NOTE: Totals may not add due to rounding

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)**Table FNS-97. FY 2022 TEFAP Quantity and Value of Commodities Continued**

BONUS COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
ALASKA POLLOCK, BREADED NUGGETS, FROZEN	1,406,000	\$4,619,438
ALASKA POLLOCK, BREADED STICKS, FROZEN	6,422,000	20,665,445
ALASKA POLLOCK, FILLETS, FROZEN	2,090,000	8,399,862
ALMONDS, WHOLE	26,204,640	64,808,946
ATLANTIC POLLOCK, FILLETS, FROZEN	1,584,000	8,944,280
BEANS, DRY, GREAT NORTHERN	20,321,280	13,894,054
BISON, GROUND, LEAN, FROZEN	400,000	3,970,400
CHERRIES, DRIED	1,410,048	7,651,510
CHICKEN, BREAST FILLETS, COOKED, FROZEN	741,000	2,487,381
CHICKEN, DRUMSTICKS, FROZEN	5,168,000	3,805,623
CHICKEN, LEG QUARTERS, FROZEN	9,348,000	5,809,664
CHICKEN, THIGHS, FROZEN	5,472,000	4,437,757
CHICKEN, WHOLE, FROZEN	3,960,000	5,044,394
DATES, WHOLE, DRIED	6,393,600	14,953,538
FIGS, PIECES, DRIED	1,064,448	3,711,866
GRAPEFRUIT, FRESH	7,513,890	5,104,812
GRAPES, FRESH	34,345,350	34,853,209
HADDOCK, FILLETS, FROZEN	1,080,000	7,910,457
HAZELNUTS	3,566,640	13,788,251
NECTARINES, FRESH	10,645,200	13,414,064
OCEAN PERCH, FILLETS, FROZEN	1,368,000	8,105,005
ORANGES, FRESH	8,575,821	5,891,770
PACIFIC ROCKFISH, FILLETS, FROZEN	2,304,000	11,095,488
PACIFIC SHRIMP, FROZEN	1,872,000	7,372,184
PACIFIC WHITING FILLETS, FROZEN	3,420,000	12,875,139
PEACHES, FRESH	14,079,120	16,784,196
PEACHES, FROZEN	4,042,368	7,863,036
PEARS, FRESH	4,136,580	3,593,387
PISTACHIOS, ROASTED	11,965,440	49,727,065
PLUMS, FRESH	13,366,080	18,307,308
RAISINS, UNSWEETENED	11,754,432	27,391,527
SALMON, PINK, CANNED	15,133,500	47,918,821
SWEET POTATOES, FRESH	43,662,000	20,556,194
SWEET POTATOES, CANNED, LIGHT SYRUP	1,893,375	2,478,677
WALNUTS	18,242,496	28,379,258
TOTAL BONUS COMMODITIES	304,951,308	\$516,614,004

NOTE: Totals may not add due to rounding.

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)**Table FNS-98. FY 2022 TEFAP Quantity and Value of Commodities Continued**

BUILD BACK BETTER COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
ASPARAGUS, CANNED.....	1,991,250	\$2,854,736
ASPARAGUS, FROZEN.....	1,908,000	3,145,485
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK-EYED PEAS, LOW-SODIUM.....	3,557,250	3,374,935
BEANS, FROZEN, GREEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	349,920	297,853
BEEF, CANNED, STEW.....	12,564,000	21,978,778
BEEF, CANNED, CHILI WITH BEANS.....	3,341,520	4,547,343
BEEF, CANNED, CHILI WITHOUT BEANS.....	3,312,000	4,840,988
BEEF, ROAST ROUND, FROZEN.....	920,000	5,728,524
CARROTS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	4,510,080	3,289,199
CATFISH, FILLETS, FROZEN.....	3,572,000	32,378,660
CATFISH, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH BREADED, FILLET STRIPS, FROZEN...	640,000	5,721,600
CHEESE, AMERICAN, REDUCED FAT.....	2,534,400	5,880,022
CHEESE, CHEDDAR.....	13,122,000	32,633,128
CHEESE, SWISS.....	5,822,010	19,767,446
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED.....	6,783,750	19,901,029
CHICKEN, LEG QUARTERS, FROZEN.....	4,408,000	2,869,172
CHICKEN, WHOLE, FROZEN.....	4,197,600	6,259,277
CORN, FROZEN.....	4,593,600	4,281,549
EGGS, LIQUID WHOLE, FROZEN.....	1,958,400	2,277,347
FRUIT AND NUT MIX, DRIED.....	3,494,400	9,950,464
MILK, 1%, FRESH.....	12,804,579	5,031,744
MILK, 2%, FRESH.....	41,416,083	17,260,334
MILK, NONFAT, DRY.....	10,423,296	40,413,353
MILK, SKIM, FRESH.....	3,133,985	1,078,569
MILK, WHOLE, FRESH.....	28,870,200	13,485,511
MIXED PRODUCE, FRESH.....	40,780,905	25,562,781
PEAS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	2,494,800	2,962,384
PORK, CANNED.....	5,508,000	12,230,795
PORK, LOIN ROAST, FROZEN.....	11,243,520	29,672,501
POTATOES, FRESH.....	5,040,000	1,473,100
RAISINS, UNSWEETENED.....	7,444,800	14,549,437
SALMON, RED, CANNED.....	4,405,530	27,222,942
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	3,244,050	2,885,317
SPINACH, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	3,255,840	4,093,463
TOMATO SAUCE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM.....	1,652,400	1,538,430
WALNUTS.....	2,384,640	6,404,654
TOTAL BUILD BACK BETTER COMMODITIES.....	267,682,808	\$397,842,849
TOTAL ALL COMMODITIES.....	921,003,145	\$1,380,245,513

Source: WBSCM -- Sales Order and contract information.

NOTE: Totals may not add due to rounding.

NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM (NSIP)

Table FNS-99. FY 2022 NSIP Quantity and Value of Commodities

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
BEANS, CANNED, GREEN, LOW-SODIUM	34,656	\$20,155
BEANS, CANNED, PINTO, LOW-SODIUM.....	34,992	20,978
BEANS, CANNED, VEGETARIAN, LOW-SODIUM.....	69,984	43,952
BEANS, GREEN, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	79,200	70,250
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN.....	40,000	129,932
CARROTS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	39,600	24,974
CHICKEN, UNSEASONED STRIPS, COOKED, FROZEN.....	5,010	25,035
CORN, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	39,600	28,222
FRUIT MIX, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP.....	126,882	108,501
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP.....	163,134	146,485
PEACHES, CUPS, FROZEN.....	36,960	60,522
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP.....	36,024	35,924
PEAS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED.....	39,600	38,465
RICE, BROWN.....	42,000	38,846
TOMATO SAUCE, CANNED/POUCH, LOW-SODIUM.....	72,504	47,944
TOMATOES, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED.....	69,768	37,739
<u>SUBTOTAL</u>	929,914	\$877,923
Anticipated Adjustment.....	0	9,525
AMS/WBSCM/Comp Payment.....	0	173,372
<u>TOTAL ENTITLEMENT COMMODITY</u>	929,914	\$1,060,820
<u>GRAND TOTAL NSIP</u>	929,914	\$1,060,820

Source: WBSCM -- Sales Order and contract information.

NOTE: Totals may not add due to rounding.

NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM (NSIP)

Table FNS-100. FY 2022 NSIP Entitlement and Bonus

State or Territory	Entitlement	Bonus	TOTAL
Delaware.....	\$34,255	0	\$34,255
Kansas.....	184,462	0	184,462
Massachusetts.....	473,897	0	473,897
Montana.....	160,274	0	160,274
Nevada.....	25,035	0	25,035
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expense	173,372	0	173,372
Anticipated Adjustment.....	9,525	0	9,525
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$1,060,820	0	\$1,060,820

Source: WBSCM -- Sales Order and contract information.

NOTE: Totals may not add due to rounding.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE FEEDING (DA)

Table FNS-101. FY 2022 DA Feeding Quantity and Value of Commodities

State or Territory	Disaster Name	Disaster Type	People Served	Pounds	TOTAL
Kentucky.....	December Tornadoes	Tornado	5,700	1,692	\$2,793
Louisiana.....	Hurricane Ida	Hurricane	77,115	1,025,979	1,050,171
Anticipated Adjustment.....			0	0	(741,019)
<u>TOTAL</u>			82,815	1,027,670	\$311,946

NOTE: Totals may not add due to rounding.

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NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

- 1 For necessary administrative expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service for carrying out any domestic nutrition
- 2 assistance program, [~~\$189,348,000~~]\$221,193,000: *Provided*, That of the funds provided herein, \$2,000,000 shall be
- 3 used for the purposes of section 4404 of Public Law 107–171, as amended by section 4401 of Public Law 110–246.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table FNS-102. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2023	\$189,348,000
Change in Appropriation	<u>+31,845,000</u>
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>221,193,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table FNS-103. Project Statement Appropriated Funding (thousands of dollars, FTE)

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc/ Dec	FTE Inc/Dec	Chg Key
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE			
Discretionary Appropriations:											
FNS Salaries and Expenses	\$140,342	737	\$149,245	751	\$166,693	872	\$182,538	880	+\$15,845	+8	(1)
Ensuring Scientific Integrity of Dietary Guidelines & Food Plans.....	1,000	-	4,000	-	7,000	-	11,000	-	+4,000	-	(2)
Improve Nut Security & Healthy Outcome/Education	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,000	-	+9,000	-	(3)
Advancing Racial Equity.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	+1,000	-	(4)
Increasing Tribal Self Governance of Fed Nut Prog....	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	-	+2,000	-	(5)
Congressional Hunger Center.....	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-
Decentralized GSA Rent & DHS Security Payments..	13,463	-	14,888	-	13,655	-	13,655	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Direct Appropriations.....	<u>156,805</u>	<u>737</u>	<u>170,133</u>	<u>751</u>	<u>189,348</u>	<u>872</u>	<u>221,193</u>	<u>880</u>	<u>+31,845</u>	<u>+8</u>	-
Total Available Appropriation	<u>156,805</u>	<u>737</u>	<u>170,133</u>	<u>751</u>	<u>189,348</u>	<u>872</u>	<u>221,193</u>	<u>880</u>	<u>+31,845</u>	<u>+8</u>	-

Table FNS-104. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTE)

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc/ Dec	FTE Inc/Dec
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE		
Discretionary Obligations:										
FNS Salaries and Expenses	\$133,311	709	\$142,915	751	\$166,693	872	\$182,538	880	+\$15,845	+8
Review of National Academy of Sciences Report on DGA's	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ensuring Scientific Integrity of Dietary Guidelines & Food Plans.....	-	-	4,000	-	7,000	-	11,000	-	+4,000	-
Improve Nutrition Security & Healthy Outcome/Education	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,000	-	+9,000	-
Advancing Racial Equity.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	+1,000	-
Increasing Tribal Self Governance of Federal Nutrition Programs	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	-	+2,000	-
Congressional Hunger Center.....	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-
Decentralized GSA Rent & DHS Security Payments	13,463	-	13,315	-	13,655	-	13,655	-	-	-
Subtotal Direct Appropriations.....	<u>149,774</u>	<u>709</u>	<u>162,230</u>	<u>751</u>	<u>189,348</u>	<u>871</u>	<u>221,193</u>	<u>880</u>	<u>+31,845</u>	<u>+8</u>
Transfers In:										
Miscellaneous Reimbursements	-1,183	-	-301	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Transfers In	-1,183	709	-301	751	-	871	-	880	-	-
Total, Discretionary Funding	<u>148,591</u>	<u>709</u>	<u>161,929</u>	<u>751</u>	<u>189,348</u>	<u>871</u>	<u>221,193</u>	<u>880</u>	<u>+31,845</u>	-
Obligations from Prior Years										
X Year Funds	158	-	-	-	4,244	-	4,244	-	-	-
2019/2021 Funds.....	823	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Carryover	<u>981</u>	-	-	-	<u>4,244</u>	-	<u>4,244</u>	-	-	-
Transfers Out (Working Capital Fund Cont.).....	800	-	1,768	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Lapsing	6,433	-	6,436	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	<u>156,805</u>	<u>709</u>	<u>170,133</u>	<u>751</u>	<u>193,592</u>	<u>871</u>	<u>225,437</u>	<u>880</u>	<u>+31,845</u>	<u>+8</u>

JUSTIFICATION OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

The numbered justifications items are keyed to the Change Key (Chg. Key) column on the Project Statement.

