

2025 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

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PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the “Budget” is in regard to the 2025 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 2022 and 2023, estimated levels for 2024 assuming the passage of a full-year continuing resolution, and the President’s Budget request for 2025. Amounts for 2024 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 2024. Amounts shown in 2025 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 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

The Food and Nutrition Service’s (FNS) 2025 Budget requests a total of \$163.6 billion in mandatory and discretionary funding to support the Agency’s mission in administering the 16 domestic nutrition assistance programs in 2025. Maintaining the Administration’s longstanding commitment to fully fund WIC, the Budget includes \$7.7 billion to support an estimated 7 million women, infants and children seeking benefits in 2025, and proposes a new emergency contingency fund to address any unexpected increases in WIC participation or food costs above projections. The Budget proposes legislative changes and other investments to support implementation of the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (Summer EBT), including reducing barriers to Summer EBT by waiving the administrative match requirement, new Summer EBT implementation grants for States and Indian Tribal Organizations, and Federal resources for policy development, technical assistance and program oversight. The Budget also requests resources aimed at strengthening program integrity in SNAP and across the nutrition programs, as well as some common-sense flexibilities to improve FNS program delivery. The Budget supports improved TEFAP infrastructure and a pathway to healthy school meals for all.

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 and nutrition security among children and income-eligible individuals and families to promote optimal health and well-being, while building a more resilient food system. Currently, the programs administered by FNS touch the lives of one in four Americans annually.

FNS also 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 educate consumers and inform their dietary 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. SNAP provides nutrition assistance to approximately 42 million low-income Americans each month, the majority of whom are children, the elderly, or people with disabilities. SNAP helps them put food on the table through benefits that can be redeemed at authorized food retailers nationwide. State agencies are responsible for administering the program according to national eligibility and benefit standards set by Federal law and

regulations. FNS 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) operating the program are responsible for eligibility certification, nutrition education, local warehousing and transportation of food, distribution of food to recipient households, and program integrity. USDA purchases and ships the nutritious, domestic food, known as 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 include the National School Lunch (NSLP), School Breakfast (SBP), Special Milk (SMP), Child and Adult Care Food (CACFP), Summer Food Service (SFSP), Fresh Fruit and Vegetable (FFVP), and the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) Programs.

The NSLP, SBP, SMP, CACFP, and SFSP are authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended. 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 and emergency shelters. For each of these programs, FNS provides funds 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 for free or at a reduced price to children from low-income families.

The FFVP, also authorized by the National School Lunch Act, provides access to fresh fruits and vegetables for students in low-income elementary schools in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. 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 Summer EBT as a new permanent Federal Child Nutrition Program. Beginning summer 2024, Summer EBT will provide summer grocery benefits to school children in low-income families for purchasing food and beverages at authorized retailers across the country. Summer grocery benefits are a proven strategy for helping dramatically reduce child hunger when schools are out for summer.

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 is one of the most powerful, evidence-based public health programs available, with a long history of improving health and developmental outcomes for children. WIC provides participants with monthly supplemental food packages tailored 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 package costs, nutrition services, and program administration; State agencies operate the program pursuant to plans approved by FNS.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

TEFAP supports America's 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 State agencies 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 a monthly food package of nutritious USDA Foods. FNS provides State agencies with these USDA Foods as well as 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 benefits to low-income seniors to support the purchase of 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 eligible WIC participants – pregnant and postpartum women, infants older than 4 months, and children up to the age of five – with benefits to purchase fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs directly from farmers, farmers' markets, and roadside stands.

Pacific Island and Disaster Assistance

Authorized under the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-188), Pacific Island Assistance provides the nuclear-affected islands of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) assistance in the form of cash-in-lieu of food and administrative funds through the Special Food Assistance Program. Disaster relief in the form of USDA Foods can also 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 CNPP, FNS serves as a Federal authority on evidence-based food guidance, nutrition and economic analyses, and consumer nutrition education. CNPP's work is non-regulatory, with several initiatives that serve as the foundation for many Federal departments' and agencies' policies and programs. These include:

- The *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* were mandated under the 1990 National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act to provide dietary guidance for the public and expanded by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) to include guidance for infants and young children from birth to 24 months. Designed for professional audiences, the *Dietary Guidelines* 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.
- The Healthy Eating Index (HEI) is an analytic tool used to assess how well diets align with the dietary patterns recommended in the *Dietary Guidelines*, used widely by FNS, Academic institutions, organizations, and Federal agencies including many other agencies within the USDA, such as the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Economic Research Service.
- The 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. Their work is conducted using collaborative processes designed to minimize bias and ensure transparency.

- The USDA Food Plans (Thrifty, Low Cost, Moderate Cost, and Liberal), which exemplify nutritious diets at four cost levels and can help Americans eat healthfully on a budget. The Food Plans also serve as a reference source for other Federal needs; for example, the Thrifty Food Plan is used to set the maximum allotment for SNAP and the Moderate Cost and Liberal Food Plans are used by 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.
- MyPlate is the consumer translation of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and the Federal nutrition symbol used as the foundation for Federally funded, consumer nutrition education initiatives. MyPlate provides resources, tips, and tools to consumers on healthy eating choices.

FNS Staff

FNS employees are a vital resource for advancing the mission of the Federal 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's budget. The agency employment level represents approximately 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, 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's national office, seven regional offices, one sub-regional office, and 4 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. In addition, the Retailer Operations Division monitors the 261,770 stores and other outlets authorized to redeem SNAP benefits as of September 30, 2023.

As of September 2023, there were approximately 1,732 full-time permanent employees in the agency. This included 603 employees in the Washington headquarters office and 1,129 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	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	Change	2025 President's Budget
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	397	499	551	+123	674
Child Nutrition Programs	262	344	396	+85	481
Commodity Assistance Program	3	3	3	-	3
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	47	85	83	-	83
Nutrition Programs Administration	751	807	872	-	872
Total Available	1,460	1,738	1,905	+208	2,113

OIG AND GAO REPORTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE**Table FNS-2. Closed, Implemented OIG Reports***

Area	Number	Issuance Date	Title	Status
SNAP	27601-0002-41	9-2015	FNS Quality Control Process for SNAP Error Rates	Closed as of 10-2022
SNAP	27601-0010-10	8-2017	Pennsylvania's Compliance with SNAP Requirements for Participating State Agencies (7 CFR, Part 272)	Closed as of 1-2023
SNAP	27601-0011-10	9-2017	South Carolina's Compliance with SNAP Requirements for Participating State Agencies (7 CFR, Part 272)	Closed as of 1-2023
CN	27004-0003-21	3-2019	Summer Food Service Program in Texas – Sponsor Costs	Closed as of 12-2022
CN	27004-0004-21	3-2019	Texas Controls Over Summer Food Service Program	Closed as of 9-2023
SNAS	27801-0001-21-1	8-2021	COVID-19: Oversight of The Emergency Food Assistance Program Interim Report	Closed as of 7-2023
SNAS	27801-0001-21	8-2022	COVID-19: Oversight of The Emergency Food Assistance Program Final Report	Closed as of 9-2023

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

Table FNS-3. Closed, Implemented GAO Reports*

Area	Number	Issuance Date	Title	Result
SNAP	GAO-19-115	10-2018	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Disseminating Information on Successful Use of Data Analytics Could Help States Manage Fraud Risks	Closed as of 5-2023
SNAP	GAO-19-56	11-2018	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: More Complete and Accurate Information Needed on Employment and Training Programs	Closed as of 2-2023
SNAP	GAO-19-95	12-2018	Food Insecurity: Better Information Could Help Eligible College Students Access Federal Food Assistance Benefits	Closed as of 9-2023
CN	GAO-19-389	5-2019	School Meals Programs: USDA Has Reported Taking Some Steps to Reduce Improper Payments but Should Comprehensively Assess Fraud Risks	Closed as of 9-2023
OPS, SNAP	GAO-19-572	7-2019	Nutrition Education: USDA Actions Needed to Assess Effectiveness, Coordinate Programs, and Leverage Expertise	Closed as of 4-2023
CN	GAO-22-105051	10-2021	COVID-19: Additional Actions Needed to Improve Accountability and Program Effectiveness of Federal Response	Closed as of 5-2023
FM, SNAP, SNAS	GAO-23-105458	6-2023	Hunger and Homelessness: Funding Distribution for Key Programs	Closed as of 6-2023

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

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTES

Table FNS-4. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:								
Discretionary Appropriations	\$5,345	-	\$10,923	-	\$7,998	-	\$8,000	-
Mandatory Appropriations.....	115,553,764	397	129,223,892	494	120,018,923	551	120,966,961	674
Pandemic EBT	19,351,654	-	20,706,769	5	-	-	-	-
Other Supplemental Appropriations	4,169,068	-	3,037,022	-	-	-	-	-
Total, SNAP.....	139,079,831	397	152,978,606	499	120,026,921	551	120,974,961	674
Child Nutrition Programs:								
Discretionary Appropriations	85,104	26	85,769	33	109,162	35	54,162	35
Mandatory Appropriation	16,011,282	206	2,879,897	279	4,433,063	331	11,839,921	416
Section 32 Transfer.....	19,968,082	-	25,215,313	-	28,785,459	-	22,592,000	-
Permanent Appropriations	249,704	30	253,457	32	214,250	30	218,250	30
Supplemental Appropriations	2,754,414	-	3,484,564	-	-	-	-	-
Total, CN	39,068,586	262	31,919,000	344	33,541,934	396	34,704,333	481
WIC:								
Discretionary Appropriations (including contingency)	7,081,138	47	7,948,027	85	7,052,057	83	7,910,216	83
Mandatory Appropriations.....	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
Supplemental Appropriations	128,040	-	299,525	-	-	-	-	-
Total, WIC	7,209,178	47	8,247,552	85	7,053,057	83	7,911,216	83
Commodity Assistance Programs:								
Discretionary Appropriations	454,692	3	522,220	3	459,971	3	536,070	3
Mandatory Appropriations.....	32,410	-	28,710	-	24,600	-	24,600	-
Supplemental Appropriations	3,363	-	434	-	-	-	-	-
Total, CAP	490,465	3	551,364	3	484,571	3	560,670	3
Nutrition Programs Administration	160,230	751	177,963	807	187,348	872	205,000	872
Congressional Hunger Center	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-
Total, Food and Nutrition Service Funds	186,010,290	1,460	193,876,485	1,738	161,295,831	1,905	164,356,180	2,113
Obligations from Other USDA Appropriations:								
Office of Hearing and Appeals	29	-	22	-	21	-	-	-
Office of the Chief Information Officer	11	-	12	-	11	-	-	-
Office of the Secretary	42	-	-	-	158	-	-	-
Food Safety and Inspection Service.....	11	-	11	-	-	-	-	-
Agricultural Marketing Service	40	-	70	-	65	-	-	-
Rural Development	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Department Administration	210	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office of the Chief Economist	62	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Office of Civil Rights	30	-	225	-	72	-	-	-
Homeland Security	40	-	750	-	281	-	-	-
Other	115	-	150	-	135	-	-	-
Total, Agriculture Appropriations	602	-	1,240	-	746	-	-	-
Obligations under other Federal Appropriations:								
Export-Import Bank	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	-
Health and Human Services.....	1,000	-	750	-	72	-	-	-
Total, Food and Nutrition Service Obligations.....	186,011,892	1,460	193,878,475	1,738	161,296,649	1,905	164,356,180	2,113

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTES

Table FNS-5. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs

Item	2022			2023			2024			2025		
	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total
SES.....	8	8	16	11	8	19	15	8	22	16	8	25
GS-15.....	63	36	99	71	44	115	92	44	135	102	48	150
GS-14.....	147	103	250	147	163	310	191	162	353	211	180	391
GS-13.....	312	266	578	274	410	684	355	408	763	393	454	847
GS-12.....	64	359	423	57	414	471	71	414	485	80	458	537
GS-11.....	46	123	169	22	69	92	29	69	98	32	77	109
GS-9.....	25	52	77	6	9	14	7	9	16	8	10	18
GS-8.....	5	-	5	4	-	4	6	-	6	6	0	6
GS-7.....	3	7	10	3	6	9	4	6	10	5	6	11
GS-6.....	3	3	6	3	2	5	4	2	6	5	2	7
GS-5.....	0	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1
GS-4.....	1	0	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	2
GS-3.....	1	0	1	4	3	7	6	3	9	6	3	9
GS-2.....	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Permanent.....	681	957	1,638	603	1,129	1,732	781	1,124	1,905	866	1,247	2,113
Total Perm. FT EOY.....	681	957	1,638	603	1,129	1,732	781	1,124	1,905	866	1,247	2,113
FTE	599	861	1,460	713	1,025	1,738	781	1,124	1,905	866	1,247	2,113

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 2023, there were no reductions to the fleet. FNS currently has 21 GSA leased vehicles.

Table FNS-6. 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*
2018 EOY Operating Inventory	19	12	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	38	\$133,000
2022 EOY Operating Inventory	11	6	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	21	\$118,937
2023 Actual Acquisitions.....	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
2023 Actual Disposals	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
2023 EOY Operating Inventory	11	6	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	21	\$124,884
2024 Planned Acquisitions	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
2024 Planned Disposals	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
2024 EOY Operating Inventory	11	6	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	21	\$137,022
2025 Planned Acquisitions	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
2025 Planned Disposals	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
2025 EOY Operating Inventory	11	6	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	21	\$150,724

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

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

Table FNS-7. Statement of Proposed Purchase of Passenger Motor Vehicles

Fiscal Year	Net Active Fleet,		Replacements	Additions	Total Acquisitions	Net Active Fleet, EOY
	SOY	Disposals				
2022	12	1	-	-	-	11
2023	11	3	3	-	-	11
2024	11	3	3	-	-	11
2025	11	3	3	-	-	11

Note: FNS no longer has purchased vehicles or owned vehicles in the fleet.

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS

Table FNS-8. Shared Funding Projects (dollars in thousands)

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Estimated
Working Capital Fund:				
Administrative Services:				
Material Management Service	\$95	\$99	\$96	\$91
Ask USDA Contact Center	-	1,223	938	931
Mail and Reproduction Services	145	142	155	156
Integrated Procurement Systems	227	220	214	-
Procurement Operations Services	130	422	376	725
Human Resources Enterprise Management Systems	23	20	28	29
Subtotal	620	2,126	1,807	1,932
Communications:				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center	281	4,950	1,506	1,082
Correspondence Management Services:				
Office of the Executive Secretariat	264	422	441	437
Finance and Management:				
National Finance Center	1,691	405	478	444
Personnel and Document Security	-	72	83	83
Internal Control Support Services	158	174	130	124
Financial Shared Services	1,468	1,695	1,649	1,583
Subtotal	3,317	2,346	2,340	2,234
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center	8,629	8,635	8,209	8,065
Department Administration Information Technology Office	1,734	1,740	691	721
Digital Infrastructure Services Center	5,414	15,103	4,466	4,218
Enterprise Network Services	954	836	1,331	1,328
Enterprise Cybersecurity Services	-	532	1,255	1,370
Enterprise Data and Analytics Services	-	2,953	714	685
Subtotal	16,731	29,799	16,666	16,387
Total, Working Capital Fund	21,213	39,643	22,760	22,072
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Advisory Committee Liaison Services	4	-	-	-
Agency Partnership Outreach	95	108	135	135
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility	-	29	48	48
National Capital Region Interpreting Services	76	56	90	90
Office of Customer Experience	132	47	58	58
Personnel and Document Security Program	51	-	-	-
Physical Security	64	66	85	85
Security Detail	68	74	97	97
Security Operations Program	94	102	137	137
Talent Group	-	53	60	60
TARGET Center	19	24	32	32
USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Services	66	-	-	-
Employee Experience	-	50	67	67
Total, Department-Wide Reimbursable Programs	669	609	809	809
E-Gov:				
Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business	14	8	13	13
Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan	13	13	13	13
Hiring Assessment Tool	3	-	-	-
E-Rulemaking	204	193	172	230
E-Training	-	-	-	-
Financial Management Line of Business	1	1	2	2
Geospatial Line of Business	13	13	13	13
Gov Benefits	103	95	104	-
Grants.gov	19	26	25	30
Human Resources Line of Business	4	4	5	5
Integrated Acquisition Environment	65	54	51	50
Total, E-Gov	439	407	398	356
Agency Total	22,321	40,659	23,967	23,237

ACCOUNT 1: CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

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

Child Nutrition Programs

For necessary expenses to carry out the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), except section 21, and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), except sections 17 and 21; [~~\$32,030,897,000~~]\$31,799,851,000 to remain available through September 30, [2025]2026, of which such sums as are made available under section 14222(b)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246), as amended by this Act, shall be merged with and available for the same time period and purposes as provided herein: *Provided*, That of the total amount available, \$20,162,000 shall be available to carry out section 19 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.): *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, [~~\$21,876,000~~]\$23,748,000 shall be available to carry out studies and evaluations and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$12,000,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 18(g)(3)(C) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)(3)(c)), the total grant amount provided to a farm to school grant recipient in fiscal year [2024]2025 shall not exceed \$500,000: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, [~~\$30,000,000~~]\$20,000,000 shall be available to provide competitive grants to State agencies for subgrants to local educational agencies and schools to purchase the equipment, with a value of greater than \$1,000, needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the school breakfast program: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$4,288,000 shall be available for food safety education including activities that support sections 17 and 21 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786, 1790) and to support the safe distribution of USDA Foods, as defined in 7 CFR 250.2: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$2,000,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out activities authorized under subsections (a)(2) and (e)(2) of section 21 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769b-1(a)(2) and (e)(2)): *Provided further*, That section 26(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769g(d)) is amended in the first sentence by striking "2010 through [2024]2025" and inserting "2010 through [2025]2026": *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(3)) is amended in the first sentence by striking "For fiscal year [2023]2024" and inserting "For fiscal year [2024]2025": *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(4)) is amended in the first sentence by striking "For fiscal year [2023]2024" and inserting "For fiscal year [2024]2025".

Change Description

The first change (line 9 of paragraph 1) provides additional funding for Farm to School grants. The President's 2024 Budget requested this funding through a General Provision.

The second change (line 16 of paragraph 1) allows Child Nutrition food safety funding to be used for WIC and the safe distribution of USDA Foods in food distribution programs.

The third change (line 19 of paragraph 1) provides additional funding for the Institute of Child Nutrition. The President's 2024 Budget requested this funding through a General Provision.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**Table FNS-9. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)**

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2024	\$33,327,684,000
Change in Appropriation	-1,527,833,000
Budget Estimate, 2025	<u>31,799,851,000</u>
Budget Estimate, Current Law 2025	\$31,799,851,000
Change Due to Proposed Legislation	<u>+410,000,000</u>
Net 2025 Request	<u>32,209,851,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table FNS-10. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations, CN Funding (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2022		2023		2024		2025		Inc./Dec.	FTE Inc./Dec.	Chg. Key
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs			
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Team Nutrition/HUSSC.....	\$18,004	26	\$20,162	33	\$20,162	35	\$20,162	35	-	-	-
Summer Demonstration	45,000	-	40,000	-	40,000	-	-	-	-\$40,000	-	(1)
School Meals Equipment Grants	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000	-	20,000	-	-10,000	-	(2)
School Breakfast Expansion Grants	6,000	-	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	-	-3,000	-	(3)
Institute of Child Nutrition	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-
Farm to School Grants	17,000	-	14,000	-	14,000	-	12,000	-	-2,000	-	(4)
Subtotal, Discretionary	118,004	26	109,162	33	109,162	35	54,162	35	-55,000	-	-
Mandatory Appropriations:											
National School Lunch Program.....	14,665,855	-	15,404,530	-	16,625,141	-	14,500,000	-	-2,125,141	-	(5)
School Breakfast Program	5,188,750	-	5,453,240	-	6,140,966	-	6,409,860	-	+268,894	-	(6)
Child and Adult Care Food Program	4,314,605	-	4,659,778	-	4,244,181	-	4,432,743	-	+188,562	-	(7)
Summer Food Service Program.....	581,074	12	655,333	16	859,291	20	878,304	20	+19,013	-	(8)
Special Milk Program	6,250	-	7,817	-	6,651	-	6,668	-	+17	-	(9)
Summer EBT (Benefits)	-	-	-	-	2,522,000	-	2,635,052	-	+113,052	-	(10)
Summer EBT (50% Admin)	-	-	-	-	252,000	-	263,505	-	+11,505	-	(11)
State Administrative Expenses	332,000	-	339,000	-	491,591	-	482,880	-	-8,711	-	(12)
Commodity Procurement	1,567,663	21	1,788,389	28	1,948,518	33	1,960,069	33	+11,551	-	(13)
Food Safety Education.....	3,048	5	4,196	8	4,196	8	4,288	8	+92	-	(14)
Coordinated Review	10,000	51	10,000	60	10,000	80	10,000	80	-	-	-
Computer Support.....	26,753	15	28,238	-	28,238	24	41,859	25	+13,621	+1	(15)
Training and Technical Assistance	41,498	36	45,996	68	45,996	59	65,485	101	+19,489	+42	(16)
CN Studies.....	15,607	8	21,005	15	21,005	13	23,748	13	+2,743	-	(17)
CN Payment Accuracy.....	11,656	43	12,315	55	12,315	72	21,563	100	+9,248	+28	(18)
Farm to School Team.....	6,159	15	6,433	29	6,433	22	9,665	36	+3,232	+14	(19)
Subtotal, Mandatory.....	26,770,918	206	28,436,270	279	33,218,522	331	31,745,689	416	-1,472,833	+85	-
Subtotal, Regular Appropriations	26,888,922	232	28,545,432	312	33,327,684	366	31,799,851	451	-1,527,833	+85	-
Supplemental Appropriations:											
School Food / CN Support for Local											
Food Procurement & Mgt	1,000,000	-	1,300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keep Kids Fed Act.....	1,039,000	-	2,117,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Supplemental	2,039,000	-	3,417,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Adjusted Appropriation	28,927,922	232	31,962,432	312	33,327,684	366	31,799,851	451	-1,527,833	+85	-
Sequestration.....	-89,488	-	-78,584	-	-5,294	-	-7,189	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriation	28,838,434	232	31,883,848	312	33,322,390	366	31,792,662	451	-1,529,728	+85	-
Proposed Legislation.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	410,000	-	-	-	-

Note: The details associated with Supplemental appropriations provided to the Office of the Secretary, but implemented in this account, is found in the USDA Budget Summary and is not reflected above.

Table FNS-11. Appropriations Project Statement Permanent Funding (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2022		2023		2024		2025		Inc./Dec.	FTE Inc./Dec.
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs		
Mandatory Appropriations:^a										
Information Clearinghouse	\$250	-	\$250	-	\$250	-	\$250	-	-	-
Institute of Child Nutrition	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	187,000	5	191,000	2	195,000	5	199,000	5	+\$4,000	-
Technical Assistance Program Integrity	4,000	20	4,000	27	4,000	20	4,000	20	-	-
Administrative Review	4,000	4	4,000	2	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	-	5,000	-	-	-
Total Permanent Appropriations/ Transfers.....	206,250	30	210,250	32	214,250	30	218,250	30	+4,000	-

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

Table FNS-12. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations, CN Funding (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2022		2023		2024		2025		Inc. or Dec.	FTE	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs		Inc./Dec.	Chg. Key
Discretionary Obligations:											
Team Nutrition/HUSSC.....	\$20,708	26	\$21,122	33	\$20,162	35	\$20,162	35	-	-	
Summer Demonstration.....	18,772	-	16,955	-	40,000	-	-	-	-\$40,000	-	(1)
School Meals Equipment Grants.....	29,624	-	32,142	-	30,000	-	20,000	-	-10,000	-	(2)
School Breakfast Expansion Grants.....	2,000	-	5,447	-	3,000	-	-	-	-3,000	-	(3)
Institute of Child Nutrition.....	5,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	
Farm to School Grants.....	9,000	-	8,103	-	14,000	-	12,000	-	-2,000	-	(4)
Subtotal, Discretionary.....	85,104	26	85,769	33	109,162	35	54,162	35	-55,000	-	
Mandatory Obligations:											
National School Lunch Program.....	21,637,497	-	16,475,420	-	16,625,141	-	17,186,232	-	+561,091	-	(5)
School Breakfast Program.....	5,619,744	-	4,989,640	-	6,140,966	-	6,409,860	-	+268,894	-	(6)
Child and Adult Care Food Program.....	5,509,481	-	3,713,638	-	4,244,181	-	4,432,743	-	+188,562	-	(7)
Summer Food Service Program.....	989,484	12	511,681	16	859,291	20	878,304	20	+19,013	-	(8)
Special Milk Program.....	5,999	-	5,046	-	6,651	-	6,668	-	+17	-	(9)
Summer EBT (Benefits).....	-	-	-	-	2,522,000	-	2,635,052	-	+113,052	-	(10)
Summer EBT (50% Admin).....	-	-	-	-	252,000	-	263,505	-	+11,505	-	(11)
State Administrative Expenses.....	342,609	-	346,916	-	491,591	-	482,880	-	-8,711	-	(12)
Commodity Procurement.....	1,796,700	21	1,932,225	28	1,948,518	33	1,960,069	33	+11,551	-	(13)
Food Safety Education.....	2,435	5	4,371	8	4,196	8	4,288	8	+92	-	(14)
Coordinated Review.....	8,973	51	10,242	60	10,000	80	10,000	80	-	-	
Computer Support.....	23,235	15	28,411	-	28,238	24	41,859	25	+13,621	+1	(15)
Training and Technical Assistance.....	21,681	36	44,796	68	45,996	59	65,485	101	+19,489	+42	(16)
CN Studies.....	8,547	8	15,843	15	21,005	13	23,748	13	+2,743	-	(17)
CN Payment Accuracy.....	9,074	43	10,818	55	12,315	72	21,563	100	+9,248	+28	(18)
Farm to School Team.....	3,905	15	6,163	29	6,433	22	9,665	36	+3,232	+14	(19)
Subtotal, Mandatory.....	35,979,364	206	28,095,210	279	33,218,522	331	34,431,921	416	+1,213,399	+85	
Subtotal, Regular Obligations.....	36,064,468	232	28,180,979	312	33,327,684	366	34,486,083	451	+1,158,399	+85	
Supplemental Obligations:											
School Food / CN Support for Local Food Procurement & Mgt.....	1,943,000	-	1,696,866	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Keep Kids Fed Act.....	811,414	-	1,787,698	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal, Supplemental.....	2,754,414	-	3,484,564	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Obligations.....	38,818,882	232	31,665,543	312	33,327,684	366	34,486,083	451	+1,158,399	+85	
Rescission.....	-	-	80,000	-	80,000	-	-	-	-80,000	-	
Sequestration.....	89,488	-	78,584	-	5,294	-	7,189	-	1,895	-	
Recoveries.....	-1,202,500	-	-1,439,000	-	-18,719	-	-	-	+18,719	-	
Unobligated Balance, SOY.....	-9,853,821	-	-2,662,664	-	-3,645,287	-	-3,578,712	-	+66,575	-	
Lapsing Balances.....	227,586	-	738,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Unobligated Balance, EOY.....	2,662,664	-	3,645,287	-	3,578,712	-	885,291	-	-2,693,421	-	
Total Appropriation.....	30,727,922	232	31,962,432	312	33,327,684	366	31,799,851	451	-1,527,833	+85	

Note: The details associated with Supplemental appropriations provided to the Office of the Secretary, but implemented in this account, is found in the USDA Budget Summary and is not reflected above.