The Nutrition Programs Administration (NPA) funds operating expenses for administering the nutrition assistance programs of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). In addition, funds support the Agency’s rent, working capital fund charges, shared cost charges, audit, human resources systems, and more than half of the Agency’s staff. It also includes the work of the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP). CNPP is an organization within USDA’s FNS mission area. In addition to the activities and functions specifically described in the budget request, current year and budget year base funds will be used to carry out activities and functions consistent with the full range of authorities and activities delegated to the Agency.

A net increase of \$31,848,000 for Nutrition Programs Administration (\$189,348,000 available in 2023) consisting of:

The numbers of the following listing relate to the values in the Chg. Key column of the Project Statement:

1) An increase of \$15,845,000 for FNS Salaries and Expenses.

An increase of \$7,761,000 will support the annualization of the 4.6 percent Cost of Living pay increase in 2023 and the 5.2 percent Cost of Living pay increase for 2024.

An increase of \$8,084,000 is for FNS general operating expenses.

2) An increase of \$4,000,000 for Ensuring Scientific Integrity of Dietary Guidelines and Food Plans.

Funding will ensure FNCS’ ability to execute core Administration priorities in the nutrition and nutrition assistance arenas, including executing the Secretary’s priorities on addressing nutrition security and conducting more expansive communications and implementation of the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA). Please refer to the current law proposal: Ensuring Scientific Integrity of Dietary Guidelines and Food Plans for more details.

3) An increase of \$9,000,000 for Improve Nutrition Security and Healthy Outcome/Education.

Please refer to the current law proposal: Nutrition Security, Education, and Racial Equity to Improve Nutrition Security and Health Outcomes for all Americans for more details.

4) An increase of \$1,000,000 for Advancing Racial Equity.

Please refer to the current law proposal: Advancing Racial Equity in Nutrition Assistance for more details.

5) An increase of \$2,000,000 and 8 FTEs for Increasing Tribal Self Governance of Federal Nutrition Programs.

See the current law proposal for more details.

Table FNS-105. Summary of 2024 Current Law Proposals for NPA

Proposals	Amount (Thousands)
Ensuring Scientific Integrity of Dietary Guidelines and Food Plans	\$4,000
Improve Nutrition Security and Healthy Outcomes/Education for All Americans	9,000
Advancing Racial Equity in Nutrition Assistance	1,000
Increasing Tribal Self Governance of Federal Nutrition Programs	2,000
Total	16,000

CURRENT LAW***Ensuring Scientific Integrity of Dietary Guidelines and Food Plans***

This proposal builds on previous investments to ensure the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) has the resources necessary to ensure the scientific integrity of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) and the

food plans. CNPP works to improve the health and well-being of Americans by developing and promoting dietary guidance that links scientific research to the nutrition needs of consumers. It carries out its mission to improve the health of Americans by serving as the Federal authority on evidence-based food, nutrition and economic analyses that inform policy and programs; translates science into actionable food and nutrition guidance for all Americans; and leads national communication initiatives that apply science-based messages to advance consumers’ dietary and home economic knowledge and behaviors. In order to meet Congressional mandates to publish the DGAs and to evaluate the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) every five years to remain current, the work on each is ongoing, not cyclical. Each has far-reaching influence and impact.

The TFP, which provides the cost and market baskets for a minimal-cost, nutritious diet that aligns with the DGA, serves as the basis for the maximum SNAP allotment. The DGA is the standard by which all Federal nutrition policies and programs adhere. Within FNS alone, this includes the TFP and the SNAP maximum benefit, the WIC basket, Child Nutrition’s foods and beverages in school meals and summer feeding, what goes into Food Distribution packages to older adults and Native American tribes, and MyPlate as the consumer translation and central portal for consumer resources that national programs, FNS regions and local educators use. Across Federal agencies and departments, the DGA is the nutrition standard for food service for the military, the basis for the Nutrition Facts label and FDA’s definition of “healthy,” and more.

Table FNS-106. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget											
Authority	\$4,000	\$4,100	\$4,200	\$4,300	\$4,400	\$4,500	\$4,600	\$4,700	\$4,800	\$4,900	\$44,500
Outlays	4,000	4,100	4,200	4,300	4,400	4,500	4,600	4,700	4,800	4,900	44,500

CURRENT LAW

Improve Nutrition Security and Healthy Outcomes for all Americans

USDA nutrition assistance programs touch the lives of one in four American consumers annually. The nutrition education and promotion efforts linked to or integrated within our programs are a powerful opportunity to better mobilize our Department’s nutrition education and promotion assets to help all Americans lead healthier lives. All nutrition education and promotion efforts across USDA are grounded in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs). USDA, along with the Department of Health and Human Services, updates the DGAs every five years in addition to translating the DGAs into a variety of nutrition education and promotion activities across the Department that are crucial to achieving nutrition security and improved health outcomes.

Dietary behaviors are complex and are motivated by the combined influence of many factors, including personal (e.g., attitudes, values, knowledge, and skills), cultural, and environmental (e.g., family, workplace, school, grocery stores, community, and mass media). Nutrition interventions must deal with the full range of these complex influences. Effectively measuring the impact of nutrition education and promotion is an area where more investment is needed. And our programs, such as SNAP-Ed, have undergone comprehensive redesigns to allow comprehensive multi-level and/or public health approaches that may involve social marketing and policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) change strategies and interventions. Other FNS-supported nutrition education and promotion programs, like WIC and Team Nutrition, are adopting approaches to address the co-existence of food insecurity and diet-related chronic diseases and disparities. Part of this work includes responding to the President’s Executive Order on DEIA to better apply an equity lens to our programs, including but not limited to our administration, reach, delivery, and evaluation. This is critical because the COVID-19 pandemic brought health disparities and the vital need for access to healthy food to the forefront. One study estimated that Americans with obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and heart failure were much more likely to be hospitalized due to COVID-19. We must prioritize nutrition education and strive to ensure that those who qualify for our programs have no barriers to information that can help them make choices to improve their health and well-being.

Mounting evidence supports the effectiveness of USDA nutrition education and promotion efforts to improve knowledge and catalyze healthier behaviors. USDA is committed to tackling food and nutrition insecurity and advancing racial equity. Still, USDA faces multiple challenges in its efforts to deliver effective and cohesive nutrition education across programs such as programs with authorities defined by statute and regulation that reach different populations and limit the ability to operate in a holistic structure as well as limited resources and staff. This initiative seeks to build and broaden FNS capacity to deliver effective nutrition education and promotion to all Americans within existing program structures by:

- Supporting research and evaluation of effective strategies: The bulk of the investment will be here. Specific efforts will be made to stimulate State, Tribal, and local government innovations and ensure we provide support for research and evaluation so we can understand impacts and ideally help disseminate success stories across the nation. We will utilize research and evaluation support via grants and contracted services towards better understanding and advancing the dissemination of the most promising strategies to help us tackle food and nutrition security and improve health outcomes for all Americans. Specific focus areas include data modernization, metric development, and applying an equity lens to program access and delivery and with the potential to strengthen the public health impacts of our programs.
- Targeting underserved communities with culturally appropriate resources and interventions: Efforts will be made to modernize our data on key socio-demographics so we can better understand our targeted underserved communities and our progress going forward in better reaching them. We will develop a roadmap for data modernization most relevant to our nutrition education and promotion activities in collaboration with REE. We will utilize grants to stimulate innovations through State, Tribal, and local governments.
- Improving public access to USDA nutrition education resources: We will make improvements in the accessibility and quality of our existing and planned web-based nutrition education resources by bringing them together in a more coordinated fashion to ensure we are reaching historically underserved populations that may or may not have current access to FNS programs.

Table FNS-107. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget											
Authority	\$9,000	\$10,000	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$14,000	\$15,000	\$16,000	\$17,000	\$18,000	\$135,000
Outlays	9,000	10,000	11,000	12,000	13,000	14,000	15,000	16,000	17,000	18,000	135,000

CURRENT LAW

Advancing Racial Equity in Nutrition Assistance

The Department has been charged with the responsibility to proactively promote and ultimately ensure, racial equity in nutrition assistance program operations and outcomes. But our ability to take effective action is limited by the lack of a comprehensive approach that accounts for the following:

- Systemic disparities that shape the circumstances of program-eligible people of different races and ethnicities; and
- Structures and narratives within and influencing program delivery that, implicitly and explicitly, undermine fairness and hamper access to benefits and services.

This project would draw on human services research and analysis to propose a set of operational principles or performance standards that can be used to assess the effectiveness of nutrition assistance programs in serving clients fairly and identify and address barriers to equal opportunity. An important part of the project is to identify a range of data elements that could be collected and reported to evaluate program operations in meeting these principles and standards. We would seek to define them and test their validity and the practicality of collecting them in program settings.

The results of this project could be used to build better “feedback loops” into program delivery to identify, mitigate and resolve inequitable access and service. Costs include \$1 million in 2024 white paper development; and \$1 million in 2025 for data collection approval and testing.

Table FNS-108. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$20,000
Outlays	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	20,000

CURRENT LAW

Increasing Tribal Self Governance of Federal Nutrition Programs

This proposal supports the Secretary’s commitment to increasing tribal self-governance of federal nutrition programs as well as FNS’s capacity to source food from tribes. This proposal allows USDA to expand its support for tribes to successfully manage federal food programs. It provides 8 FTEs dedicated to expanding technical assistance to help tribes and tribal members access our programs effectively; helping them develop proposals for grant funding; supporting integration of culturally appropriate foods into our programs; and assisting in developing FNCS and Office of Tribal Relations resources to engage with tribes in a self-governance process within a time-compressed period.