Table FNS-13. Obligations Project Statement Permanent Funding (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2022		2023		2024		2025		FTE Inc.	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Inc./Dec.	/Dec.
Mandatory Obligations:^a										
Information Clearinghouse.....	\$250	-	\$250	-	\$250	-	\$250	-	-	-
Institute of Child Nutrition.....	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.....	187,000	5	191,000	2	195,000	5	199,000	5	+\$4,000	-
Technical Assistance Program Integrity.....	4,000	20	4,000	27	4,000	20	4,000	20	-	-
Administrative Review.....	4,000	4	4,000	2	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	-	5,000	-	-	-
Total Obligations.....	249,704	30	253,457	32	214,250	30	218,250	30	+4,000	-
Recoveries.....	-68,655	-	-55,682	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unobligated Balance, SOY.....	-298,037	-	-323,238	-	-335,713	-	-335,713	-	-	-
Unobligated Balance, EOY.....	323,238	-	335,713	-	335,713	-	335,713	-	-	-
Total Appropriation.....	206,250	30	210,250	32	214,250	30	218,250	30	+4,000	-

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

Table FNS-14. 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)

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

Child Nutrition Programs

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

- (1) A decrease of \$40,000,000 in Summer Demonstration (\$40,000,000 available in 2024).

For over a decade, FNS has coordinated demonstration projects to develop and rigorously evaluate alternative methods of providing access to food for children in low-income households during the summer months, when schools were not in session. These efforts included summer EBT demonstration projects in partnership with several State agencies and Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs). These demonstration projects have served their purpose, providing critical evidence to inform Congress on alternative program design options, and are no longer necessary. On December 29, 2022, Congress enacted a permanent nationwide Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer 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 \$10,000,000 for School Meal Equipment Grants (\$30,000,000 available in 2024).

School Meals Equipment grants help schools purchase kitchen and other equipment needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, expand access to FNS programs, and/or improve energy efficiency. The grants are targeted to schools that need additional assistance to purchase equipment for their kitchens. State agencies competitively award equipment assistance grants to eligible school food authorities participating in the National School Lunch Program. While a decrease in funds is being requested in 2025, continued funding for School Equipment grants will continue supporting schools in delivering healthy and delicious school meals consistent with science-based meal pattern requirements.

- (3) A decrease of \$3,000,000 in School Breakfast Expansion Grants (\$3,000,000 available in 2024).

School Breakfast Program participation has come a long way over the last several decades. In 2023, 96 percent of schools operating the National School Lunch Program also operated the School Breakfast Program, and in 2025, a similar participation rate is expected. 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.

- (4) A decrease of \$2,000,000 in the Farm to School Grants (\$14,000,000 available in 2024).

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 number of local foods served through FNS 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 supply chain disruptions by building vendor relationships within local and regional communities. This request would provide \$12 million for Farm to School Grants in addition to the \$5 million in permanent funding directly provided each year through section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

- (5) A decrease of \$2,125,141,000 in National School Lunch Program to account for prior year carryover utilization net of programmatic changes in participation and inflation (\$16,625,141,000 available in 2024).

In 2025, FNS anticipates a total of nearly 4.9 billion lunches served and 153 million snacks. This reflects a 0.3 percent increase in lunches served and a 1 percent increase in snacks from 2024. For 2025, excess carryover funds from the prior fiscal year will supplement the appropriation request, which is \$2,125,141,000 below the prior fiscal year level.

Table FNS-15. National School Lunch Program Performance Measure

NSLP Performance Measure	2022 Actual ^{1/}	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Estimated
Lunches Served (millions):				
Above 185% of poverty	229	1,356	1,213	1,216
130% - 185% of poverty.....	31	180	231	232
Below 130% of poverty.....	4,692	3,094	3,437	3,446
Total Lunches	4,952	4,630	4,881	4,894
Average Daily Participation (millions).....	30.1	28.5	29.2	29.9
Lunch Rate per meal (blended, cents):				
Above 185% of poverty	43	46	49	51
130% - 185% of poverty.....	338	366	396	410
Below 130% of poverty.....	378	407	436	450
Snacks Served (millions):				
Above 185% of poverty	2	5	2	2
130% - 185% of poverty.....	0	0	0	0
Below 130% of poverty.....	142	140	150	151
Total Snacks	144	145	152	153
Snack subsidy per meal (blended)(cents):				
Above 185% of poverty	9	9	10	11
130% - 185% of poverty.....	51	55	58	60
Below 130% of poverty.....	101	109	118	121
Total Lunches and Snacks.....	5,096	4,775	5,033	5,047
Total Meal Reimbursement (millions)	\$21,638	\$16,475	\$16,625	\$17,186

^{1/} 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-16. Income Eligibility for a Family of Four

Poverty Level (Family of 4)	2023-2024 School Year	2024-2025 School Year
100 Percent	\$30,000	\$30,750
130 Percent	\$39,000	\$39,975
185 Percent	\$55,500	\$56,888

- (6) An increase of \$268,894,000 in School Breakfast Program to account for programmatic changes in participation and inflation (\$6,140,966,000 available in 2024).

In 2025 FNS anticipates a total of nearly 2.7 billion breakfasts served. This reflects a 1.5 percent increase in breakfast served from estimated 2024 levels.

Table FNS-17. School Breakfast Program Performance Measure

SBP Performance Measure	2022 Actual ^{1/}	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Estimated
Meals Served (millions):				
Above 185% of poverty	80	487	391	397
Reduce Price, Regular.....	2	13	9	10
Reduce Price, Severe Need.....	12	67	121	122
130%-185% of poverty, Total.....	14	80	130	132
Free, Regular	2,135	98	62	63
Free, Severe Need	315	1,702	2,033	2,063
Below 130% of poverty, Total.....	2,450	1,800	2,095	2,126
Total Meals	2,544	2,367	2,616	2,655
Average Daily participation (millions).....	16	14.5	15	15
Average Subsidy Per Meal (cents):				
Paid	33	36	37	38
Reduced Price, Regular	169	183	197	204
Reduced Price, Severe Need.....	208	225	243	250
Free, Regular	199	214	227	234
Free, Severe Need.....	238	256	273	280
Program Total (millions).....	\$5,620	\$4,990	\$6,141	\$6,410

^{1/} Meals served under the Seamless Summer Option were reimbursed at the Summer Food Service Program rates in 2022.

- (7) An increase of \$188,562,000 in Child and Adult Care Food Program to account for programmatic changes in participation and inflation (\$4,244,181,000 available in 2024).

FNS anticipates over 1.9 billion meals will be served in childcare centers, family day care homes, and adult care centers in 2025, an increase of 30 million meals (or 1.6 percent) above the current estimate of meals to be served in 2024.

Table FNS-18. Child and Adult Care Program Performance Measure

CAFCP Performance Measure	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Estimated
Meals Served Centers (millions):				
Above 185% of poverty	323	340	379	384
130% - 185% of poverty	75	78	80	82
Below 130% of poverty.....	1,127	942	1,094	1,111
Total, Centers.....	1,525	1,360	1,553	1,577
Meals Served Homes (millions):				
Tier 1 Homes (Low Income).....	339	328	332	338
Tier 2 Homes (Upper Income)	0	7	13	13
Total, Family Day Care Homes.....	339	335	345	351
Total Child & Adult Care Program Meals	1,864	1,695	1,898	1,928
Average Subsidy Per Meal (cents) ^{1/}:				
Centers:				
Above 185% of poverty	26	28	29	30
130% - 185% of poverty	185	201	214	221
Below 130% of poverty.....	225	242	257	264
Family Day Care Homes:				
Tier 1 (Low Income).....	165	182	193	198
Tier 2 (Upper Income).....	79	87	93	95
Funding (millions):				
Meal Reimbursement	\$5,364	\$3,555	\$4,077	\$4,255
Sponsor Admin.....	86	86	93	96
Audits	59	73	74	81
Program Total (millions)	\$5,509	\$3,714	\$4,244	\$4,433

^{1/} Rates are a blend of all meal types.

- (8) An increase of \$19,013,000 in Summer Food Service Program to account for programmatic changes in participation and inflation (\$859,291,000 and 20 FTE available in 2024).

FNS anticipates a total of nearly 281 million summer meals served in 2025, an increase of 98 million meals (or 54 percent) from 2024. This significant expansion in the Summer Food Service Program is expected due in part to non-congregate meal delivery options for children in rural areas authorized in the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328).

Table FNS-19. Summer Food Service Program Performance Measure

SFSP Performance Measure	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Estimated
Meals Served (millions):				
Summer Food Service Program.....	151	141	183	281
Average Subsidy Per Meal (cents):				
Lunch	413	490	527	547
Breakfast	237	279	300	312
Supplements.....	96	116	125	130
Program Total (millions)	\$990	\$512	\$859	\$878

- (9) An increase of \$17,000 in Special Milk to account for inflation (\$6,651,000 available in 2024).

This increase is to account for inflation net of an expected decrease in participation. In 2025, FNS anticipates participation in the Special Milk Program to be approximately 18.3 million total half pints served, down from 18.7 million expected in 2024. 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-20. Special Milk Program Performance Measure

SMP Performance Measure	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Estimated
Half Pints Served (millions):				
Paid (Above 130% of poverty)	17	17	17	16
Free (130% of poverty or below).....	2	2	2	2
Total, half pints.....	19	19	19	18
Reimbursement Rates (cents):				
Paid	23	27	27	27
Free	24	28	28	28
Program Total (millions)	\$6	\$5	\$7	\$7

(10) An increase of \$113,052,000 in Summer EBT Benefits (\$2,522,000,000 available in 2024).

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 (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 program 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 21.5 million children will participate in Summer EBT in 2025 with a monthly summer benefit of \$40.92.

(11) An increase of \$11,505,000 in Summer EBT 50 percent Admin (\$252,000,000 available in 2024).

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 nearly \$264 million for Summer EBT administrative reimbursement in 2025. Future requests will be informed by State and ITO operating plans.

(12) A decrease of \$8,711,000 in State Administrative Expenses (\$491,591,000 available in 2024).

Section 7 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 specifies the formula for State Administrative Expenses (SAE) 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.” Thus, SAE is based on meal reimbursement funding for lunch, breakfast, and childcare meals. The 2025 SAE formula provides less funding than in 2024 because of lower meal obligation patterns in School Year 2022-2023 compared to School Year 2021-2022, when lunches and breakfasts were offered to all students at no cost. To ensure that states have the necessary resources to administer the Child Nutrition Programs, the budget also includes a request of \$100 million for the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Grants to States for Improved Information Systems.

(13) An increase of \$11,551,000 in Commodity Procurement to account for programmatic changes in participation and inflation (\$1,948,518,000 and 33 FTE available in 2024).

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-21. Commodity Performance Measure

Commodity Performance Measure	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Estimated
CN Appropriation:				
AMS/CCC Commodities	\$485	\$485	\$485	\$485
Section 6 Commodities/Cash/Procurement Costs	1,436	1,591	1,748	1,753
School Lunch Total	1,921	2,076	2,233	2,238
Child & Adult Care Food Program:				
Commodities/Cash.....	193	197	200	206
Summer Food Service Program:				
Commodities	1	1	1	1
Program Total (millions)	2,155	2,274	2,434	2,445
Appropriation (millions).....	\$1,568	\$1,788	\$1,949	\$1,960

(14) An increase of \$92,000 in Food Safety Education (\$4,196,000 and 8 FTE available in 2024).

Food safety education funds are used to reinforce and expand FNS’s 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, childcare 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. The increase is due to inflation and 2025 pay cost. USDA proposes that food safety funding may also be used for WIC and the safe distribution of USDA Foods in food distribution programs as outlined in the 2024 Current Law Proposal, Expand Food Safety Education to WIC, FDPIR, CSFP and TEFAP.

(15) An increase of \$13,621,000 and 1 FTE in Computer Support (\$28,238,000 and 24 FTE available in 2024).

This program line supports the essential systems needed to administer the Child Nutrition Programs, including the federal staff required to operate and maintain those systems. This includes a total of \$13 million for current law proposals: \$7 million to support the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Increased Support for IT Infrastructure, \$500,000 to support the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Support FNS’ Central Analytics Team, and \$5.5 million to support the 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: Modernize Food Ordering and Inventory Management Systems. The remaining increase is due to inflation and 2025 pay cost.

(16) An increase of \$19,489,000 and 42 FTE in Training and Technical Assistance (\$45,996,000 and 59 FTE available in 2024).

Effective and continual training and technical assistance 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. This includes a total of \$17.1 million for current law proposals, \$3.8 million of which is for a 2025 proposal and \$13.3 million is for 2024 re-proposals. The requested increase includes \$3.8 million and 19 staff to support the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Increase Funding for Summer EBT Implementation, \$1.3 million and 7 staff to support the 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: Federal Administration of Summer EBT. Both current law proposals support Federal implementation and oversight of the new Summer EBT program. The balance of the 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: Federal Administration of Summer EBT is split between the CN Payment Accuracy and Training and Technical Assistance budget lines. The next current law proposal is for \$10 million and 16 staff to support the 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: Increase Training and Technical Assistance, which enhances FNS’ ability to provide critical training, technical assistance, and oversight to ensure program integrity and compliance with Federal law and regulations for child nutrition in both national and regional offices. The fourth current law proposal for \$2 million is to support the 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: Enterprise Risk Management: helps with approaches in FNS strategic planning and program operations. The remaining increase is due to inflation and 2025 pay cost.

(17) An increase of \$2,743,000 in CN Studies (\$21,005,000 and 13 FTE available in 2024).