Table FNS-109. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,000
Outlays	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTE

Table FNS-110. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTE (thousands of dollars, FTE)

State/Territory/Country	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE
Alabama	-	-	\$284	2	\$340	2	\$360	2
Arkansas.....	\$198	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arizona.....	-	-	469	3	561	3	595	3
California	11,780	57	9,437	57	11,279	67	11,958	67
Colorado.....	11,156	54	10,709	65	12,800	76	13,570	76
Connecticut	-	-	161	1	192	1	203	1
District of Columbia.....	295	3	3,496	21	4,178	25	4,429	25
Delaware	-	-	148	1	177	1	188	1
Florida.....	157	1	618	4	738	4	783	4
Georgia.....	10,297	50	8,362	51	9,995	59	10,596	60
Iowa	68	-	74	-	89	1	94	1
Idaho	-	-	161	1	192	1	203	1
Illinois	9,970	48	6,509	40	7,780	46	8,248	46
Indiana	-	-	1,322	8	1,580	9	1,675	9
Kansas.....	-	-	12	-	15	-	16	-
Louisiana.....	8	-	198	1	236	1	250	1
Massachusetts.....	8,382	40	6,139	37	7,338	43	7,779	44
Maryland.....	20	-	14,970	91	17,894	106	18,970	107
Maine	96	-	49	-	59	-	63	-
Michigan	197	1	1,000	6	1,196	7	1,268	7
Minnesota.....	96	1	543	3	650	4	689	4
Missouri	-	-	371	2	443	3	470	3
Mississippi	68	-	284	2	340	2	360	2
Montana	6	-	12	-	15	-	16	-
North Carolina.....	706	3	1,075	7	1,284	8	1,362	8
Nebraska	169	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Hampshire.....	-	-	630	4	753	4	798	4
New Jersey	10,460	50	6,250	38	7,470	44	7,920	45
New Mexico.....	2	-	161	1	192	1	203	1
Nevada	-	-	159	1	192	1	203	1
New York.....	289	3	198	1	236	1	250	1
Ohio	22	-	12	-	15	-	16	-
Oklahoma.....	2	-	49	-	59	-	63	-
Oregon	146	1	395	2	472	3	501	3
Pennsylvania	317	3	2,223	14	2,657	16	2,817	16
Puerto Rico.....	680	4	741	5	886	5	939	5
Rhode Island	-	-	667	4	797	5	845	5
South Carolina.....	-	-	395	2	472	3	501	3
Tennessee.....	190	1	198	1	236	1	250	1
Texas.....	10,562	51	10,709	65	12,800	76	13,570	76
Utah.....	528	3	642	4	768	5	814	5
Virginia	71,480	331	68,765	198	80,392	230	105,684	234
Vermont	-	-	25	-	30	-	31	-
Washington	210	1	346	2	413	2	438	2
Wisconsin.....	198	1	741	5	886	5	939	5
West Virginia.....	-	-	210	1	251	1	266	1
TOTAL1/	148,755	709	159,919	751	189,348	872	221,193	880

^{1/} Total does not include Congressional Relations (\$180,000) and Miscellaneous Reimbursements (\$113,000)

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table FNS-111. Classification by Objects for Appropriated Funds (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.	\$32,658	\$35,466	\$41,333	\$43,819
	Personnel Compensation, Field	48,988	53,199	61,999	65,728
11.0	Total personnel compensation	81,646	88,665	103,332	109,547
12.0	Personal benefits.....	30,310	33,361	44,285	46,949
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	62	79	20	20
	Total, personnel compensation, and benefits	112,018	122,105	147,637	156,516
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	380	446	450	450
22.0	Transportation of things.....	22	-	1	1
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	11,579	12,426	13,655	13,655
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	1	2	10	10
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	172	195	200	200
24.0	Printing and reproduction	946	224	100	100
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	15,151	15,595	19,102	42,068
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	5,268	8,079	4,759	4,759
25.6	Medical care	-	1	3	3
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	600	6	100	100
25.8	Subsistence and support of persons	498	321	400	400
Other Objects:					
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	273	501	531	531
31.0	Equipment	570	63	400	400
32.0	Land and structures.....	158	-	-	-
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities.....	138	266	-	-
	Total, Other Objects	38,737	39,829	41,711	64,677
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	149,774	162,230	189,348	221,193
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	\$191,314	\$191,314	\$199,158	\$208,319
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$115,156	\$118,292	\$123,111	\$128,159
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	12.6	12.6	12.6	12.6

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STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The Nutrition Programs Administration (NPA) appropriation funds operating expenses for administering the nutrition assistance programs of FNS.

FNS ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES – A CRITICAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT TOOL

FNS employees play a central role in managing the Federal nutrition assistance programs. While the programs operate in partnership with State agencies and local service providers, FNS is solely responsible for developing program policies and regulations. The policies and regulations ensure program design and operation are consistent with the law and current nutrition science. FNS disburses and accounts for Federal funds provided to those who operate the programs. In addition, FNS monitors program operations and conducts oversight, technical assistance, and evaluation to ensure that programs are managed and operated consistent with law and to maximize their effectiveness and value to clients and taxpayers.

Meeting these responsibilities is central to accomplishing core program objectives, including ensuring access to benefits for eligible individuals, improving the nutrition of program recipients, and strengthening program integrity. For example, ongoing efforts to improve Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) integrity, and Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) vendor cost containment are critical to the Agency's mission and require intensive staff focus and travel funding.

While substantial funding is also provided to States to operate these programs, State agencies have fundamentally different financial incentives than the Federal Government. In many areas, the cost of program problems or inefficiencies affects Federal expenditures, while the cost to resolve them has an impact on the States. Therefore, strong Federal policy and oversight are fundamental to ensuring effective levels of program accountability.

Although information technology improvements have resulted in large productivity gains in the past decade, many of FNS' functions are labor-intensive and require ongoing attention. Since the NPA appropriation funds most of the salaries and administrative expenses of FNS, it is integral to ensuring and leveraging the effective use of other program appropriations. FNS staff levels grew to roughly 1,700 by the end of 2022 but are still modest relative to the growing fiduciary responsibilities of the Agency and the increasing complexity of the programs it administers. Administrative funding for FNS accounts for less than two-tenths of one percent of the total investment in nutrition assistance.

The most significant accomplishments under this NPA appropriation during 2022 is cited below by program and activity.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

For SNAP, NPA funding is used for a range of critically important functions. FNS develops policies and procedures for the administration of the program, oversees State agency compliance with program rules, and provides technical assistance to States. The agency also reviews State quality control activities, determines the effectiveness and efficiency of State administration, and reviews and approves planning documents for computer system acquisitions and electronic benefit transfer issuance systems. FNS authorizes and monitors 258,589 retail and wholesale firms that are approved to accept SNAP benefits and maintains fiscal accountability for SNAP benefits.

FNS Oversight of State Program Operations

FNS' oversight of State SNAP operations is among its fundamental roles and is critical to program integrity and access. Each fiscal year, FNS' seven Regional Offices continuously monitor and evaluate their States for compliance with SNAP requirements. This oversight is conducted primarily through FNS Management Evaluation (ME) Reviews, which involve an in-depth look at high risk or critically important components of program administration and generally include onsite, in-person visits to State headquarters and local offices; however, in 2022, due to the ongoing disruptive impacts, unprecedented challenges, and potential health risks posed by the COVID-19 public health emergency, in general, FNS continued to leverage technology to conduct its ME Reviews offsite, virtually. FNS also continued its ongoing efforts to strengthen SNAP ME procedures and guidance to ensure compliance with program requirements, improve integrity, and protect access for eligible households. FNS updated and enhanced several SNAP ME guidance documents to increase standardization and promote consistency. FNS also continued to enhance its ME Management System, which tracks ME schedules, findings, and corrective action processes.

Policy Adjustments and Flexibilities

In 2022, FNS continued to respond to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency with a variety of SNAP flexibilities and adjustments to the program. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA; P.L. 116-127), allowed SNAP State agencies to request various program adjustments and flexibilities to maintain State operations and serve clients during the Public Health Emergency. In 2022, 37 States implemented a total of 118 unique COVID-19 adjustments to issuance,

application, and/or reporting requirements under FFCRA. Many State agencies also took advantage of other options provided for in FFCRA, such as emergency allotments and Pandemic EBT. Throughout the public health emergency, FNS continued to provide technical assistance to State agencies through recurring conference calls, official guidance, and email correspondence. As part of the FFCRA requirements, State agencies are expected to provide FNS with evaluation reports about how SNAP adjustments affected State operations and clients. With these evaluation reports, as well as other program monitoring methods, FNS has strived to continue to uphold program integrity and access throughout the duration of the public health emergency.

In August 2022, FNS announced four new administrative waivers available to assist State agencies in transition from flexibilities allowed during COVID-19 to routine SNAP operations, while also anticipating State capacity challenges associated with Medicaid unwinding requirements. FNS approved three waivers in 2022 and anticipates more requests in 2023 when the Federal Public Health Emergency ends.

FNS encourages States to consider ways to increase efficiencies and the effectiveness of their program administration and operations. FNS continues to provide State exchange funds to facilitate State and local agency travel to observe innovative practices which may be transferable. FNS also works with an increasing number of State agencies that are contemplating large-scale changes to their business models for delivering social services.

FNS provides technical assistance and performs strong oversight of States to ensure that workload management projects and other innovations are implemented in a successful manner to deliver program benefits more effectively and efficiently, using fewer resources without sacrificing customer service, program access or program integrity

Improving Program Integrity

FNS made important advances in its efforts to improve SNAP payment accuracy and retailer integrity.

Payment Accuracy

FNS did not issue national or State SNAP payment error rates for 2021 due to incomplete data. COVID-19 related flexibilities provided to State agencies suspended certain QC regulatory requirements from March 2020 until June 30, 2021. As a result, there was insufficient validated data to determine underpayment and overpayment error rates. FNS continued work towards implementing reforms in the Quality Control system to improve integrity and accuracy, including updating the QC 310 Handbook, which outlines the procedures reviewers must follow as they conduct quality control reviews. FNS plans to issue national and State SNAP payment error rates for 2022 on June 30, 2023.

Recipient Claims

State agencies collected approximately \$358 million. FNS continued to monitor corrective actions performed by States to address previously identified deficiencies in recipient claims systems.

Retailer Oversight and Integrity

In 2022, FNS staff authorized or reauthorized 73,532 retailers to participate in SNAP. FNS utilized contractor store visits to verify the initial or continued eligibility of 36,332 stores participating in SNAP. In this same period, 19,789 firms were withdrawn from participation because of changes in ownership, business closings, or nonconformance with authorization criteria. At the end of 2022, a total of 258,589 stores were authorized to participate in SNAP, an increase of 4,240 stores from 2021.

During 2022, FNS conducted undercover investigations of 6,528 stores nationwide. Overall, FNS compliance analysts and investigators reviewed 22,510 stores for compliance monitoring purposes.

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Systems

FNS continues oversight of States as their EBT contracts end and they procure EBT services through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. This process includes State RFP approvals, contract approvals, as well as oversight of State conversions from one EBT vendor's system to a new vendor's system. In 2022, FNS approved four RFPs, ten contracts, and reviewed and approved 56 EBT contract amendments. The number of contract amendments remained significantly higher in 2022 than the historical average of about 10 per year. This was due to COVID, and the fact that every State continued to execute various amendments, change orders, or updates to carry out Pandemic EBT benefits, Emergency Assistance, or accommodate other flexibilities in response to the COVID pandemic.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (FDPIR)

The NPA appropriation funds most Federal staff administrative expenses to administer FDPIR. Through FDPIR, FNS acquires and distributes USDA Foods to participating Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) and State agencies for distribution to income-eligible households residing on Indian reservations and income-eligible Indian tribal households living in designated service areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. Funding is also provided to the ITOs/State agencies to support the administrative cost of operating the program as well as for nutrition education efforts. FNS sets standards for participant and provider eligibility and provides training and other assistance to program partners as needed.

Throughout 2022, FNS continued to execute grants authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (P.L. 116-136, CARES Act) to support facility improvements and equipment upgrades at local FDPIR program sites. FNS also continued to implement a program specific demonstration project included in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334, the 2018 Farm Bill) which was signed into law on December 20, 2018, overseeing \$3.5 million in self-determination contract funds that were awarded to participating Tribal organizations at the end of 2021 and awarding an additional \$2.2 million in contract modifications and extensions to participants. Consultation efforts continued throughout the year to discuss FDPIR and SNAP with the Tribal community.

Three consultations were held with the FDPIR Tribal Leader Consultation Work Group. FNS also continued the transition of FDPIR's current food inventory management system, Automated Inventory System (AIS), to the Integrated Food Management System (IFMS) and developed a process for Tribes to acquire an alternate system to IFMS to meet the needs of program operators. The FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group, consisting of National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (NAFDPIR)-appointed representatives, including nutritionists, staff from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, FNS and the Agricultural Marketing Service, continued to make improvements in the FDPIR food package. FDPIR received \$4.0 million in administrative funds for nutrition education – a 16-fold increase over the previous annual funding level of \$250,000. FNS released an allocation plan and guide for allowable expenses to support FDPIR's need for culturally appropriate nutrition education and promotion. For more information about FDPIR activities during 2022, see the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program account section.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

NPA funds a portion of the Federal administration of the WIC Program. FNS uses these funds to manage the allocation of grant resources to State Departments of Health and others to support program operations. NPA also supports the development of policies, procedures, and standards used in administering the program and monitoring of State agency operations to ensure program effectiveness and compliance with law and regulation.

Highlights of 2022 accomplishments supported by the NPA appropriation and related to the WIC Program include:

Infant Formula Recall – FNS Actions Taken

On February 17, 2022, Abbott voluntarily recalled certain powder formulas produced in its Sturgis, Michigan facility following consumer complaints related to Cronobacter infections in infants. On February 28, Abbott recalled one lot of Similac PM 60/40 manufactured at the same facility. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advised parents and caregivers not to feed their baby certain powder formulas including Similac, Alimentum and EleCare. Existing challenges with the infant formula supply were exacerbated by the Abbott formula recall leading to nationwide product shortages.

FNS expedited development of a waiver approval process pursuant to section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and began issuing waivers on February 20, 2022. These waivers allowed maximum flexibility from federal requirements for State agencies as they worked with their legal counsel, procurement offices, and infant formula rebate contractors to respond to the recall and related shortages. All 49 Abbott-contracted WIC State agencies, including Tribes and U.S. Territories, received waiver approvals for requested waivers, receiving priority consideration at the onset of the recall. State agencies that held contracts with Nestle (Gerber) and Mead Johnson-Reckitt (Enfamil) also received waivers, if requested, in order to respond to issues related to shortages.

In response to the recall and nationwide shortage, in May 2022, Congress passed the Access to Baby Formula Act of 2022 (ABFA; PL 117-129), which gives additional authority to USDA to address infant formula shortages and recalls in the WIC program. ABFA (1) requires that all new WIC State agency infant formula rebate contracts include remedies to protect WIC participants from disruption in the event of an infant formula recall; and (2) provides USDA with permanent authority to modify or waive WIC statutory or regulatory requirements during disasters, emergencies, or supply chain disruptions (including product recalls) that impact WIC, as long as waivers do not substantially weaken the nutritional quality of the WIC food package.

FNS immediately used this authority to provide waivers that allow WIC State agencies to authorize infant formula being imported under FDA’s enforcement discretion, in the context of the recall, to WIC participants with equitable access to available products in the U.S. market. FNS later transferred waivers originally approved under the Stafford Act to approval under ABFA, granting nearly 500 waivers to WIC State agencies across eight different waiver types, to ensure WIC participant had access to the formula they needed.

FNS published an implementation memo to set forth applicable parameters for implementation of the infant formula cost containment contracts and waiver authority legislative provisions in ABFA in June 2022 and began rulemaking to amend 7 CFR 246 to codify the provisions of ABFA.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response – WIC and WIC Farmers’ Market Nutrition Programs (WIC FMNP)

FNS responded to over 895 WIC State agency waiver requests and 67 WIC FMNP State agency waiver requests to statutory and regulatory program requirements, to provide WIC and WIC FMNP State agencies, including Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) and U.S. Territories, the flexibilities they need to serve WIC participants during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. FNS also provided technical assistance to resolve requests where waivers were not needed. FNS continues to provide technical assistance to WIC State agencies on existing flexibilities so they can address program needs related to COVID-19.

In June 2020, FNS issued WIC Policy Memorandum 2020-5 which extended all active waivers through September 30, 2020. In September 2020, FNS issued WIC Policy Memorandum 2020-6 which extended certain WIC waivers until 30 days after the end of the nationally-declared public health emergency under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d), as related specifically to COVID-19. In September 2021, WIC Policy Memorandum 2021-10 extended most WIC waivers until 90 days after the end of the nationally-declared public health emergency.

All WIC FMNP waivers issued in 2020 expired on September 30, 2020. In March 2021, FNS issued WIC Policy Memorandum 2021-4, formally reopening the WIC FMNP 2021 waiver process with waivers set to expire 30 days after the end of the nationally-declared public health emergency under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d), as related specifically to COVID-19.

FNS’ authority to approve new waivers under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) of 2020 (Public Law 116-127) ended on September 30, 2021. While FNS did not have the authority to waive federal requirements for the Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program, FNS provided extensive technical assistance to State agencies on existing program flexibilities to address programmatic issues related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

In December 2020, FNS allocated \$500 million to State agencies available from FFCRA to remain available through September 30, 2021. In March 2021, FNS implemented a provision from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) for a State agency option to temporarily increase the WIC Cash-Value Benefit (CVB) for fruit and vegetable purchases. FNS provided \$490 million in ARPA funds to the 87 State agencies that opted to increase their participants’ CVBs to \$35 per month for a period of four months, which ended on September 30, 2021. FNS continued an increase to the CVB in 2022 pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (PL 117-103) and prior 2022 continuing resolutions.

WIC Works Resource System (WWRs)

In 2022 FNS expanded content on WWRs, with a monthly series, “What do I do with…” featuring a new food or food group from the WIC food offerings to highlight with nutritional information, key messages, recipes, and resources for staff. Additionally, published eight new quizzes featuring key takeaways on infant feeding, substance use prevention, physical activity, and breastfeeding support. Created several new pages of content for WIC staff including topics of motivational interviewing, Healthy Start, MIECHV, and a variety of health observance pages. As part of the Agency’s response to the Infant Formula shortage, FNS produced two unique pages on WWRs and WIC Breastfeeding Support that discussed how to conduct a nutrition assessment during the formula shortage, and ways to support individuals who feed a combination of breast milk and formula.

WIC Learning Online (WLOL)

In 2022, FNS successfully launched three new DEI courses to WIC Learning Online (WLOL), the free staff training course platform on the WIC Works Resource System, with a total of 175 course completions on the DEI courses to date. WLOL overall saw an increase in the total number of course completions in 2022 (total of 8,440) representing a 50 percent increase from course completions in 2021 (total of 5,643).

WIC Breastfeeding Support

FNS developed a WIC Breastfeeding infographic for State and local agency use, as well as key social media messages to support breastfeeding month activities and four new WIC Breastfeeding Support articles on ways to affirm a breastfeeding. In addition, successfully launched a social media collection library on WIC Breastfeeding Support – within the first full year of launch all pages/social media messages received 9,406 unique visits and 12,296 page views.

FNS continued providing technical assistance to the University of Nevada, Reno cooperative agreement grant for the implementation and evaluation of the national Breastfeeding Promotion Campaign, *WIC Breastfeeding Support. Learn Together Grow Together*, including dissemination of research findings at the 2022 National WIC Association Nutrition Education and Breastfeeding Promotion Conference.

WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence

In 2022, FNS awarded the WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence to 97 WIC local agencies from all seven FNS regions. A total of 85 WIC local agencies received Gold awards, and 12 WIC local agencies received Premiere awards.

Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA)

Currently, FNS is working with a contractor to develop and release additional trainings on VENA-related topics. The training topics and resources were chosen from Regional Offices and State agencies input. FNS is planning to release the trainings in Spring 2023.

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The NPA appropriation funds the staff administrative expenses of the Commodity Assistance Program (CAP). In addition to providing commodities, also known as USDA Foods, for the Child Nutrition Programs, FNS makes nutritious foods available to State agencies for distribution to low-income people through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and makes administrative resources available to States to support the distribution of these USDA Foods. The Agency may also provide USDA Foods to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, The Federated States of Micronesia, and to the survivors of Presidentially-declared disasters and situations of distress.

More information about the CAP programs during 2022 is described under “Acquisition and Distribution of USDA Foods” in the Child Nutrition Programs section.

Special USDA Foods Initiatives

FNS continues to work closely with its partners and customers, such as schools and industry, and with its two sister agencies within USDA – the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) – to improve service to its customers, streamline operations, and maintain support for American agriculture. Highlights of FNS’ most recent efforts in this area include:

Multi-Agency Task Force

FNS, AMS, and FSIS, representatives serve on a multi-agency task force. The task force meets quarterly to provide coordination and direction for USDA Foods programs, pursuant to Section 4209 of the 2014 Farm Bill. By law, the task force submits a report to Congress each year which summarizes the task force’s activities to improve USDA Foods procurement programs.

USDA Foods Nutrition Initiative

FNS and AMS continually review USDA Foods to improve and enhance the nutrition profile of USDA Foods offered to program participants. In addition, FNS responds to input from stakeholders by adding new foods or reformulating existing products to help meet the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and meal pattern requirements.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

The FNS Civil Rights Division (CRD) utilizes NPA appropriation funds to perform various essential functions in support of the FNS’ critically important mission of administering its 15 nutrition assistance programs in a fair and equitable manner to the nation’s public. In that capacity, CRD is accountable for the overall management of internal and external Civil Rights responsibilities in accordance with numerous laws and other related departmental rules, regulations, policies, and instructions.