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, which include improving public health, nutrition, and equity. This program line supports the critical evaluations needed for the Child Nutrition Programs, including the Federal staff needed to oversee this vital work. The request includes \$2 million for the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Research on the U.S. Territories. The remaining increase is due to inflation and 2025 pay cost.

(18) An increase of \$9,248,000 and 28 FTE in CN Payment Accuracy (\$12,315,000 and 72 FTE available in 2024).

This funding supports FNS's robust Federal oversight, monitoring, and technical assistance, which are essential to the identification, prevention, and resolution of erroneous payments. This includes a total of \$8.2 million for current law proposals: \$4 million and 20 staff to support the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Investment in Regional Financial Management for Program Integrity, which helps regional Grants Management and Administrative Services (GMAS) Staff across CNP accounts. The next current law proposal is for \$3 million to support the 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: Strengthen CACFP Program Integrity, which will spread through a variety of activities including data mining and a technical assistance support center designed to support States in identifying and addressing program integrity risks. The third current law is for \$1.2 million and 8 staff to support the 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: Federal Administration of Summer EBT. The balance of the 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: Federal Administration of Summer EBT is split between the CN Payment Accuracy and Training and Technical Assistance budget lines. The remaining increase is due to inflation and 2025 pay cost.

(19) An increase of \$3,232,000 and 14 FTE in Farm to School Team (\$6,433,000 and 22 FTE available in 2024).

The Farm to School initiative is an effort to connect schools (K - 12), summer meal sites, and childcare institutions with regional or local farms to serve healthy meals using locally produced foods. USDA recognizes the growing interest among Child Nutrition Program operators and communities to incorporate regionally and locally produced farm foods into the meals they serve. 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, childcare institutions, farmers, Indian Tribal Organizations, and community partners, the Farm to School Team develops and provides technical assistance guidance to and develops mechanisms for assisting program operators in accessing local markets, enabling food producers to effectively sell to their local schools and communities, and facilitates communication between interested stakeholders. The request includes \$2.8 million and 14 staff to support the 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: Increase Farm to School Team Support, which would increase the national and regional office's ability to ensure the annual grant making process (grown by more than 50% in annual grantees and 120% in annual award amounts since 2013) continues to operate with integrity, efficiency, and equitable opportunities to promote local foods in the Child Nutrition programs. Additionally, the increase further supports technical assistance for as many as 400 active grantees and cooperative agreement partners and to help State agencies develop the capacity to support robust farm to school engagement in their communities (including the recent expansion of support through formula grants). The increase also supports coordination with other USDA agencies to further the Administration's goals in the Food Systems Transformation work, especially with advancements for small and historically underserved producers and communities requiring training and resources to build a resilient local food system through farm to school activities. The remaining increase is due to inflation and 2025 pay cost.

CURRENT LAW PROPOSALS**Summary of Current Law Proposals***Table FNS-22. Summary of Current Law Proposals (thousands of dollars)*

Current Law Proposal	2025 BA	10 Year Total
<i>2025 Budget Proposals</i>		
Increase Funding for Summer EBT Implementation	\$3,800	\$45,600
Grants to States for Improved Information Systems.....	100,000	650,000
Investment in Regional Financial Management for Program Integrity	4,000	44,800
Increased Support for IT Infrastructure	7,000	74,800
Expand Food Safety Education to WIC, FDPIR, CSFP and TEFAP	-	-
Support FNS's Central Analytics Team.....	500	5,000
Research on the U.S. Territories	2,000	2,000
<i>2024 Budget Re-proposals*</i>		
Modernize Food Ordering and Inventory Management Systems*	5,500	14,500
Increase Training and Technical Assistance Related to Program Integrity*	10,000	109,498
FNS Enterprise Risk Management*.....	2,000	12,000
Federal Administration of Summer EBT*	2,500	28,500
Strengthen CACFP Program Integrity*	3,000	3,000
Increase Farm to School Team Support*.....	2,800	30,000
Total, Current Law Proposals	143,100	992,698

*These proposals were originally submitted as part of the 2024 President's Budget. In the 2025 Budget, these proposals are not included in the 2024 baseline, assuming a full year continue resolution. However, the proposals are reflected here in the 2025 current law proposals list.

2025 Budget Proposals**Current Law*****Increase Funding for Summer EBT Implementation***

This proposal builds on the initial investments requested in the 2024 Current Law Proposal: Federal Implementation of Summer EBT. As the first new 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 both stand up and ongoing administration of the program; however, FNS does not currently receive appropriations to implement Summer EBT. This proposal would fund the costs associated with Federal administration of the new Summer EBT Program established in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. This includes an additional 19 FTEs to be allocated across the FNS National (12 FTEs) and Regional Office (7 FTEs) to support the ongoing program operations and oversight activities to ensure strong program integrity associated with the Summer EBT Program.

Table FNS-23. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$3,800	\$4,000	\$4,100	\$4,300	\$4,400	\$4,600	\$4,800	\$5,000	\$5,200	\$5,400	\$45,600
Outlays.....	3,040	4,000	4,100	4,300	4,400	4,600	4,800	5,000	5,200	5,400	44,840

Current Law***Grants to States for Improved Information Systems***

This proposal will provide States with more consistent and stable financial resources to support costs associated with Child Nutrition Program technology systems to improve program integrity, data accuracy, program performance measurements, program administration, and the State's ability to target error-prone areas across the Child Nutrition Programs.

FNS partners with State agencies to carry out CN programs and ensure program integrity. SAE funds provide state-level funding for administrative costs incurred by states in supervising the NSLP, SMP, SBP, CACFP and the Food Distribution Program. Many State agencies have expressed concerns that SAE funding levels are insufficient to support strong program management, a problem which has worsened with a significant increase in costs associated with the maintenance and operations of Child Nutrition Program technology systems.

Currently, State agencies administering Child Nutrition Programs are investing significant amounts of SAE funds for the maintenance and operations of their systems (e.g., one State agency recently advised FNS they are using 88 percent of their SAE funds on their annual technology contract). The State funds are not being used for investments in technological innovation but are limited to ensuring that basic system maintenance and enhancement costs are covered. Given the competing demands on use of SAE funds for activities and staff related to integrity efforts such as administrative reviews, States are finding themselves unable to hire sufficient staff and have the technology required to operate the programs. These additional funds will provide dedicated financial support for technology and enable States to modernize basic systems, improve program operation efficiencies, accountability, monitoring oversight and overall program integrity.

Table FNS-24. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority...	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$650,000
Outlays.....	80,000	100,000	100,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	630,000

Current Law

Investment in Regional Financial Management for Program Integrity

Note: This proposal is to be taken in conjunction with the SNAP proposal of the same name.

Grants Management and Administrative Services (GMAS) is responsible for all aspects of financial management at the seven FNS Regional Offices. From a funds management and control perspective this includes executing and monitoring the use of funds, completing closeout procedures for all grant awards, and oversight through audits and other internal controls. GMAS also provides a number of other administrative services to ensure effective and efficient business operations within each Regional Office related to travel, IT and equipment, and property management.

Over the last several years, FNS funding has become increasingly diverse and complex, and as a result requires additional oversight and management. This proposal would provide FNS with the resources needed to increase financial oversight to ensure proper stewardship of funds. This proposal would support a total of 40 additional FTEs for regional GMAS staff across the CN and SNAP accounts. Added GMAS staff would help support the new Summer EBT and non-congregate programs, management of the discretionary grant portfolio, and the provision of financial management technical assistance and oversight of SNAP, including the nutrition education and employment and training components.

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

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
CNP Budget Auth ...	\$4,000	\$4,100	\$4,200	\$4,300	\$4,400	\$4,500	\$4,600	\$4,800	\$4,900	\$5,000	\$44,800
SNAP Budget Auth.	4,000	4,100	4,200	4,300	4,400	4,500	\$4,600	4,800	4,900	5,000	44,800
Total Budget Auth...	8,000	8,200	8,400	8,600	8,800	9,000	9,200	9,600	9,800	10,000	89,600
Outlays	7,000	7,175	7,350	7,525	7,700	7,875	8,050	8,400	8,575	8,750	78,400

Current Law

Increased Support for IT Infrastructure

Note: This proposal is to be taken in conjunction with the SNAP proposal of the same name.

FNS programs are heavily dependent on information technology (IT) for program delivery – including data analysis and program integrity, financial management of over \$160 billion in program dollars, communication with and customer service for our State partners, technical assistance for program operators, etc. There are only approximately 1,800 FNS employees across the country to manage 16 nutrition assistance programs serving 1 in 5 Americans every day. This would not be possible without robust IT systems as well as the IT infrastructure underpinning those systems.

At FNS, IT infrastructure includes all the base costs for IT and telecommunications as well as the mixed-use applications such as Microsoft applications and licenses, etc. In the ten-year period from 2014 to 2023, FNS's IT Infrastructure costs have increased by about \$46.8 million – from \$29.3 million to almost \$76.1 million.

Because the base IT infrastructure activities support all the programs FNS administers, the costs are allocated among all FNS accounts. As a result, SNAP currently pays about 72 percent and CNP currently pays almost 20 percent of IT infrastructure costs from within their Other Mandatory Program Costs lines of funding. In 2023, this means that SNAP

funded about \$56 million, and CNP funded about \$14 million in IT infrastructure costs out of the Mandatory Other Program Cost budget lines.

Over the last several years, FNS has been striving to reduce IT infrastructure costs as much as possible. FNS’s modernization of multiple legacy systems has been instrumental in reducing IT infrastructure costs for hosting services through the decommissioning of servers, consolidation of support contracts into shared services, transition from datacenters to cloud hosting, software modernization, and migration to enterprise-wide solutions. This work has resulted in a significant cost avoidance of \$1.25M in FY23 and an expected cost avoidance of \$900K in FY24.

Unfortunately, although, FNS has been successful with cutting costs, the overall IT Infrastructure charges have been increasing much faster as a result of the costs associated with the centralized end user support, contractor support for modernization of legacy systems, enhanced security requirements, cloud hosting subscription c, as well as support for financial systems, including the Food Program Reporting System, the National Data Bank and FMML.

In 2021, Congress included funding in each of the mandatory program accounts to help defray IT infrastructure costs. Since that time, costs have continued to increase requiring FNS to request increases to these lines in the 2025 budget.

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

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
CNP Budget Auth ...	\$7,000	\$7,100	\$7,200	\$7,300	\$7,400	\$7,500	\$7,600	\$7,800	\$7,900	\$8,000	\$74,800
SNAP Budget Auth.	15,000	15,002	15,400	15,600	15,800	16,020	16,240	16,459	16,679	16,020	158,200
Total Budget Auth...	22,000	22,102	22,600	22,900	23,200	23,520	23,840	24,259	24,579	24,020	233,000
Outlays	19,850	22,102	22,600	22,900	23,200	23,520	23,840	24,259	24,579	24,020	230,870

Current Law

Expand Food Safety Education to WIC, FDPIR, CSFP and TEFAP

This proposal would amend the appropriations language to allow Child Nutrition Program food safety funding to be used for WIC and the safe distribution of USDA Foods in all food distribution programs.

FNS works with Federal and external food safety partners to deliver training, educational tools and resources, and technical assistance that support the specific needs of FNS Child Nutrition Program operators. In recent years funding for Child Nutrition Programs food safety education has increased marginally and only to account for inflation. In 2022, FNS received nominal additional funding to help ensure the safety of foods served to school children, including training for State and local staff. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 reflects a \$1 million annual increase in food safety education funding, inclusive of four additional staff years, to support FNS program operators in providing safe meals and food safety education to Child Nutrition Program participants, and to support the safe distribution, storage, and use of USDA Foods.

To effectively leverage this funding, FNS is requesting the allowable uses for these funds be expanded to appropriately support WIC and the safe distribution of USDA Foods via household programs (i.e., CSFP, FDPIR, TEFAP). Expanding this funding authority to include WIC and all USDA Foods programs would better enable FNS to provide critical food safety support to States on a variety of food safety issues that cut across these programs including food allergy education and data analyses, produce safety, and heavy metals in foods for infants and young children. It would also allow FNS to better support food recalls, the USDA Foods database and infant formula safety.

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

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outlays.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Current Law

Support FNS's Central Analytics Team

Note: This proposal is to be taken in conjunction with the SNAP proposal of the same name.

The FNCS Central Analytics Team (FCAT) was established in February 2020 with the hiring of FNS’s first Assistant Chief Data Officer (ACDO). Since then, the team has grown from the ACDO to a team with two FTEs and seven contractors. This high impact team provides data analytics support for FNS teams across the agency for a variety of

important integrity-related and other projects. FCAT has developed multiple dashboards that relate to the assurance and promotion of integrity across both program operations and internal management processes. For example, the SNAP Error Trends and Characteristics Dashboard allows FNS and States to inspect aggregate quality control data to understand characteristics and patterns in the SNAP caseload, providing a summarized view of quality control metrics such as payment accuracy over time and counts of common error causes to better monitor program integrity.

Project work within programs and offices has more than doubled over the last three years, and this has increased the need for core team support to accommodate demand across operational and programmatic offices. Additionally, enterprise-level work has also increased, and the ACDO and two FTEs are fully utilized to expand data analytic capabilities at FNS, including: data governance, management, and stewardship initiatives; broader data visualization training and enablement; project management of dozens of active projects; and a host of Department-level initiatives. The latter includes frequent collaboration and leadership in ongoing Department-wide working groups, communities of practice and governing bodies.

This funding would expand the team’s core support functions to manage the current work and support increased data and analytic needs at the enterprise level, as well as projects initiated by FNS offices and programs.

In the upcoming year, FNS estimates that project work will increase by 60 to 75 percent as the SNAP and CNP programs expand the capabilities of the team. For example, the team is slated to assist in one of FNS’s key priority projects with SNAP and ROC in developing a predictive model to identify fraud of card skimming and cloning. Although just one example, this project represents the type of increased demand for CAT’s services and capabilities, of which there are others.