In 2022, CRD processed 105,750 pieces of correspondence and accepted and adjudicated 86 program complaints of prohibited discrimination involving state and local agencies, nonprofits, and institutions (often schools), to whom Federal

financial assistance is given either directly or indirectly. CRD processed complaints at an average of 150 days and took appropriate actions to mitigate any areas of compliance identified.

In support of FNS programs and activities, CRD issues policy guidance and provides technical assistance and guidance to national and regional program offices, employees, state agencies, and other recipients of federal financial assistance, including all nutrition assistance programs throughout the nation. CRD developed eight Civil Rights Impact Analyses of Proposed Rules, Final Rules and Agency reorganizations to help the Agency ensure impacts on protected groups were properly mitigated. In addition, CRD closed 21 open compliance reviews and addressed deficiencies, offered technical assistance, issued corrective actions, as appropriate, through voluntary resolution actions.

CRD routinely collaborates with national and regional program offices and employees, state agencies, and other recipients of federal financial assistance to broaden their understanding of civil rights as it relates to their responsibilities in the operation of FNS programs. FNS conducted 101 program trainings to state agencies and at national conferences on various civil rights topics. CRD delivers these training opportunities for internal and external customers to provide expert technical assistance and guidance through various oversight and monitoring activities and to ensure that program beneficiaries receive timely and accurate service by working with state agencies and other entities to resolve any concerns that may arise during program administration.

CRD continues expanding the available training offerings to all employees to ensure maximum opportunity for staff to participate in EEO and DEIA events. CRD conducts compliance reviews of regional areas annually, where the focus is on the assessment of the hiring, promotions, and award practices, and providing regional training to ensure FNS is a model EEO agency. In 2022, CRD conducted 19 EEO trainings to staff to ensure that staff are aware of their EEO rights and responsibilities and to help to correct EEO deficiencies and remove barriers. As a result, CRD reports that eight EEO counseling's were conducted and resulted in the filing of six formal complaints for the year. Additionally, CRD's MD-715 working group reviewed, analyzed and identified areas of under and over representation for under-served and the differently abled individuals on a quarterly basis, in order to help FNS become a model EEO Agency.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Debt Collection Activity in 2022

For federally managed Federal debt, FNS continued its vigorous pursuit of debt owed to the Agency by billing \$490 million in new receivables during the fiscal year. Year-end outstanding debts for the fiscal year increased from the previous year by \$72 million. The overall debt resolution rate achieved was about 196 percent.

In its accounts receivable, FNS also records the Federal share of the value of recipient overpayments established by SNAP State agencies. State agencies are allowed to retain a portion of the claims collected. The receivable consists of the total claims established less the States' share.

For Federal debts managed by SNAP State agencies, such agencies establish claims against households for errors in issuing program benefits to these households. These overpayments can result from the client's incorrect reporting of household circumstances, through client fraud, or by State administrative error.

SNAP Recipient Claims Activity

Table FNS-112. 2019 – 2022 (millions of dollars; preliminary results)

Claims Activity	2019	2020	2021	2022
Claims Established	\$259	\$242	\$442	\$510
Claims Collected	245	211	334	686
Ending Balance	1,179	1,175	1,393	4,144

Financial Management (FM) Regional Office Reviews

The FM organization conducts assessments of regional offices with the objective of ensuring the propriety of financial operations and transactions within FNS. These reviews have been instrumental in raising the confidence level of management officials within the Agency over the past several fiscal years.

Financial Management Reviews (FMRs)

In addition to the reviews that HQ staff conduct of the regional offices, the regions also conduct FMRs of participating State agencies and ITOs to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial information reported by such grantees is correct, complete, and in compliance with Federal standards and regulations.

FNS has implemented a risk assessment process that assists FNS in selecting for review those State agencies and ITOs who pose the greatest financial management risk.

Financial Statements Audit

FNS received an unmodified (“clean”) opinion on the 2022 Financial Statements, meaning that the agency met the highest auditing standards.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES***Project and Program Management Implementation Initiative***

In an effort to incorporate project and program management requirements to improve the Agency’s program management capabilities, FNS has taken an incremental, phased implementation approach to transform its culture while utilizing program and project management best practices. This incremental, phased approach helps to address the Agency’s programs portfolio reviews and reporting, applicable project and program management governance development and implementation, and Program and Project Managers talent management.

In 2022, FNS leveraged the existing Agency’s Annual Priorities Planning and Operational Plans tools to facilitate and integrate additional initiatives to actively promote project and program management concepts and continue to develop FNS project and program managers while re-enforcing project and program management related activities and accountability across the enterprise.

FNS collaboratively worked across all impacted program offices to facilitate, train, and implement a new automated process for procurement forecast data collection and maintenance by using the USDA Integrated Acquisition System directed by the USDA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration (DASA) and the USDA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) Director. A total of 93 procurement requirements across all FNS program areas were identified and shared with the USDA industry partners, specifically the small and disadvantaged business community. This new process will increase small business awards by making procurement forecast data more accurate, user-friendly, available, and projected out further in advance.

FNS continued to implement internal standard operating procedures and quarterly Office of Financial Management, Chief Financial Officer, and Mission Area Senior Program Manager’s certifications to the Chief Operating Officer regarding the applicability and compliance with the required approval threshold requirements for FNS grants, cooperative agreements, intra- and inter-agency agreements, and similar reimbursable transactions. This certification process utilized data-driven strategies to improve program operations and program integrity on behalf of taxpayers by strengthening controls over financial management within FNS programs.

In addition to publishing a quarterly FNS project and program management newsletter, which highlighted project and program management related topics, news, updates, and shared project and program management best practices with the FNS Contracting Officer’s Representatives and Project and Program Managers’ community, FNS conducted a total of four learning and training sessions: (1) “Delivering Results for All: De-mystifying data analytics, program management, and reporting” with over 30 participants; (2) “COR(s) and P/PM(s): What is the difference?” with over 60 participants; (3) “USDA Values Program Management: Delivering Results for All Beyond Cost, Schedule, and Performance” with over 50 participants; and (4) “Project and Program Management Philosophy: Learning from the Past, Working on the Present, and Preparing for the Future” with over 50 participants. A total of six project and program management workshops were conducted to educate and assist FNS workforce with the Federal Acquisition Certification requirements and application preparation and submissions for Entry, Mid, and Senior certification levels in project and program Federal Data Strategy.

FNCS Central Analytics Team, 2022

In 2022, the FNCS Central Analytics Team focused on the implementation of FNS’s data strategy, a collaborative effort between the Chief Operating Officer-established Centralized Analytics Team and key FNS divisions and programs. The data strategy covers opportunities, challenges, and potential actions over two fiscal years related to data governance and stewardship, workforce enablement, data collection and open data.

As part of this effort, the team maintains FNS’s cloud-based data lake and all governance and security necessary for it to be successful. As part of the data lake, the team worked with each FNS program to connect nine new key data sources in 2022 into the data lake for analysis and data visualization purposes, with 21 data sources managed to-date. Additionally, the team hosts and maintains SNAP’s Mission Data Platform for program specific analysis and evaluation. Altogether, the team developed 22 different dashboard views from program finances to equity, general staff well-being and opinions (exit survey and customer service survey), conducted 12 dashboard-specific trainings, and has also developed and facilitated 11 monthly Data Visualization Enablement sessions, three month-long data visualization trainings, and scaled up the Data Science Training Program across all USDA with over 130 participants. The team has also developed the Nutrition Education Dashboard, working with stakeholders within FNS and across the Federal government in providing a user-friendly tool to assess nutrition and food access within the continental U.S. and territories, as well as mapping tribal lands as part of this effort. This dashboard will be one of the first to be published via the Open Data Platform in 2023.

The team also continued to develop and enhance USDA’s Advanced Analytics Community of Practice (CoP), which grew to 800 members in 2022. As part of the CoP, engagement and sharing have been pillars of the community, and the team has managed and hosted each of the CoP’s events that have brought data analytic practitioners from across USDA to share and present projects and lessons learned. These events are routinely attended by 150-200 USDA employees. Beyond the Advanced Analytics CoP, the team also developed an FNS-specific Data Analytics CoP, which has grown to roughly 330 members. The goal of this CoP is to enhance internal collaboration within FNS related to all things data and analytics, from governance and stewardship, data visualization, as well as news and training opportunities. Sharing and engagement are key features in this CoP, as well.

The team leads the Data Analytics sub-committee which captures data related opportunities and strengths from various programs and operation areas in the Agency. The goal of the committee is to enhance FNS data skills, governance policy, and raise awareness of data tools throughout the agency. From the collaboration with the committee, the team was able to create products of available FNS data sources that are currently used within the agency and will continue to work with creating data governance strategies. At the end of 2022, the team completed the first phase of the FNS data inventory, capturing metadata on more than 71 data resources maintained and used by FNS staff. This inventory tool will be used to facilitate both efficient access and use of the data by staff who require it for their analyses, setting the foundation for a one-stop FNS data knowledge repository.

In terms of external events and representation across the government space, the Central Analytics Team organized a panel on Utilizing Advanced Analytics and the Potential of Artificial Intelligence at the ATARC virtual event on AI & Data in 2022 Q3 (June 28, 2022). ATARC is the Advanced Technology Academic Research Center. The panelists included representatives from FNS programs and operations, and the Central Analytics Teams assisted with providing talking points as needed to speak about how FNS is leveraging technologies to meet the nutritional needs of families in America while ensuring equity is a center focus of these efforts. Over 70 summit attendees listened in to the FNS panel – this puts FNS on the map with other government agencies in the Advanced Data Analytics space.

Acquisition Strategies

The FNS 2022 procurement strategy has been a continuation of the Agency’s commitment to increase contracting opportunities for small businesses in order to provide customers and taxpayers the benefit of creativity, innovation, and technical expertise. The Agency has leveraged its support in driving the U.S. economy forward by helping small businesses to create jobs. The Agency has continued to exercise innovative methods to maximize Small Business opportunities. In 2022, FNS completed more than 320 actions, totaling more than \$96 million in support of program operations. Of those, more than 48 percent of the total value of the actions were awarded to small and disadvantaged businesses.

Table FNS-113. Business Categories

Category	Goal	Actual
Small Business	47.0%	48.72%
Small Disadvantaged Business.....	13.0%	9.67%
8 (a).....	15.0%	0.46%
Women-Owned Small Business.....	5.0%	3.68%
Hub Zones.....	3.0%	4.44%
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business.....	3.0%	2.52%
Veteran-Owned Small Business.....	3.0%	4.71%

Note: The above figures represent contract actions awarded directly by the FNS Contracts Management Division. The Small Business achievement results reported by the Department to the Small Business Administration (SBA) included actions that were awarded by other contracting entities and coded as using FNS funds. As a result, the achievement numbers reported by the USDA vary from the above figure.