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

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
CNP Budget Auth ...	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$5,000
SNAP Budget Auth.	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	5,000
Total Budget Auth...	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	10,000
Outlays	800	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	9,800

Current Law

Research on the U.S. Territories

Note: This proposal is to be taken in conjunction with the SNAP proposal of the same name.

FNS is committed to meeting the needs of U.S. citizens in territories. However, little is known about the changing demographics, culture, needs, and opportunities in the territories as it relates to FNS’s food assistance programs. To that end, FNS will convene a study with the aim to better understand the economy, demographics, critical institutions, and culture of the three Pacific and two Atlantic territories and needs and opportunities as they related to FNS’s food assistance programs. The study will be funded from the SNAP and CNP accounts. The SNAP and CNP accounts fund the Nutrition Assistance Programs in each of the territories.

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

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
CNP Budget Auth ...	\$2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
SNAP Budget Auth.	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000
Total Budget Auth...	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Outlays	4,000	\$1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000

2024 Budget Proposals

This section includes proposals originally submitted as part of the President’s 2024 Budget but not included in baseline under a full year continuing resolution.

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-30. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	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.....	4,400	1,900	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	14,300

Current Law***Increase Training and Technical Assistance Related to Program Integrity, Oversight and Compliance****

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.

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. These programs are operated in a decentralized manner, with program delivery occurring through thousands of local schools, childcare providers, and nonprofit organizations, which are overseen on a day-to-day basis by multiple State departments. This structure requires an oversight approach which maximizes the use of modern technology and data analysis, as well as a robust FNS review process which ensures that all organizations are fulfilling their responsibilities appropriately. 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. In total, this request would add 16 staff to support CN at the regional and national level, including resources devoted to utilizing technology more effectively.

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

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority..	\$10,000	\$10,200	\$10,404	\$10,612	\$10,824	\$11,041	\$11,262	\$11,487	\$11,717	\$11,951	\$109,498
Outlays.....	8,000	10,160	10,163	10,166	10,170	10,173	10,177	10,180	10,184	10,187	\$99,500

Current Law***FNS Enterprise Risk Management****

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-32. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	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.....	1,600	2,000	1,200	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	11,800

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 estimates that the program will serve 21 million children with approximately \$2.5 billion in benefits. Sound federal management of this new initiative is critical to successful deployment and overall management and integrity. 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-33. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	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.....	2,000	2,580	2,600	2,680	2,780	2,880	2,980	3,080	3,100	3,180	27,860

Current Law

Child and Adult Care Food Program Integrity*

FNS is requesting \$3 million to improve program integrity in the child nutrition programs specifically focused in in the Childcare and Adult Food Program (CACFP). The funds will provide additional support to improve program accountability through targeted and coordinated activities, including utilizing data analysis and mining on existing FNS and State administrative data as well as stand up a technical assistance support center to help guide States to address program issues.

Considering integrity concerns resulting in Federal indictments of individuals and organizations operating CACFP during the pandemic, FNS continues 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 the utilization of statistical models to identify outliers and anomalies in administrative data and integrate these models into State procedures to review claims at the substate level before claims for reimbursement are even submitted to FNS. The additional resources will support training efforts on how to utilize the models to identify areas of concern and for process improvement through a technical assistance support center. These efforts 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 issues and development of sustainable solutions with strong integrity controls.

Table FNS-34. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,000
Outlays.....	2,400	\$600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	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 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 \$85 million through Farm to School Grants, funding more than 1,100 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam, reaching more than 28 million students in 63,000 schools. Total annual grant amounts have grown from \$4.5 million for 68 projects in 2013, to \$10.7 million for 103 projects in 2023. CFSD has approximately 400 active grantees. Additionally, in 2023, CFSD implemented \$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 FTEs to the farm to school team. The proposal enhances the national office’s ability to support the annual grantmaking process, coordinate with partners, and develop program-wide materials and training.

Table FNS-35. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	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.....	2,240	2,800	2,880	2,900	2,980	3,000	3,080	3,100	3,180	3,200	29,360

PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Summary of Proposed Legislation***Table FNS-36. Summary of Proposed Legislation (thousands of dollars)*

Proposed Legislation	2025 BA 10 Year Total	
Advance a pathway to Healthy Schools Meals for All	\$234,000	\$15,237,000
Reduce Barriers to Summer EBT by Waiving the Administrative Match Requirement	126,000	542,000
Establish Funding for Summer EBT Implementation Grants	50,000	150,000
Improve Utilization of USDA Foods in Schools	-	-
Total, Proposed Legislation.....	410,000	15,929,000

Proposed Legislation*Advance a pathway to Healthy Schools Meals for All*

Offering healthy school meals to all children at no cost would reduce administrative burden, ensure access to nutritious school meals, reduce the stigma associated with school meal participation, 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 FFCRA the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), and numerous states are continuing to offer free meals or are implementing gradual steps towards healthy school meals for all.

Some States are leveraging participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to move closer to universal free meals. CEP is a Federal-local cost sharing option that allows schools to provide meals at no cost to all students. Schools, groups of schools and school districts that meet the minimum percent of the student population eligible for free school meals are eligible to implement CEP. Students must either be directly certified for free meals based on participation in other means-based Federal programs (e.g., SNAP, TANF) or be identified through means other than an application. The Identified Student Percentage (ISP) is multiplied by 1.6 to determine the percentage of meals reimbursed at the free rate, and the rest are reimbursed at the lower paid rate.

This 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 making CEP financially viable for more schools. This proposal increases the CEP multiplier from 1.6 to 2.5 and reduces the eligibility threshold from "40 percent or lower" of students identified as automatically eligible for a free meal from direct certification through other programs to "25 percent or lower." It also allows for an option for Statewide CEP at a multiplier of 2.5 using a statewide level of students identified automatically eligible for a free meal with a zero percent eligibility threshold. In tandem with the CEP final rule, this option reaches 9.1 million additional children with free school meals through access to CEP.

Table FNS-37. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget											
Authority	\$234,000	\$1,485,000	\$1,529,000	\$1,577,000	\$1,622,000	\$1,666,000	\$1,713,000	\$1,762,000	\$1,817,000	\$1,832,000	\$15,237,000
Outlays...	187,000	1,233,000	1,522,000	1,569,000	1,614,000	1,658,000	1,705,000	1,753,000	1,808,000	\$1,823,000	14,872,000

Proposed Legislation*Reduce Barriers to Summer EBT by Waiving the Administrative Match Requirement*

In order to elect Summer EBT, States and ITOs are required to provide 50 percent of the administrative expenses incurred by the State or ITO in operating its Summer EBT program.

Some State agencies and many ITOs are not prepared to provide this level of funding in the upcoming fiscal year. The current budget cycle for States has already passed, and this new funding requirement will be a major change in State agency and ITO budgets. ITOs may not have the resources available to adjust their budgets. Other ITO-administered nutrition programs provide 100 percent administrative funding, or require a much lower match percentage, which may be waived. Waiving the match requirement for 2025 and 2026, and then phasing in the match over a five-year period, will allow Summer EBT agencies the time to develop comprehensive budget plans that include administrative funding for Summer EBT. Additionally, State agencies and ITOs would benefit greatly from an approach that phases in the administrative matching requirement across five years. This is an important step that will allow all Summer EBT agencies to implement the program requirements in a way that ensures program integrity from the start of the program.

Table FNS-38. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority...	\$126,000	\$132,000	\$94,000	\$69,000	\$56,000	\$43,000	\$22,000	-	-	-	\$542,000
Outlays.....	101,000	131,000	94,000	69,000	56,000	43,000	22,000	\$26,000	-	-	542,000

Proposed Legislation***Establish Funding for Summer EBT Implementation Grants***

Beginning in 2024, States and ITOs must provide 50 percent of the administrative expenses incurred by the State or ITO in operating its Summer EBT program. Summer EBT agencies will need to invest in infrastructure to build programs that will operate effectively, efficiently and with integrity. Due to the new and permanent nature of this program, many State agencies and ITOs may not have funding available to implement this program, which would impede program access for children in need.

This proposal would fund new implementation grants for the Summer EBT program, which would allow State agencies and ITOs to invest in infrastructure early and sufficiently. Allowable costs would include the development of systems to gather and maintain eligibility information at the State and ITO level, infrastructure to support data sharing, and any EBT changes needed to issue this new benefit type. The availability of additional funding through grants will ease program administration burden, encourage more State agency and ITO participation, and allow Summer EBT agencies to invest in program infrastructure from the very start of the program, thus ensuring program integrity and increasing program effectiveness.

Table FNS-39. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority...	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$150,000
Outlays.....	40,000	50,000	50,000	\$10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	150,000

Proposed Legislation***Improve Utilization of USDA Foods in Schools***

This proposal would amend Section 6 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to simplify the timing and structure of the Per Meal Rate calculation.

The Per Meal Rate Notice announces the national average value of donated foods (i.e., USDA Foods) to be provided in each school year for each lunch served by schools participating in the National School Lunch Program, and for each lunch and supper served by institutions participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The Per Meal Rate is the basis for USDA Foods entitlement amounts provided to States. Under current law the notice is released by FNS on or before July 1st of each school year to set rates for that school year. This timing hinders efficient utilization of USDA Foods as it is too little time for State agencies and school districts to plan upcoming commercial procurements and USDA Foods orders.

To avoid the volatility and inefficiencies that this insufficient notice creates, this technical change would allow FNS to calculate and release the national average value of donated foods by February 15th of each year for the upcoming school year to provide ample time for States and school districts to plan their procurements and menus.

Table FNS-40. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outlays.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTES*FNS-41. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTE (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

State/Territory/Country	2022 Actual	FTEs	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024		2025	
					Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Alabama	\$151	1	\$176	1	\$209	2	\$179	2
Arizona.....	88	1	-	-	121	1	-	-
California.....	2,438	16	2,877	19	3,367	24	2,935	26
Colorado.....	2,569	17	3,495	23	3,548	26	3,565	32
Connecticut	303	2	309	2	418	3	315	3
District of Columbia.....	1,892	12	2,632	17	2,613	19	2,685	24
Delaware	151	1	309	2	209	2	315	3
Florida	370	2	176	1	512	4	179	2
Georgia.....	2,119	14	2,541	16	2,926	21	2,592	23
Iowa.....	151	1	53	-	209	2	54	-
Idaho.....	-	-	11	-	-	-	11	-
Illinois	2,167	14	2,818	18	2,992	22	2,875	25
Indiana.....	80	1	155	1	110	1	158	1
Kansas	68	-	298	2	94	1	304	3
Louisiana	24	-	389	3	33	-	397	4
Massachusetts.....	2,705	18	2,659	17	3,735	27	2,712	24
Maryland	3,963	26	4,763	31	5,473	39	4,858	43
Michigan.....	382	3	458	3	528	4	467	4
Minnesota.....	60	-	96	1	83	1	98	1
Missouri.....	104	1	21	-	143	1	22	-
North Carolina.....	163	1	218	1	226	2	223	2
New Hampshire.....	151	1	165	1	209	2	168	1
New Jersey	2,223	15	2,531	16	3,070	22	2,581	23
New Mexico.....	-	-	2,131	14	-	-	2,174	19
Nevada.....	203	-	442	-	281	-	451	-
New York.....	16	-	139	1	22	-	141	1
Ohio.....	84	1	155	1	116	1	158	1
Oklahoma	271	2	309	2	374	3	315	3
Pennsylvania	1,303	9	1,417	9	1,799	13	1,446	13
Puerto Rico.....	199	1	277	2	275	2	283	3
Rhode Island.....	251	-	410	-	347	-	418	-
South Carolina.....	303	2	309	2	418	3	315	3
Tennessee	92	1	309	2	127	1	315	3
Texas	2,247	15	2,872	19	3,103	22	2,929	26
Utah.....	123	1	-	-	171	1	-	-
Virginia	66,710	80	68,635	111	71,224	118	68,971	154
Washington	215	1	389	3	297	2	397	4
Wisconsin.....	175	1	310	2	242	2	310	3
West Virginia	183	1	186	1	253	2	190	2
Total.....	94,697	262	105,440	344	109,877	396	103,917	481

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table FNS-42. Classification by Objects for Appropriated Funds (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.	\$9,872	\$13,755	\$16,951	\$17,197
	Personnel Compensation, Field	14,808	20,633	25,426	25,795
11	Total personnel compensation	24,680	34,388	42,377	42,992
12	Personal benefits	10,577	14,738	18,162	18,425
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	35,257	49,126	60,539	61,417
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	150	200	250	254
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	10	10	10	10
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	15	21	26	26
24.0	Printing and reproduction	2,200	2,600	2,800	2,842
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	6,047	6,800	7,195	7,303
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	13,500	14,000	14,500	14,718
26.0	Supplies and materials	1,796,700	1,932,225	1,948,518	1,960,069
31.0	Equipment.....	85	90	100	102
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	36,964,868	29,660,421	31,293,696	32,439,292
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities.....	50	50	50	50
	Total, Other Objects.....	38,783,625	31,616,417	33,267,145	34,424,666
99.9	Total, new obligations	38,818,882	31,665,543	33,327,684	34,486,083

Table FNS-43. Classification by Objects for Permanent Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.	\$1,636	\$1,467	\$1,445	\$1,466
	Personnel Compensation, Field.....	2,453	2,201	2,167	2,199
11	Total personnel compensation.....	4,089	3,668	3,612	3,665
12	Personal benefits	1,752	1,572	1,548	1,571
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	5,841	5,240	5,160	5,236
Other Objects:					
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	429	600	750	761
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	253	350	450	457
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	199,727	204,060	207,890	211,796
	Total, Other Objects	200,409	205,010	209,090	213,014
99.9	Total, new obligations	206,250	210,250	214,250	218,250

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, Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer Program, and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

The Child Nutrition Programs improve the diets of children when they are away from home through nutritious meals and snacks based on the goals of 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. Beginning in Summer 2024, the newly authorized Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer Program will enable States to provide cash benefits to be used by households to purchase nutritious foods for eligible children during the summer months 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. These programs are administered in most States by the State education agency, and in some States, by the State agriculture or health agencies, although the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer Program may be administered by other State agencies or Indian Tribal Organizations.

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. The Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer Program was authorized in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, P.L. 111-328, and is codified in the NSLA.

National School Lunch Program**Current Activities**

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. All school lunches 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.

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, 42 USC 1753, 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, 42 USC 1759a, authorizes additional reimbursement for free and reduced-price meals served to children. For school year (SY) 2023-2024, a child from a family of four with an annual income of \$39,000 or less is eligible for free meals, and a child from a family of four with an annual income of no more than \$55,500 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 an increase in assistance at the rate of 2 cents per meal served. In addition, SFAs that demonstrated that the meals offered met the nutrition standards receive an additional 8 cents per lunch served. In addition to the cash reimbursements, Section 6 of the NSLA also provided 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

On average, schools and residential childcare institutions (RCCIs) served more than 28.5 million children each day through the NSLP in 2023, the first year of normal meal program operations following COVID. This represents a five percent reduction from 30.1 million children served through the NSLP each operating day during 2022.

In 2023, more than 4.6 billion lunches were served through the NSLP. In 2022, over 4.95 billion lunches were served through the NSLP, 83 percent of which were served as free lunches through the NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO). This represents a six percent reduction in total lunches served between 2023 and 2022. A contributing factor in this reduction was the absence of the COVID-19 waivers which permitted schools to serve meals through the SSO, at no charge to students, during the SY 2022-2023. Additionally, the number of program operating days in 2023 (171) were five percent below 2022 (180) levels.

In 2023, 71 percent of total lunches served through the NSLP were provided for free or at a reduced price to students. Compared to 2022, when, including lunches served through the SSO – which are all served for free, the percentage of total meals served for free or at a reduced price was approximately 95 percent. If SSO meals were excluded from this calculation for 2022, the percentage of free and reduced-price meals drops by a single percentage point from 2022 (72 percent) to 2023 (71 percent).

A total of 95,281 schools and RCCIs participated in the NSLP in 2023, compared to 94,662 in 2022 (880 fewer schools and 261 more RCCIs).

In 2023, USDA published a proposed rule to update the NSLP nutrition standards to align with the goals of the latest Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The proposed standards are science-based and informed by public comments and more than 50 listening sessions with parents, students, school nutrition professionals, partners from Tribal Nations, and others. During 2023, USDA reviewed and analyzed over 136,000 public comments received in response to the proposed rule and expects to publish a final rule in early 2024.

School Breakfast Program**Current Activities**

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 a specified percentage 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

On average, schools and residential childcare institutions (RCCIs) served more than 14.5 million children each day through the SBP in 2023, the first year of normal meal operations following COVID. This represents an eight percent reduction from 15.6 million children served through the SBP each operating day during 2022.

In 2023, the SBP was available in 91,541 schools and RCCIs with a total enrollment of 49.5 million students. Compared to the number of outlets participating in the SBP and the total number of students enrolled in SBP schools during 2022, this represents a two percent increase in outlets and a four percent decrease in students enrolled in schools operating the SBP.

During 2022, most schools opted into a nationwide waiver which permitted them to serve meals at no charge to students through the SSO. Because of this, the proportion of total meals served for free or at a reduced-price during 2022 (97 percent) was 18 points higher than during 2023 (79 percent). However, if those meals served through the

SSO during 2022 are not included in this calculation, the data show only a small (two percent) increase in the percentage of meals served for free or at a reduced price from 2022 (81 percent) to 2023 (79 percent).

The proposed rule that USDA published in 2023 to update NSLP nutrition standards would also update SBP nutrition standards to align with the goals of the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which were published in 2020. In addition to working on the final rule, which is expected to publish in early 2024, USDA 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.

Special Milk Program

Current Activities

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 2023, the SMP saw an increase of nearly one and a half percent in the total number of half pints served compared to 2022.

The number of half pints served through the SMP increased from 18.8 million in 2022 to 19.1 million in 2023. Overall, the number of half pints served has decreased from 181.3 million in 1990.

A total of 1,993 schools, residential childcare institutions, and non-residential childcare institutions, and summer camps participated in the SMP in 2023, a 28 percent increase from the 2022 level of 1,551.

The portion of half pints served free during 2023 was approximately 10 percent, compared to nine percent in 2022.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

Current Activities

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 persons with disabilities.

CACFP meals and snacks may be served in childcare centers, day care homes, at-risk afterschool care centers, outside-school-hours care centers, adult day care centers, and emergency shelters. Child and adult care centers must be either public or private nonprofit. For-profit childcare centers are also eligible if at least 25 percent of their enrollment or licensed capacity either receive funds through Title XX of the Social Security Act or are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. For-profit adult day care centers are also eligible if at least 25 percent of the adults enrolled in care benefit from Title XIX or Title XX of the Social Security Act. A center may participate through an agreement directly with the State agency or through an agreement with a sponsoring organization. A sponsoring organization is a public or nonprofit private organization that is entirely responsible for the administration of the Program. All participating centers and day care homes 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. 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 after school 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. In 2023, FNS issued a memorandum of best practices to help State agencies streamline the application process to make it easier to provide meals year-round through participation in CACFP and summer meal programs.

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 provides guidance, resources, best practices, and training to support centers and day care homes in providing healthy, balanced meals and snacks to the infants, children, and adults they serve. In 2023, FNS published updated guidance on feeding infants and the infant meal pattern requirements.

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 2023, FNS continued to develop technical assistance and best practices for alternative data collection methods.

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 2023, FNS extended the cooperative agreement, at no cost, to continue maintaining 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 develop 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 2023, Program Operators attended CORE training in person at the National CACFP Sponsors Association conference. Also in 2023, 1,022 State agency employees working in CACFP attended 9 virtual conferences on various areas of Program management, and nearly 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, such as the review of a sponsoring organization's bank activity, designed to improve oversight by State agencies and sponsoring organizations. The final rule published on August 23, 2023, and FNS has provided resources and technical assistance to States to ensure proper implementation of the final rule provisions.

FNS also drafted a proposed rule to update the serious deficiency (SD) process in CACFP and extend the process to SFSP. 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 with the goal to promote positive outcomes (full and permanent corrections of all deficiencies) while enhancing program integrity.

The Erroneous Payments in Childcare 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. Additional data collection was conducted in 2023 to produce a valid statistical estimate of error, with final estimates expected to be published in 2024. FNS is also developing exploratory research to identify methods to measure error in family day care homes. Results from the latest feasibility study are expected to be published in 2024.

Facts in Brief

In 2023, the total number of meals served through the CACFP dropped by nine percent from 1.9 billion meals in 2022 to 1.7 billion meals in 2023. In 2023, average daily attendance in CACFP was approximately 4.5 million children and adults, a five percent reduction compared to the average daily attendance of 4.8 million children and adults reported in 2022.

In 2023, the average daily attendance reported in day care homes and childcare centers was 4.4 million children. Of the total, 3.8 million were children in childcare centers and approximately 650,000 were in day care homes. Compared to 2022, these data show a five percent total decrease in average daily attendance reported across both provider types, a 14 percent increase in average daily attendance reported by day care homes, and an eight percent decrease in average daily attendance reported by childcare centers participating in the CACFP.

On average, in 2023, CACFP childcare center outlets reported 62 children in attendance each day and received \$44,826 in meal reimbursements for the year (compared to an average of 64 children and \$44,383 in 2022).

On average, family day care homes fed 9 children daily in 2023 and received slightly more than \$1,000 a year in meal reimbursements (compared to an average of 8 children and slightly more than \$1,043 in 2022).

In 2023, approximately 79 percent of total meals served in CACFP were provided free or at a reduced price, a decrease from 82 percent in 2022.

In 2023, 27,177 At-Risk Childcare Center outlets provided a total of 245 million meals and snacks to children (compared to the 29,089 At-Risk Childcare Centers operating in 2022 that served a total of 461 million meals and snacks). This is a seven percent reduction in the number of outlets operating At-Risk sites and a 47 percent decrease in the number of meals and snacks served to children during 2022. The significant reduction in meals served is largely due to COVID-related meal service waivers which were available during 2022. Compared to the most recent pre-pandemic operating year (2019), the number of outlets operating At-Risk programs increased three percent in 2023 and the total number of meals served decreased by nine percent over 2019.

In 2023, CACFP At-Risk Childcare Centers had an average of 92 children daily, a decrease from approximately 107 children during 2022.

USDA Foods Program

Current Activities

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, 42 USC 1755(c) and 1766(h) 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, 42 USC 1761, 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 2022-2023, schools, daycare centers and residential institutions were authorized to receive an average of 30.00 cents worth of USDA Foods per lunch/supper served. The rate for USDA Foods decreased to 29.50 cents on July 1, 2023, for SY 2023-2024.

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 2023, FNS continued to ensure schools had access to canned vegetable options with minimal sodium levels by adjusting the sodium content for canned green beans, carrots, and peas to allow no-salt added varieties in addition to low sodium options.

In 2023, FNS continued to closely monitor USDA Foods inventories and orders for national processors. FNS has worked closely with States and processors to help them effectively and efficiently manage USDA Foods inventories using the processors National Monthly Performance reports usage and inventory data. This data provides key information to help ensure efficient inventory utilization, reduction of inventory balances and storage costs.

USDA Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (USDA DoD Fresh)

FNS and the Department of Defense (DoD) Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) 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 deliveries of a wide variety of fresh produce to school cafeterias, central kitchens, Summer Food Service Program (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 2023, 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, 28 States used their SFSP funds to order fresh fruits and vegetables using the USDA DoD Fresh program. FNS continues to work with the DLA to improve the USDA DoD Fresh program, including encouraging vendors to provide local produce items when in season.

The Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Orders Receipt System (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 2023 the remaining States allocated approximately \$7.7 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 Agricultural Marketing Service (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 2023, FNS continued trainings in webinar and virtual platforms to continue to engage with stakeholders and provide timely USDA Foods resources and information. Additionally, FNS continued to release monthly updates of 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.

Child Nutrition Program Integrity

Current Activities

Ensuring the integrity of the child nutrition 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's efforts to enhance program integrity in the child nutrition programs fall under three categories: research, process improvements, and monitoring/compliance.

Research

The fourth Access, Participation, Eligibility, and Certification Study (APEC-IV) began data collection in August 2023. 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. The APEC findings help direct integrity work in the school meals program, which is currently being informed by APEC-III.

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 APEC, EPICCS will serve as a basis for future integrity initiatives in CACFP. The initial draft of the EPICCS study was reviewed by FNS and it was determined that additional data collection was required to produce a valid statistical estimate of error, with final estimates expected to be published in 2024. FNS is also continuing exploratory research to identify methods to measure error in family day care homes. The results from the latest feasibility study of methods to produce a statistically valid method are expected to be published in 2024.

In August 2023, FNS published the "Summer Food Service Program Integrity Study," designed to improve understanding of how State agencies provide oversight of the Summer Food Service Program. Its findings address sponsor and site selection, training and technical assistance, meal counting and claiming, and reviews. The study also offers insight about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Summer Food Service Program operations. FNS is reviewing these findings to formulate additional ways of providing effective training and technical assistance to help States carry out their oversight responsibilities.

Monitoring and Compliance

FNS and State agencies conduct reviews to assess the operation of the Child Nutrition 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 activities support the identification of errors that threaten Program integrity and may result in improper claims. When reviews identify errors, corrective action plans are developed to assist State agencies and Program operators with compliance and to improve the implementation of Program regulations and operations. Implementation of corrective action plans results in more accurate and efficient distribution of Program benefits to eligible children and helps ensure public trust in the Programs.

State agencies are required by regulations to review Programs to evaluate compliance with requirements. To evaluate compliance, State agencies will review, but are not limited to, the following: certification and benefit

issuance, meal counting and claiming to ensure the accuracy of reimbursements and records, and Program meal requirements.

Review and oversight activities are not only helpful in recovering Federal funds but also can inform technical assistance and other initiatives FNS creates to improve Program compliance and operations. Based on information gleaned from State agencies and findings discovered, FNS develops technical assistance on Program regulations and provides guidance to State agencies and Program operators through a variety of formats.

As required by statute, for the school meal programs, FNS developed a unified accountability system for State agency oversight, referred to as the Administrative Review. Through the Administrative Review, State agencies conduct comprehensive evaluations of Program operations by SFAs participating in NSLP and SBP and other Federal meal programs. FNS provides forms, instructions, and guidance to State agencies to standardize the review process. If State agencies identify any errors during the Administrative Review, they must provide technical assistance, require a corrective action, and when applicable, assess fiscal action to recover Federal funds that have been paid erroneously to SFAs.

In 2023, USDA published the final Child Nutrition Program Integrity Rule to strengthen the monitoring and oversight activities in Child Nutrition Programs. Provisions of this final rule impact the timing of reviews, how they are conducted, and the ability for State agencies to issue fines for severe Program mismanagement. Based on these provisions, FNS is providing new guidance and updating existing guidance and tools to assist State agencies in their oversight activities.

FNS is responsible for managing and conducting oversight for the nutrition assistance programs administered through State and local agencies. FNS conducts management evaluations, which assess State agency implementation and oversight of the Child Nutrition Programs. In 2023, FNS Regional Offices conducted 63 targeted management evaluations across all CN Programs, focusing on high-risk areas. 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 local level reviews, and during management evaluations.

Through both competitive and non-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 of 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 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.

Direct Certification

Direct certification is the process of the school and State matching data from other federal, 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 school meal 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) provides funding for grants to State agencies that administer the NSLP. FNS plans to release additional funding for grants to support these efforts in 2024.