Employee Engagement

The Agency’s commitment is to foster a holistic approach to employee engagement, aligning human resources objectives with the organization’s vision, mission and priorities to ensure that equity of opportunity is extended to empower all employees to reach their full potential. The Agency advanced a customer centric, inclusive, and high-performance workforce by investing in and engaging employees to improve professional proficiencies and close employee competency gaps, developing future leaders.

In 2022, significant enhancements to the Employee Development Program (EDP) were centered on the development of a comprehensive plan that structures the full integration and sustainability of EDP as it is transitioned from the regional operations and support to the Human Resources Division. Our efforts continued to ensure the functional transition of this critical program through a mini-steering committee, acquisition of talent to provide curriculum design and facilitation support that is inclusive of a full review of all the modules within EDP, and coordinated efforts that promote the development, contributions, and career growth of all our employees.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, FNS created the agency’s first-ever employee morale program called SPIRIT, which has grown this past fiscal year. The team defines SPIRIT as employees’ allegiance to one another - the FNS workforce - and what we do collectively to achieve the mission. In 2022, the SPIRIT team lifted the morale program by reaching and sustaining the participation of 720 employees who are voluntarily signed on to the platform. SPIRIT represents a powerful shift to a more collaborative and inclusive culture. This new culture supports and welcomes all employees, regardless of their ethnicity, background or where they geographically fall in the organization. With SPIRIT, employees follow three main tenets: information sharing, empowering each other to do their best work, and recognizing each other for their unique perspectives and experiences they bring to the table. In SPIRIT, employees find the will to do better, and share it, so all employees’ work, and mission-driven goals and objectives, are aligned and achieved in unison. In 2022, the SPIRIT team launched an employee wellbeing and health Microsoft Teams channel called *Living Well Together* (LWT) to give employees a safe space to discuss health topics, goals, and successes in their journeys to be their best selves. Every Monday, the LWT team also hosts a mindfulness event in support of employees’ overall wellness and wellbeing. In 2023, FNS will continue exploring innovative approaches to advance the mission, listen to employees, and collaborate on future opportunities.

In addition to the SPIRIT morale program, FNS continued to manage an Agency intranet and produce a weekly all-employee bulletin to promote information-sharing, share agency news and initiative highlights, promote learning and development opportunities, and connect and support employees with resources such as the Employee Assistance Program.

In response to the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) 2021 results, FNS created and implemented a robust action plan to respond to the greatest opportunities identified by the FEVS, including, but not limited to, performance management, employee recognition, collaboration across work units, and “leaders lead”. In 2023, FNS will continue to analyze and respond to the opportunities identified through FEVS and other forms of employee listening and will continue to cultivate a culture of recognition and holistic support for employees to promote a positive employee experience.

Performance Management

In support of the human capital management strategies and in accordance with OMB M-17-22, the Agency continued to provide learning and growth opportunities for employees and supervisors on performance management and managing. FNS implemented a comprehensive two-tier rating system evaluating performance of all non-bargaining unit employees and a small percentage of the bargaining unit employees. In 2022, FNS provided quarterly training opportunities to

enhance supervisors' capability to compliantly fulfill all requirements within the performance management program. FNS achieved an Agency Head approved successor Collective Bargaining Agreement with its labor partner in the later part of 2022 which transitions all remaining bargaining unit employees within the agency to the two-tier rating system in 2023. As a result, increased training opportunities and resources were provided across the agency. In 2023, the agency will continue to provide training and resources to employees and supervisors that increase organizational effectiveness and efficiency by enhancing performance, customer service, and accountability.

Human Capital

In 2022, FNS continued improving the hiring process by implementing human capital management strategies and flexibilities in accordance with Departmental and the Office of Personnel Management guidance and Federal regulations. In 2022, more than 300 hiring actions were completed with an average time to hire of 89 days while all employees of the agency were in a maximized telework posture. A series of strategies were employed including tracking time to hire on a pay period to pay period basis and auditing not less than three hiring action case files per month. Efforts focused on strengthening partnerships with hiring managers and identifying process improvement opportunities throughout the fiscal year.

FNS also assessed staffing and competency gaps and implemented strategies to close these gaps. The HR Helps customer center continued to provide service to stakeholders and maximize the efficient use of time by our federal staff. HR Helps provided dedicated support to address all HR customers that address current employee needs, applicant inquiries, and new hire questions (onboarding). During 2022, nearly 2,400 inquiries were received with more than 90 percent of those inquiries resolved in less than one day. The HR Helps customer center was able to resolve 87 percent of inquiries without escalating to subject matter experts which enabled them to dedicate more time accomplishing complicated human resources goals, objectives, and priorities in support of the agency's mission. In 2023, FNS will continue its commitment to growing a workforce and organizational culture on the foundation of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility for everyone.

FNS' continued to strive to recruit from among diverse sources in order to ensure the workforce reflects the demographics of the people we serve. Efforts and associated tasks have been accomplished to support this objective, including active recruitment efforts and strategies to increase the use of Schedule A and Peace Corps non-competitive appointments and providing training to hiring managers to expand the opportunities for non-competitive hiring authorities for all target groups. Recruitment efforts have also been used to focus on Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Veteran organizations, and affiliates for the disabled. In 2022, the agency continued to promote the use of non-competitive hiring authorities among hiring managers and supervisors in order to increase workforce diversity, particularly among under-represented groups. In 2022, the agency launched several new recruitment strategies to strengthen the recruitment process and support the use of non-competitive hiring to include Schedule A, military spouses, and Veterans. In addition, the agency will continue to expand the use of data through workforce demographic dashboards to ensure consistent and equitable distribution of discretionary awards, promotions, and other attributes included as part of Management Directive 715.

Diversity and Inclusion (D&I)

FNS continued to strive to recruit from among diverse sources in order to ensure the workforce reflects the demographics of the people we serve. Efforts and associated tasks have been accomplished to support this objective, including active recruitment efforts and strategies to increase the use of Schedule A and Peace Corps non-competitive appointments and providing training to hiring managers to expand the opportunities for non-competitive hiring authorities for all target groups. Recruitment efforts have also been used to focus on Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Historically Black Colleges and Universities and 1890s institutions, Veteran organizations, and affiliates for the disabled. The agency continued to promote the use of non-competitive hiring authorities among hiring managers and supervisors in order to increase workforce diversity, particularly under-represented groups.

To advance Executive Order 14035: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce, in April 2022, FNS hosted a Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM) Open House event to provide awareness and to educate the FNS workforce on the duties of SEPMs and their critical role, to ensure that FNCS take affirmative steps to provide equal and inclusive opportunity to everyone in all areas of employment and eliminate discriminatory practices and policies.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Engagement and Accessibility

The agency will continue to expand the use of data through workforce demographic dashboards to ensure consistent and equitable distribution of discretionary awards, promotions, and other attributes included as part of Management Directive 715.

FNS has been committed to ensuring all persons in the U.S. are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in FNS programs and activities. To that end, FNS examined its Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Engagement, and Accessibility policies and practices. FNS' goals were to strengthen its organizational culture and practices, ensure that FNS is both diverse and inclusive, and support a multicultural workforce that is fully engaged and able to reach their potential.

To assess the current state and progress towards equity, diversity, inclusion, and engagement in the agency's human resource practices and workforce composition, and to identify areas where conditions ("barriers") may be limiting opportunities for employees and job applicants, FNS procured the services of an independent contractor. FNS tasked the contractor with conducting an Agency-wide environmental scan that would form the basis for recommendations to address deficiencies and barriers to sustainable change.

Like many other efforts to improve the workplace, studies have shown that fostering equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility can be achieved best under conditions of employee engagement. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) defines engagement as, "An employee's sense of purpose that is evident in their display of dedication, persistence and effort in their work or overall attachment to their organization and its mission." FNS recognized how critical employee engagement is to achieve an equitable and inclusive work environment, to enable a healthy and productive workforce, and to encourage and facilitate the full participation of all its employees in mission success.

The methodology for the environmental scan included:

- Relevant Executive Orders, OPM guidance, and FNS human resources policy reviews
- Review of the relevant literature
- Analysis of the FEVS from 2017-2020, the most recent years for which data was available
- Focus groups with FNS employees
- Interviews with FNS senior leaders

FNS intends for the findings and recommendations from this environmental scan to serve as the impetus for improving the implementation of DEIA policies and practices throughout FNS. The environmental scan provides a foundation for the development of a strategic plan to address the inequities and implement actionable solutions to embed equity, diversity, inclusion, and engagement within the culture of FNS.

Operations and Facilities (OFD)

FNS developed a five-year space reduction plan across all regional offices and retailer management centers to reduce the footprint of the Agency. This plan would result in a 27 percent reduction in FNS' footprint and be in compliance with Departmental and the Office of Management and Budget requirements. In 2022, OFD anticipated completion of two funded projects, however due to COVID-19 and limited travel restrictions, projects were placed on hold. As Position Determinations are forthcoming, there will be a need to provide a revised Agency Space Optimization Plan based off realized updated numbers of what will be underutilized space. 2023 will be focused on completing a revised space optimization plan by end of the second quarter. The remaining portion of 2023 will focus on opportunities for space/office closures, and where space can potentially be returned to GSA. 2024-2028 will be dedicated to completing remaining space optimization planned projects at a rate in which the budget for funding office changes may allow.

CENTER FOR NUTRITION POLICY AND PROMOTION

The Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) works to improve the health and well-being of Americans by developing and promoting dietary guidance that links scientific research to the nutrition needs of consumers. It carries out its mission to improve the health of Americans by serving as the Federal authority on evidence-based food, nutrition and economic analyses that inform policy and programs; translates science into actionable food and nutrition guidance for all Americans; and leads national communication initiatives that apply science-based messages to advance consumers' dietary and economic knowledge and behaviors.

Major initiatives include the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, the Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review (NESR), MyPlate, the Healthy Eating Index, USDA Food Plans (including the Thrifty Food Plan), and food pattern modeling. These initiatives support Secretary Vilsack's goal to improve food and nutrition security for all Americans. To

ensure efficiency while maintaining integrity and quality across its initiatives, FNS is committed to continuous quality advancement by incorporating best practices into all initiatives.

CNPP makes key contributions to USDA’s priority of ensuring that America’s children (and their families) have access to nutritious, balanced meals. CNPP does this by translating nutrition guidance into innovative, consumer-focused nutrition initiatives to provide the public with information and ways to make healthy eating choices and be physically active. Our mission, vision, goals, priorities, and values exemplify our commitment to performance that meet the needs of the American public - *driving greater integration and collaboration for greater impact*. FNS’ resources are widely used by consumers, health professionals, nutrition educators, Federal agencies, and other stakeholders serving the public.

Development and Promotion of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans

The National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 requires the Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Health of Human Services (HHS) to jointly publish the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans (Dietary Guidelines)* at least every five years. The *Dietary Guidelines* provides a science-based foundation to help inform Federal nutrition education and promotion programs, including the major vehicle for implementing the *Dietary Guidelines – MyPlate*. The *Dietary Guidelines* is also widely adopted in the private sector, mainly by education and health professionals. Within USDA, the *Dietary Guidelines* is used by the Child Nutrition Programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to guide nutrition standards and benefit levels for participants ages 2 years and older.