For SY 2021-2022, 36 of the 52 State agencies administering school meals programs achieved direct certification rates at or above the 95-percent performance target. This represents a slight decrease from SY 2018-2019, the most

recent SY for which comparable data exist due to COVID-19 related limitations and reporting waivers, in which 40 States met the benchmark. However, FNS anticipates improved performance as schools return from Covid-related operations which affected their normal direct certification activities. FNS is continuing robust technical assistance efforts with State agencies to help them improve their direct certification performance. For 2024, FNS is expected to conduct multiple State Agency site visits and provide technical assistance via conference calls and written guidance.

Direct Certification with Medicaid Demonstration Projects

Section 9(b)(15) of the NSLA, 42 USC 1758(b)(15), 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, 42 USC 1769(c) USDA decided to examine the potential additional efficiencies of directly certified students for both free and reduced-price meals. Currently, 38 States participate in the demonstration projects. New States will have the opportunity to start this project in SYs 2024-2025, 2025-2026, or 2026-2027. 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

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 any 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) serving 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. In lieu of household applications, CEP 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 25 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. For CEP, students who are certified for free meals without a household application, such as those directly certified through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), are "identified students." The identified student percentage (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 any 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. Using an established equation, 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.

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.

USDA conducted a national evaluation of CEP, collecting data in SY 2016-2017. This study examined characteristics of participating and non-participating schools. The study also assessed 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.

In 2023, USDA published a final rule that lowered the minimum ISP from 40 to 25 percent, expanding access to CEP to an estimated 3,000 more school districts in high-need areas. To support implementation of the lower threshold, USDA provided webinars and briefings to a wide range of stakeholders and approved State requests to waive the CEP election deadline so LEAs could elect CEP at the lower threshold during SY 2023-24. USDA also 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. Technical assistance includes responding to State agency questions, issuing policy guidance, and highlighting CEP during webinars and presentations. As of May 2023, 40,235 schools serving almost 20 million students are operating CEP, which represents about 82 percent of eligible schools.

School Breakfast Expansion Grants

Over the past few years, Congress has provided funding for 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. The School Breakfast Expansion Grant has contributed to the growth of the SBP; for instance, in SY 2024, 96% of schools operate both NSLP and SBP, marking a notable increase from the 87% participation observed when the grant commenced in 2010. In 2022, one applicant, Puerto Rico, received an award totaling \$2 million. In 2023, three applicants, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Wisconsin, received awards totaling \$5,446,569.

NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants

The purpose of the Equipment Assistance Grants is to provide funding to State agencies to competitively award Equipment Assistance Grants to eligible school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program. Grant funding to State agencies directs them to award these subgrants to local education agencies and schools to purchase equipment, with a value of greater than \$1,000, needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the School Breakfast Program. In 2023, a total of \$30 million was provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328). This brought the total funding provided under this initiative to \$471 million since program inception.

Healthy 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 improve the nutritional quality of healthy school meals over the next several years. It includes four components: competitive sub-grants for small and/or rural SFAs, a recognition awards program for all SFAs, two Healthy Meals Summits, and challenge grants to stimulate innovation in the K-12 school food marketplace. FNS is leading this initiative.

During 2023, the following activities took place as part of this initiative:

FNS announced the awardees for the Healthy Meals Incentives School Food System Transformation Challenge Sub-Grants – Cooperative Agreement which are Boise State University (\$16.1 million), Chef Ann Foundation (\$7.8 million), Full Plates Full Potential (\$10 million), and Illinois Public Health Institute (\$16 million).

FNS awarded a cooperative agreement to Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) for the Development and Implementation of Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards and Sub-Grants for School Food Authorities. Under the Sub-Grants for SFAs project, AFHK awarded sub-grants to 264 small and/or rural SFAs from 44 states and the District of Columbia, with a total of \$29,848,318 in funding requested. The top three areas for fund requests were for equipment, staffing, and supplies. AFHK also published the Recognition Awards website and application portal.

Non-Competitive Technology Innovation Grants

In 2023, 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 2023, FNS offered the nTIGs through an allocation methodology through the Regional Offices to 54 States and territories, with 68 State agencies

eligible for funding. Each State agency was offered \$373,134. In 2023, State agencies continued to develop their system projects and expend their 2021 grant awards.

Farm to School Program

Current Activities

USDA supports local and regional food systems 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 conducts 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.

FNS 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 principals 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 2023.

Grant Program

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 2023 Agricultural appropriations and, as a result, FNS has significantly increased the number of grant awards.

2023 marked the tenth anniversary of the Farm to School Grant Program. Over this ten-year period and including the grants awarded in 2023, FNS has awarded more than 1,100 projects totaling more than \$85 million and reaching all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam, reaching more than 28 million students in nearly 63,000 schools. In July 2023, FNS awarded more than \$10.7 million in grants to 103 grantees.

On October 11, 2023, FNS published the 2024 Farm to School Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA). The RFA continues the same three grant tracks as the 2023 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 regional staff support, 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 2023, FNS completed the fifth year of its 5-year, \$1.8 million cooperative agreement with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). The goal of this project was 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. Overall, the project trained 309 state, territory, and tribal representatives to deliver the training and a total of 902 producers were trained on the curriculum. In 2023, FNS entered the second 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 to develop their own institutes. There are a total of 11 active institutes nationwide. FNS continued to provide oversight of the cooperative agreement and supported the recruitment of an additional four adapter States in 2023.

In September 2023, FNS held a USDA Farm to School Grantee Gathering in-person in Atlanta, Georgia with over 150 attendees, including USDA Farm to School grantees and partner organizations, to review grant requirements, share best practices, and create opportunities 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 more than 146,000.

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. The 2023 Farm to School Census, began data collection in October 2023. In addition, Farm to School grants awarded in s 2018 and 2019 are being evaluated concurrent to the Census.

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 2023, 88 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.

Team Nutrition Activities and Initiatives

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. Team Nutrition efforts are reinforced by the Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) (funded by USDA FNS) which provide culinary training and training on the use of Team Nutrition materials to State agencies and Child Nutrition Program operators.

FNS announced the selected grantees for the [2023 Team Nutrition Grant Supporting Nutrition Education for School-Aged Children](#) for State agencies that participate in the USDA's NSLP or CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Program and School Food Authorities (SFA). This is the first time that Team Nutrition grants have been offered to SFAs in addition to State agencies. Eight State agencies and two SFAs received grants. The focus of the 2023 Team Nutrition Grant is on supporting the adoption of healthy eating patterns by school-aged children (grades pre-K-12), parents/caregivers, and school staff through the coordination and implementation of MyPlate nutrition education connected to the nutritious meals and snacks offered through USDA Child Nutrition Programs.

FNS and ICN created or updated more than 50 resources including:

- A series of twenty (20) professional studio-shot photographs of school meal trays that meet the Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium for SY 2022-2023. These are part of the “School Meal Trays, Many Ways” initiative, which showcases the appeal and diversity of school meals served in the United States and its territories.
- Crediting Milk and Crediting Grains in the Child Nutrition Programs which completes the Crediting Tip Sheet series. In addition, the Crediting Fruits, Meats/Meat Alternates, and Milk in the Child Nutrition Programs tip sheets were translated into Spanish.
- The “Child Nutrition On Demand” video series
- “Menus of Flavor: Mediterranean Cuisine and Latin American Cuisine”

- Two new interactive training modules to assist Child Nutrition Program operators in using the Exhibit A Grains Tool and Food Buying Guide (FBG) Calculator through the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-Based Tool and Mobile App.
- Adding 40 new foods to FBG
- Sixteen “Culinary Quick Bites” lessons. Each lesson focuses on a specific culinary-related training topic.
- Updated and new assets as part of the “Discover MyPlate: Nutrition Education for Kindergarten” (Discover MyPlate) resource in English and Spanish.
- Delivered more than 600 live, virtual trainings reaching more than 55,000 Child Nutrition professionals.

In 2023 FNS awarded a cooperative agreement to the Urban School Food Alliance to develop new and innovative procurement training and resources for school districts. These innovative procurement resources are being developed in direct response to changes in the business need for schools, including the supply chain shortages schools have faced in recent years.

Summer Food Service Program

Current Activities

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.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (the Act) (PL 117-328) included significant policy changes for Child Nutrition programming, including the authorization of a permanent, non-congregate meal service option through the SFSP and NSLP SSO for rural areas with no congregate meal service. The Act required FNS to issue guidance documents for summer 2023 operations and publish an Interim Final Regulation (IFR) by December 29, 2023, to guide operations for summer 2024 and beyond. FNS released two memoranda to assist State agencies and Program operators with the implementation of the non-congregate meal service option in summer 2023: (1) Implementation Guidance: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Option Meal Service in Rural Areas - Revised (SFSP 01-2023, SP 05-2023, February 28, 2023); and (2) Questions and Answers #2: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas (SFSP 07-2023, FP 14,2023, April 20, 2023). FNS hosted over 26 listening sessions with external stakeholders to solicit input on the topic of non-congregate meal service in rural areas from State agencies administering Child Nutrition Programs, school food authorities (SFAs) and other program operators, advocacy groups, local elected officials, and families. These listening sessions were designed to inform development of the IFR and aid in the codification of parameters and standards for non-congregate meals during the summer months. On December 29, 2023, FNS published the Interim Final Rule: Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs, which reflected the extensive feedback as well as experience with non-congregate feeding in Summer 2023.

FNS recognizes exceptional effort among SFSP sponsors through the annual Turnip the Beet Awards, which highlight successful practices that go above and beyond to ensure children receive high-quality meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious throughout the summer months. FNS awarded 98 Turnip the Beet awards for excellence to summer meal sponsors in 2023; 31 sponsors received a gold award, 54 received a silver award, and 13 received a bronze award.

FNS remains 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 with summer meals. In 2023, FNS consulted with a small selection of State agencies, stakeholders, and Program operators to gain insight into data collection methods currently in use. FNS

used insight gained in these sessions to develop technical assistance and additional guidance documents to be published in 2024.

Throughout 2023, FNS also utilized authority under Section 12(l) of the NSLA, 42 U.S.C. 1760(l), to issue waivers that allowed State agencies and sponsors to quickly respond to school closures by allowing flexibilities for non-congregate meal service in SFSP and NSLP SSO when congregate meal service operations were limited due to natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes, or similar unanticipated causes. FNS issued similar waivers for operations impacted by excessive heat or poor air quality during the summer period.

Facts in Brief

During 2023, over 136 million breakfast, lunches, suppers, and snacks were served through the SFSP. This represents a 10 percent decrease from 2022 meal service levels when over 150 million meals were served through the program. For Summer 2022 operations, congress authorized additional support for the SFSP through the Keep Kids Fed Act (P.L. 117-158). This legislation extended several nationwide waiver flexibilities which were initially authorized through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) allowing program sponsors to retain operational flexibilities that increased the reach of the SFSP during Summer 2022.

During 2023, 35,439 meal sites served children through the SFSP. Over the past 20 years, the number of meals served through the SFSP has increased by over 20 percent from 113 million meals served in 1993 and the number of SFSP sites has increased by nearly 35 percent from 25,800 sites.

In 2023, the mix of meal types served through the SFSP remained steady from 2022. During 2023, approximately 54 percent of SFSP meals served were lunches, 36 percent were breakfasts, and the remaining ten percent were suppers and supplements.

Integrity and Simplification

Starting 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 Phase 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. In 2023, FNS focused on implementing the Phase III audit recommendations. These recommendations included updating memorandums to clarify how to identify and calculate unused reimbursements; providing best practices on unused reimbursement, site proximity, and 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. 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. The data used to populate the site are publicly available for download on FNS's 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. FNS is currently in the process of expanding the Site Finder's functionality to include the new rural non-congregate meal service option. The Capacity Builder is another free, web-based application that allows users to visualize "layers" of information for evaluation and planning purposes.

FNS conducted the Summer Food Service Program Integrity 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 was published in August 2023. Additionally, FNS is developing a measure of improper payments in SFSP to meet the requirements of the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA). In summer 2023, FNS conducted site-level data collection for an SFSP feasibility study to assess using the data to help identify meal counting and claiming error in the program. In the next phase of the study, site-level data will be combined with sponsor and/or state-level data to establish certification, aggregation, and meal counting and claiming error rates in SFSP.

Summer Demonstration Projects

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. Summer demonstrations in 2023 included the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) demonstrations and the Summer Meals-to-You project. USDA continues to review proposals for future summer meals demonstration projects.

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 provided 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. Rigorous evaluations of these projects found that Summer EBT decreased the number of kids with very low food security, the most severe form of food insecurity, by about one-third. In addition, Summer EBT was able to improve the diets of children in low-income households during the summer.

In 2023, three Indian Tribal Organizations operated Summer EBT demonstration projects: The Cherokee Nation, The Chickasaw Nation, and Inter Tribal Council of Arizona. The statute that authorized a permanent Summer EBT Program included a provision that prevents USDA from using summer demonstration funding or authority to support demonstrations that provide EBT benefits to children beginning in summer 2024.

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 subsequent years to support summer 2022 and 2023 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 7,900 children received meal boxes in summer 2022, and 9,000 children in summer 2023.

The Urban Institute continues to conduct studies which examine how the Summer Meals to You program impacts children's nutrition as well as best practices related to program operation. In July 2023, FNS provided two reports to Congress which contained information related to the Summer Meals to You demonstration projects for 2019, 2020, and 2021. The Urban Institute's 2022 report was published in September 2023, and the 2023 report published in December 2023.

Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program for Children

Current Activities

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328) established the new Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (Summer EBT), the first new USDA nutrition program in decades.