During 2022, CNPP conducted activities on behalf of USDA working jointly with the HHS to promote the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025*, and began the process to develop the next edition, *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030* to be released by the end of 2025.

- CNPP, with our partners at HHS, focused on implementation of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2020-2025*, which was released on December 29, 2020. Since this date, there have been more than 3 million page views at DietaryGuidelines.gov. The site has been accessed by users in 240 countries/territories, including all 50 states and DC.
- To support Secretary Vilsack’s goal to improve food and nutrition security for all Americans, CNPP with our partners at HHS undertook a process to develop a new section of DietaryGuidelines.gov devoted to Spanish language web content and resources. These resources included turnkey handouts and factsheets that can be easily downloaded and shared with individuals and families as well as figures from the Dietary Guidelines that can be adapted and turned into teaching tools by other organizations to illustrate key points from the *Dietary Guidelines*.
- USDA and HHS formalized the process to develop the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030* through a Memorandum of Understanding and determined the next edition would have a continued focus on diet and health across the lifespan. This includes the relationship between diet and risk of overweight and obesity with a new emphasis on weight loss and weight maintenance. New questions will also address ultra-processed foods and food-based strategies that can be used by individuals and families to support implementation of the *Dietary Guidelines* and help prevent or manage overweight and obesity. In addition, all scientific questions will be reviewed with a health equity lens to ensure that resulting guidance in the *Dietary Guidelines* is inclusive of people with diverse racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural backgrounds. The proposed scientific questions to be examined by the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee were posted for public comment from April 15 – May 16, 2022. During the public comment period, USDA and HHS received approximately 1,400 public comments. These comments are being used along with research availability to refine the list of scientific questions that the 2025 Committee will be asked to address in its review. To support transparency and public engagement in the process, new pages were added to DietaryGuidelines.gov and promotional and outreach efforts were utilized to make the public aware of the opportunity to provide input into the process.
- USDA and HHS are currently in the process of appointing the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee who will be charged with reviewing the scientific evidence on nutrition and to develop a scientific report that will be used to support the development of the next edition of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. CNPP with our partners at HHS undertook several activities during the public call for nominations with the aim of increasing the diversity of the Committee and to seek out expertise in health equity. This resulted in outreach to more than 125 organizations, reflecting a diversity of professional and advocacy organizations including stakeholders and organizations that work with tribal nations. To help reduce barriers to apply, USDA and HHS made clear that self-nominations were encouraged.
- To promote continuous quality advancement, CNPP contracted with and provided technical support for a National Academy of Sciences study to compare the process used to develop the *Dietary Guidelines for*

Americans, 2025-2030 to recommendations included in the previously published report, *Redesigning the Process for Establishing the Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. Findings from this study will help to inform future cycles.

Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review (NESR)

Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review (NESR) is a team of scientists from the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. NESR scientists have a unique combination of experience and expertise in systematic review methodology, nutrition science, public health, and library science. NESR scientists answer nutrition questions of public health importance by conducting high-quality systematic reviews, rapid reviews, and evidence scans using up-to-date methods and technology. NESR supports CNPP’s mission to improve the health of Americans by developing and promoting dietary guidance that links scientific research to the nutrition needs of consumers. NESR’s work also helps the agency uphold the Data Quality Act, which mandates that Federal agencies ensure the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of the information used to form Federal guidance.

In 2022, the NESR team’s work plan focused on three types of activities:

- **Review projects**, including systematic reviews, rapid reviews, and evidence scans designed to answer questions about the relationship between diet and health, describe current evidence on high-priority public health nutrition topics, and/or identify strategies to facilitate adoption of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. In 2022, NESR’s major review projects included:
 - FNS Office of Policy Support Rapid Reviews on the summer feeding program, school-based strategies to improve acceptance of new foods and healthier dietary patterns, breakfast consumption and the School Breakfast Program, and racial and ethnic disparities in human milk feeding.
 - USDA Food Plans Rapid Reviews and Evidence Scans Rapid Reviews on the relationship between income and prices for food items/baskets, time spent on food-at-home-related activities, or following a dietary pattern that aligns with the *Dietary Guidelines*, as measured by the Healthy Eating Index (HEI); overall diet cost and following a dietary pattern that aligns with the *Dietary Guidelines*, as measured by the HEI; factors that influence the purchase and/or consumption of at-home convenience foods
 - Protein Dietary Reference Intake (DRI) Evidence Scans to provide the Joint Canada-US Dietary Reference Intakes Working Group with information on the evidence available on the relationship between protein intake and health, including adverse health effects, chronic disease risks, and protein intake requirements. These evidence scans were used to inform future systematic reviews that will be conducted to inform updates to the DRIs for protein.
 - Preparatory work to support the upcoming 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee’s review of science to inform the development of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030*. This included conducting continuous evidence monitoring and evidence scans to support topic and question identification and prioritization.
- **Continuous Quality Advancement (CQA)**, in which NESR evaluates and refines aspects of its methodology and tools to ensure that processes remain state-of-the-art. In 2022, NESR’s major CQA efforts focused on numerous topics, including but not limited to:
 - Expansion of NESR’s product line (rapid reviews, continuous evidence monitoring, and evidence scans)
 - Synthesis, with and without meta-analysis
 - Dietary assessment methodology
 - Literature searching
 - Using existing non-NESR reviews
 - Updating NESR reviews
- **Outreach** using a variety of strategies to disseminate information about us and our work to a range of audiences. In 2022, NESR’s major outreach activities included:
 - Measuring and expanding the uptake of the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee reviews
 - Developing a communications plan
 - Updating NESR’s template for creating project reports
 - Creating a NESR one-pager and PowerPoint slides

- Development of seven peer-review publications (three published, one submitted, and three in draft)
- Participation in more than 30 presentations about NESR and its work

Food Pattern Modeling Informs USDA Dietary Patterns

Food pattern modeling is one of three scientific approaches (along with systematic reviews and data analysis) that the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (Committee) will use to conduct their rigorous review of the evidence to inform the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030 (Dietary Guidelines). The USDA Dietary Patterns were developed to help individuals carry out Dietary Guidelines recommendations. They are developed using food pattern modeling to reflect health-promoting patterns identified in systematic reviews and meet nutrient recommendations. The USDA Dietary Patterns identify amounts of foods, in nutrient-dense forms, to eat from five major food groups and their subgroups. They also include an allowance for oils and a limit on the maximum number of calories available for other uses, such as added sugars, saturated fat, and/or alcohol, or to eat more than the recommended amount of food in a food group. Three USDA Dietary Patterns are included in the current Dietary Guidelines and provided at the end of this document: [Healthy U.S.-Style](#), [Healthy Vegetarian](#), and [Healthy Mediterranean-Style Dietary Patterns](#).

An interagency Food Pattern Modeling working group has been formed, and methodological enhancements are underway to advance food pattern modeling to better reflect intake variability and the range of possible healthful diets based on our diverse populations. The working group, in collaboration with NESR, is conducting an evidence scan to summarize methods used to account for variation in intakes in food pattern modeling analyses. In addition, the working group drafted proposed Food Pattern Modeling questions that will be considered for the Committee's work.

USDA Food Plans Inform SNAP and Serve the Military

The four USDA Food Plans (Thrifty, Low-Cost, Moderate-Cost, and Liberal) are national standards for nutritious diets at various cost levels. Each plan represents a set of market baskets containing a selection of foods in quantities that reflect dietary recommendations and are applicable to one of 15 age-gender groups.

Following the reevaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan published in 2021, CNPP continued to work toward updating the cost-of-food adjustments to the Thrifty Food Plan for Alaska and Hawaii. The report associated with this analysis is expected to be published in 2023.

CNPP is taking numerous steps to improve documentation and quality advancement in all work related to the TFP. Specifically, throughout the development of updated cost-of-food adjustments to the TFP for Alaska and Hawaii, CNPP has implemented enhanced documentation procedures including detailing team meeting agendas and action items, producing decision memos outlining the technical decisions considered by the NEA branch, and conducting a transparent review and evaluation process of the methodology and final report. Additionally, CNPP oversaw the acquisition of funds to purchase IRI food price data that can advance work related to the TFP, including the next TFP reevaluation, and other economic initiatives across FNS.

Healthy Eating Index Tracks the Quality of the U.S. Diet

CNPP uses the Healthy Eating Index (HEI) to monitor the diet quality of the American population and subpopulations of interest. The Update to the Healthy Eating Index-2015 manuscript was published in 2018 and received an award from the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* in 2020 and 2021 for being the most referenced paper published in their journal. This award is indicative of the HEI's widespread use in research to assess diet quality and the relationship between diet and health outcomes.

The new USDA Dietary Patterns for ages 12 through 23 months prompted a need for an HEI that can be used to assess diet quality among toddlers. CNPP is collaborating with HHS/NIH/National Cancer Institute staff to develop a HEI for children under 2 years of age. The existing HEI-2015 is also being considered for update ensuring its alignment with the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025*.

Meeting Consumers Where They Are with Guidance and Resources to Help Them Eat Healthy on a Budget

Through a multi-pronged approach, CNPP has worked to raise the profile of MyPlate, the consumer translation of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, and to share advice and tools with consumers on how to build healthy eating solutions into their everyday life.

In 2022, CNPP efforts with MyPlate were centered on expanding the reach of healthy, budget-conscious, nutrition information to more American households toward the goal of impacting food insecurity, diet-related diseases, and health

disparities in the United States. Specifically, CNPP efforts focused on expanding MyPlate resources for low-income and historically underserved populations, with an emphasis on healthy eating on a budget.

MyPlate.gov Website

MyPlate.gov consistently ranks in the top 5 most visited among all USDA websites. MyPlate.gov had a total of 6,807,440 visitors and 51 million page views in 2022. The key MyPlate.gov feature launched this year was MiPlato, a Spanish language MyPlate.gov webpage. This new section of the MyPlate.gov website was created by CNPP as a hub for MyPlate Spanish language tools and materials to support the nutrition education needs of Spanish speaking consumers. In the five months post-launch (April-September 2022), MiPlato received 6,756 page views.

To promote the MiPlato webpage, CNPP developed a National Hispanic Heritage Month MyPlate promotional campaign highlighting Spanish language MyPlate resources on the MiPlato webpage and sharing cultural food traditions from FNS staff. This effort served to address the equity gap in providing language translations for key FNS resources and to reach more historically underserved communities.

Shop Simple with MyPlate

Launched in 2022, CNPP developed Shop Simple with MyPlate, a web tool to help consumers save money while shopping for healthy food choices. The tool does what MyPlate does best: It meets people where they are, provides actionable information, and integrates assets from various USDA nutrition assistance programs, putting key resources in one place for the public. For the user, Shop Simple with MyPlate helps people quickly find savings in their local area and discover new ways to prepare budget-friendly foods. In the “Savings” area of the tool, consumers can enter their zip code to find cost-saving opportunities in their local area, including stores and farmer’s markets that accept SNAP EBT and rewards programs (e.g., GUSNIP incentive programs). In the “Foods” section, consumers get budget-friendly suggestions from each food group, and purchasing and storage tips, serving ideas, recipes, and nutrition information. In terms of equity, Shop Simple was designed to be accessible to as many Americans as possible which is why it is not a traditional mobile app, it is a web-based app optimized to feel like a mobile app. In this way, those without access to smartphones can use the tool directly from the web.

Post-launch, CNPP developed and deployed a process to regularly update the list of online retailers that accept SNAP within the Shop Simple with MyPlate tool. Regular updates to this information mean users always have the latest list of online retailers that accept SNAP, which is especially important as SNAP online availability rapidly expands among retailers in 49 states and Washington, D.C. offering online EBT purchasing (not yet available in Alaska). Notable 2022 metrics include:

- 775,011 page views in 2022
- 87,968 total users in 2022
- 51 percent of Shop Simple with MyPlate users accessed the tool via a mobile device, 48 percent on a desktop computer, and 1 percent on a tablet device
- The top 3 sections of Shop Simple with MyPlate are foods by group, recipes, and savings

MyPlate Social and Digital Media

In 2022, CNPP expanded beyond organic social and digital outreach and developed and launched a first-of-its-kind paid advertising pilot campaign to raise awareness and increase usage of MyPlate resources among SNAP participants and SNAP-eligible participants. The pilot campaign featured web banner ads and social media ads on Facebook and Instagram, in both English and Spanish, to promote MyPlate tools and resources and inform consumers about healthier food choices and ways to maximize SNAP benefits. The advertisements ran in 9 markets that were selected on population size, income levels, geographic diversity, and other demographics and garnered over 205 million impressions and 251,000 clicks to the MyPlate website. Audiences were highly engaged with the Spanish-language ads, and which yielded higher engagement compared to the English-language ads. In addition to providing cost-conscious nutrition information, this effort served to address the equity gap in providing language translations for key FNS resources and to reach more historically underserved communities. The MyPlate social media channels continued to serve as one of the primary promotion vehicles for MyPlate tools and resources in 2022. The current total number of @MyPlate Twitter followers is 101,900 and Facebook followers is 119,000.

MyPlate Quiz

The MyPlate Quiz is an interactive online tool that consumers can use to assess their nutrition knowledge and eating behaviors. In 2022, CNPP launched and began promotion of the Spanish version of the MyPlate Quiz which has resulted in more than 55,000 views; 25,000 people accessing the quiz; and more than 17,000 people taking the quiz in the Spanish

language version. The MyPlate Quiz allows consumers to answer a series of 20 questions about the MyPlate food groups and their healthy eating interests. At the end of the Quiz, the user discovers their MyPlate level, food group recommendations and a variety of free personalized resources including the opportunity to sync their quiz results with the Start Simple with MyPlate app (see below), the MyPlate Plan tool, recipes from MyPlate Kitchen (see below), and relevant tip sheets.

Start Simple with MyPlate App

The *Start Simple with MyPlate* mobile app, released in January 2020, is designed to help Americans incorporate MyPlate into their daily lives by meeting simple food group-related goals. The app allows consumers to pick from a variety of daily goals and see progress as goals are completed. App users can earn badges, view how-to tips, and participate in quarterly in-app challenges. 2022 additions to the app include a new ‘Progress’ feature for users to see their progress over time. Users can choose any time period to view completion statistics of goals (daily, weekly, and best week), highest daily streak count, and badges earned. Four new in-app challenges were added, which serve to reinforce healthy behaviors and provide motivation to continue making healthy eating choices. CNPP is also developed 20 new badges designed to encourage active engagement and reward long-term use of the app. Badges will emphasize accomplishments in areas including personal performance, participation, meeting goal milestones, and anniversary recognition. Since launch through the end of 2022, there were more than 485,000 net installations of the app from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

MyPlate Kitchen

CNPP continues to lead the MyPlate Kitchen section of the MyPlate website in collaboration with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) team. The site has been redesigned to enhance user engagement and includes modernized features to save favorite recipes and create personal cookbook collections. The MyPlate Kitchen Team is also working on integrating a new data backend to enable updated nutrition and cost analysis for recipes.

MyPlate on Alexa

In July 2021, CNPP released USDA’s first Amazon Alexa “skill” – which is like an app for the Alexa device or app on smartphones. MyPlate on Alexa provides MyPlate nutrition information and healthy eating tips for babies ages 4 to 24 months via an Amazon Alexa smart speaker or on a phone or tablet via the free Amazon Alexa app. In 2022, MyPlate on Alexa added tips for everyone from 3-month-olds through older adults and as a result, over 500 new tips were added. Metrics analysis shows that in 2022, there were 2,565 sessions and over 3,200 tips read.

MyPlate Partnerships

The public-private MyPlate Nutrition Communicators Network’s National Strategic Partnership, comprised of organizations with national reach, ended 2022 with a total membership of 131 national partner organizations ranging from leading health professional and educational organizations to food associations, manufacturers, and other companies. In addition, CNPP established a new opportunity to collaborate with MyPlate partners and encourage consumers to make healthy eating choices through the MyPlate Partner Resources and Images Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Through this MOU partners can share nutrition education resources, images, and videos that align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans to be featured on the MyPlate website.

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) was established August 8, 1969, by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1659 and Supplement 1 pursuant to the authority contained in 5 U.S.C. 301 and the Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953. FNS increases food security and reduces hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition education in a manner that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence. FNS administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 16 nutrition assistance programs. These programs, which serve one in four Americans over the course of a year, are designed to provide low-income persons with access to a more nutritious diet, to improve the eating habits of the Nation's children, and to help America's farmers by providing an outlet for food purchased under agricultural support authorities.

ALIGNMENT TO USDA 2022 – 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

The work of FNS contributes to the success of USDA's overall mission to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues using sound public policy, the best available science, and effective management, to the benefit of all Americans. FNS is responsible for achieving and measuring results with respect to the following 2022 – 2026 Strategic Goal and Objectives:

- Strategic Goal 4: Make Safe, Nutritious Food Available to All Americans
 - Objective 4.1 Increase Food Security Through Assistance and Access to Nutritious and Affordable Food
 - Objective 4.2 Encourage Healthy Dietary Choices through Data-Driven, Flexible, Customer-Focused Approaches

FNS Key Performance Measures:

A more detailed report of the performance plan can be found at <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/performance>. The following table summarizes the results for the Departmental Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for which AES is responsible.

Table FNS-114. Key Performance Indicators & Strategic Targets

Strategic Objective 4.1		Baseline ¹	2022	2023	2024
Access to Food	Results	89.5	TBD	-	-
Percentage of American households with consistent, dependable access to food	Target	-	89.3	89.4	89.5
SNAP Participation Rate	Results	82	TBD	-	-
Annual average monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation rate	Target	-	82.1	82.2	82.3

Expected Performance Progress Towards the Achievement of Strategic Objectives:

Objective 4.1 Increase Food Security Through Assistance and Access to Nutritious and Affordable Food

Access to Food: Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) 16 nutrition assistance programs are the nation's safety net to address food insecurity. FNS will continue to serve low-income people in need by focusing on increasing access for vulnerable populations, ensuring the highest level of customer service, and supporting evidenced-based nutrition education efforts to advance nutrition security. Strategies to ensure food access include implementation of the newly enacted Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children Programs (Summer EBT) beginning summer 2024, successful development of regulations codifying the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO), amendments to regulatory provisions to make access and parity improvements within several food distribution programs, including Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDRIR), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and USDA Foods disaster response, and continued cross-enrollment opportunities between Federal programs. Access to food is measured by the food insecurity rate prepared annually by the Economic Research Service (ERS). This measurement fluctuates and is impacted by several factors, including population, policies, and economic conditions.

SNAP Participation Rate: SNAP stretches the food budget of eligible low-income people by providing a monthly allotment of benefits on a debit card to purchase healthy food at authorized stores. SNAP helps people through the tough times until they can once again achieve self-sufficiency. SNAP has an important economic multiplier effect, stimulating the economy during a downturn. The SNAP participation rate is designed to fluctuate based on economic conditions. To promote nutrition security, strategies include efforts to grow, expand online purchasing in SNAP to more retailer outlets and implement policies to support access to SNAP by special populations who have limited access to technology or low levels of technological literacy.

Table FNS-115. Key Performance Indicators & Strategic Targets

Strategic Objective 4.2		Baseline ¹	2022	2023	2024
WIC Participation	Results	6.3 million	6.3 million	-	-
Annual average monthly participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children	Target	-	6.3 million	6.4 million	6.5 million
School Lunch Participation Rate ²	Results	43	60	-	-
Annual percentage of eligible children participating in the National School Lunch Program	Target	-	59	59	59
School Breakfast Participation Rate ²	Results	24	31	-	-
Annual percentage of eligible children participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP)	Target	-	31	31	31

Expected Performance Progress Towards the Achievement of Strategic Objectives:

Strategic Objective 4.2: Encourage Healthy Dietary Choices through Data-Driven, Flexible, Customer-Focused Approaches

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Participation Rate: The WIC program aims to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children who are at nutrition risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care. FNS is carrying out outreach, innovation, and program modernization efforts to increase WIC’s participation rate through increased enrollment, retention of participants for the full length of their eligibility, and an improved participant experience. As part of this effort FNS is prioritizing outreach to make sure eligible families know about WIC and the benefits it provides, improving the shopping experience with the expansion of online ordering and transactions, investing in, and diversifying the WIC workforce to ensure skilled and culturally relevant care for WIC families, and modernizing technology and service delivery.

School Lunch and School Breakfast Participation Rate: The School Lunch and School Breakfast programs provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost, or free meals to children each school day. FNS will seek to increase participation rates in these programs by promoting effective and innovative use of technology such as the Child Nutrition Program (CNP) dashboard and the School Meals Web Based Application. FNS will also develop a plan to assess integrity features in online school meals applications. Additionally, FNS will support CNP operators and participants with nutrition policy and meal pattern implementation via training and resources grounded in scientific evidence. Moreover, FNS will support improving children’s access to nutritious food by publishing rules to better align school meal patterns with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and to expand the number the schools offering free meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision. Finally, FNS will provide trainings and resources through the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition to support school nutrition professionals in increasing scratch cooking and preparing meals using fresh fruits and vegetables. These new trainings will be interactive and build the cooking skill base of CN staff around the nation. Meals that employ more scratch cooking techniques will be more appealing to students, increasing their intake of healthy foods.

¹ 2019 data was used to calculate Baseline numbers. 2022 food security rate data expected fall 2023. 2022 SNAP participation data expected in 2024.

² Due to COVID-19 waivers, NSLP and SBP numbers for 2021 and 2022 are not directly comparable to 2023 or subsequent years. In 2021, most meals were served through the Summer Food Service Program and not NSLP and SBP. In 2022, all meals were served to students free of charge. These waivers were not extended into SY 2022-2023, and schools moved back to standard operating procedures.