Summer EBT will provide food benefits to children from low-income households during the summer months to ensure continued access to nutrition when school is not in session. USDA anticipates that Summer EBT will help to close the summer nutrition gap for more than 30 million children, once implemented nationwide. As amended, the NSLA allows States participating in SNAP (including the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam) and Territories participating in NAP (including Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) to issue benefits which are usable at SNAP or NAP retailers. The NSLA also provides that ITOs administering WIC may deliver Summer EBT benefits to be used at WIC-authorized retailers. Beginning in summer 2024, the value of the benefit will be \$40 per child for each month of the summer and will be adjusted annually to reflect changes to the SNAP Thrifty Food Plan. In accordance with the statute, FNS will establish adjusted benefit levels annually for Alaska, Hawaii, and the U.S. territories. The permanent Summer EBT Program is separate and distinct from the earlier Summer EBT demonstration projects, which were limited in scope and conducted for the

purpose of gaining insight into the effectiveness of the model. The permanent Summer EBT Program is also separate and distinct from P-EBT, which was a specific Federal government response to COVID-19.

On December 29, 2023, FNS published the Interim Final Rule: Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs, as required by statute within one year after the date of enactment. Through the Interim Final Rule, the Summer EBT Program is codified in a new part 292 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The truncated timeline did not allow FNS to publish a proposed rule for comment. Therefore, FNS placed a high value on stakeholder feedback in the development of the interim final rule. FNS hosted 24 listening sessions to solicit input about Summer EBT from State agencies administering SNAP and Child Nutrition Programs, school food authorities (SFAs) and other program operators, advocacy groups, local elected officials, and families. FNS also consulted with Tribal leaders on Summer EBT in May 2023, attended two conferences to meet with and gather feedback directly from ITOs administering WIC, and met with Tribal WIC administrators virtually. Listening session participants were asked for input about approaches to program implementation, program integrity, program costs, customer service, and technical aspects of Summer EBT operations. Participants were offered the opportunity to raise other issues of interest to them as well. FNS carefully considered this input when developing this rule.

Standing up a Summer EBT program at the State and ITO levels requires significant investment of time and resources. Most, if not all, States and ITOs would be unable to launch a Summer EBT Program in 2024 if required to wait until the IFR publishes at the end of 2023 to receive any policy guidance. To assist States and ITOs, FNS published a series of memoranda covering key information that States and ITOs need to know early to begin building their programs. FNS hosted webinars on each memorandum during which agency staff responded to questions from participants. FNS also launched a toolkit of implementation guidance and supports for States and ITOs, which is available on the FNS website and will be updated as more resources become available. Memoranda issued as of November 16, 2023, are:

- SEBT 01-2023, [Initial Guidance for State Implementation of Summer EBT in 2024](#), June 7, 2023.
- SEBT 02-2023, [Initial Guidance for Implementation of Summer EBT in 2024 by Indian Tribal Organizations Administering WIC](#), June 13, 2023;
- SEBT 03-2023, [Summer EBT Eligibility, Certification, and Verification](#), July 31, 2023.
- SEBT 01-2024, [Summer EBT Administrative Funding Process for 2024](#), October 18, 2023.

FNS is also planning a series of comprehensive trainings for FNS regional office staff, as well as States and ITOs. These trainings will be a mix of presentation, Q&A, and collaborative sessions, to ensure stakeholders at all levels can learn and contribute.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

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, 42 USC 1769a, 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) based on population. In 2023, a total of \$ 252.6 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.

USDA Child Nutrition Program COVID-19 Response

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. Waivers included:

- Meals and snacks served through schools but reimbursed at the applicable Summer Food Service Program rates.
- 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

The Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 (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 for SY 2022-2023.

USDA also used existing waiver authority under Section 12(l) of the NSLA, 42 USC 1760(l) 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. 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 has worked tirelessly with States and local authorities to ensure schools and other program operators are 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. 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. In April 2023, FNS revised and released four revised COVID-19 tip sheets to assist CNP operators with meal service during the SY 2022-2023 in the context of current flexibilities, while promoting safe and nutritious meals.

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, which for 2022 was published in September 2023 and for 2023 was published in December 2023, includes nutrition research, effectiveness of aid provided, and academic papers, and will be effective in informing future disaster response. (Urban.org Search | Urban Institute).

Pandemic EBT

Pandemic EBT, or P-EBT, was initially authorized by the 2020 Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). As amended, P-EBT authorized 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 authorized states to extend USDA-approved school and childcare plans through the summer months. The FFCRA, as amended, deemed all schools and childcare providers closed for a period not longer than 90 days in the summer. Due to the expiration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration on May 11, 2023, only children who attended an NSLP-participating school at the end of SY 2022-2023 were eligible for P-EBT benefits for summer 2023. Pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328), the P-EBT benefit levels for Summer 2023 were \$120 per eligible child in the contiguous United States, \$139 per eligible child in Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and \$188 per eligible child in Alaska. Additionally, SY 2022-2023 P-EBT benefits were not issued for any COVID-19 related absences after May 11, 2023. The value of benefits for each eligible child in 2023 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 2023 consistent with individual state plans reviewed and approved by FNS. While P-EBT was meant to replace lost school and childcare meal benefits, it was built on SNAP's existing EBT infrastructure. As a result, the administration of P-EBT was a joint effort and a joint responsibility of states' Child Nutrition, Education, and SNAP agencies. During 2023, FNS approved P-EBT plans for school children in 19 states and territories, childcare plans in 38 states and territories, and summer plans in 49 states and territories. During 2023, States distributed over \$13.7 billion in P-EBT benefits, including some retroactive payments for prior periods of eligibility. Nearly 36 million children were eligible to receive P-EBT benefits in 2023, according to data collected from FNS-approved State P-EBT plans.

Supply Chain Assistance Funds

To assist school districts experiencing supply chain disruptions, in 2022 and 2023, FNS announced and began allocating nearly to \$3.8 billion in relief funding to state agencies, made available through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), 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 schools.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

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 Richard B. Russell 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.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

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, 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 fiscal year 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.

Summer Food Service Program

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 of 2022 (PL 117-158), which extended FNS's 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 transitioned 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 the waivers offered in summer 2022. 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, and Meals at School Sites during Unanticipated School Closures.

Food Safety

Current Activities

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 2023, 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 on 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 executed an inter-agency agreement with FDA to support an independent study through the National Academy of

Science and Medicine on the role of seafood consumption in child growth and development. Other federal partners of this study include NOAA and EPA.

In 2023, FNS delivered more than 150 food safety trainings through a cooperative agreement with the ICN reaching more than 3,800 child nutrition professionals through a variety of modalities to meet program operators' needs including virtual instructor led training and e-learning. FNS initiated Phase I of the Certified Food Protection Manager project through the ICN; this project is anticipated to save School Food Authorities substantial costs on the certified food protection manager credential, which is required by many local and state food safety regulatory authorities. In 2023, FNS developed and delivered eight webinars for child nutrition program 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; Best Approaches for Managing HACCP Plans in Schools; Tips and Tools for Produce Safety Training; Too Cool for School; and, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, The Role of School Nutrition Directors in School Safety Efforts.

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 2023, the ICN, in collaboration with FNS, launched an updated Food Allergies in School Nutrition face-to-face training, and three of four planned Food Allergies in School Nutrition Programs online courses. In addition, Spanish translations of the Childcare Center Food Allergy Fact Sheets were completed. FNS provided agency support related to sesame, the ninth major allergen.

In partnership with the AMS, FNS delivered Produce Safety University (PSU) as both in-person and virtual experiences 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 2023, four in-person and one virtual multi-day trainings were delivered to approximately 150 school nutrition professionals and State agency staff. FNS will expand the reach of PSU in 2024 by offering 5 in-person sessions in addition to one virtual session. PSU is far-reaching; approximately 1,950 participants have graduated since 2010 and graduates have gone on to train nearly 75,000 additional people. Following graduation, 85 percent of PSU graduates reported making changes to improve receiving, storage, preparation, or service practices.

Food Safety Research

FNS advanced food safety research to inform education activities in Child Nutrition Programs. In 2023, FNS awarded a cooperative agreement to Texas Tech University to complete a review of the Produce Safety University course, including its delivery, content, and graduate support. The study will provide information that will be used to inform enhancements to the course and a roadmap to guide FNS support of graduates who train others on topics learned in PSU. FNS's 2021 cooperative agreement with the Center for Food Safety in Child Nutrition Programs at Kansas State University was concluded; research finalized in 2023 included three studies – A 10-year Follow-up Assessment of Health Inspection Reports Among School Nutrition Programs; Validation of Cooling Methods in School Nutrition Programs; and Literature Review on the Effectiveness of Washing Fresh Produce to Reduce Pathogens. In addition, FNS executed a new cooperative agreement with the Center at KSU to deliver two Serving Up Science courses in 2024. Serving Up Science is 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 2023, 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 advanced its food safety mission through relationships with the following teams: FSIS Recall Management team, FSIS Significant Incident Preparedness and Response Staff, AMS Livestock and Poultry Food Safety and Technology Team, the FDA Complaints and Retail Foods Teams, the Conference for Food Protection, and the U.S. Department of Education's Readiness and Emergency Management Technical Assistance Center, 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 2023, USDA Foods were not substantially impacted by food recalls. FNS

continued to support rapid notification of food safety recalls in food distribution programs through the management of the State Emergency Notification Service contract.

In 2023, FNS responded to 195 USDA Foods complaints with identified food safety concerns. Fruit and vegetable products represented 113 of these complaints, followed by 48 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.

State Administrative Expense (SAE) Funds

Section 7 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 USC 1776, 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 2023, \$339 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.

Child Nutrition Studies and Evaluations

FNS published four reports related to the Child Nutrition Programs during 2023, which are available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/research-analysis>. These reports include:

- Summer Food Service Program Integrity Study (August 30, 2023). The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Integrity Study was designed to improve understanding of how State agencies provide oversight of the SFSP. The study examined such areas as sponsor and site identification and selection; training and technical assistance, meal counting and claiming, and administrative reviews. The study also provides some preliminary information about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SFSP operations and how available waivers improved service delivery.
- Results of USDA's FNS-Administered SFA Survey II on Supply Chain Disruption and Student Participation (July 25, 2023). The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted school meal operations and has contributed to lasting supply chain issues affecting the cost and availability of food and labor. The School Food Authority (SFA) Survey II on Supply Chain Disruption and Student Participation was administered by U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) from November 22, 2022, to January 6, 2023, through a 20-minute online questionnaire. The survey was sent to all SFAs operating Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs) to gather information on the impacts of continued supply chain disruptions and the return to standard operations during SY 2022-2023. FNS will use results from this survey to inform current and future policy decisions.
- Child Nutrition Program Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic, March Through September 2020 (May 23, 2023). This study is part of an ongoing study series examining Child Nutrition (CN) program operations. This report – which covers the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, March 2020-September 2020 – was repurposed to collect data on waiver usage by all States. This data collection fulfills the requirement under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act that States report the use of each waiver and whether and how it improved services for CN program participants. The report also describes trends in program participation during the early months of the pandemic.
- Child Nutrition Program Operations Study, School Year 2017-18 (November 3, 2022). The Child Nutrition Program Operations Study is a multiyear study series that provides the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service with current information on National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program policies, practices, and needs from State agencies and school food authorities. Specifically, it covers policies related to school nutrition service operations, financial management, meal counting, eligibility, nutrition standards, and personnel. Results inform child nutrition program management and policy development. This study in the series covers SY 2017-2018.

Child Nutrition Program

Table FNS-44. Financing for All - 2023

State or Territory	State							
	Special Milk	School Lunch	School Breakfast	Administrative Expenses	Commodities/ Cash in Lieu	Child & Adult Care	Summer Food Service	Total Program Contribution
Alabama	\$13,598	\$283,725,568	\$99,855,155	\$4,379,850	\$39,758,124	\$58,329,272	\$6,980,202	\$493,041,770
Alaska	-	35,069,311	11,253,898	970,712	2,341,285	7,068,185	1,123,704	57,827,094
Arizona	19,211	302,545,864	92,670,518	5,532,384	33,546,178	58,035,710	5,019,095	497,368,961
Arkansas	-	174,346,512	58,654,177	4,477,953	15,437,413	48,578,122	2,708,642	304,202,819
California	116,248	1,826,656,539	600,818,992	33,514,278	193,588,759	514,687,076	15,673,074	3,185,054,965
Colorado	153,214	157,671,048	44,959,605	2,562,408	17,089,796	29,330,535	6,969,269	258,735,875
Connecticut	72,716	159,786,719	49,845,069	2,186,598	14,809,598	21,315,031	6,159,128	254,174,860
Delaware	-	42,374,168	15,340,298	1,116,813	7,402,212	17,954,388	2,572,741	86,760,620
District of Columbia	-	31,709,584	13,725,305	673,130	4,224,175	8,538,915	1,756,114	60,627,222
Florida	3,569	1,064,324,090	302,575,464	16,415,902	114,441,263	327,945,007	34,223,267	1,859,928,561
Georgia	12,222	612,388,061	228,569,050	10,855,401	59,041,244	138,594,477	11,396,547	1,060,857,003
Hawaii	-	53,339,872	11,283,582	876,263	1,616,610	6,682,463	3,989,020	77,787,810
Idaho	24,130	54,695,255	14,938,898	1,068,196	6,516,799	7,482,644	3,693,355	88,419,276
Illinois	1,453,236	533,456,007	164,304,652	9,502,395	47,152,570	156,324,944	13,960,316	926,154,119
Indiana	100,088	359,583,446	110,210,691	5,311,449	46,918,912	54,918,644	9,128,389	586,171,619
Iowa	42,516	154,677,063	38,826,187	2,367,279	19,673,054	28,649,212	6,699,590	250,934,901
Kansas	44,034	138,110,015	39,790,725	2,088,111	19,199,190	33,821,575	9,978,592	243,032,240
Kentucky	15,508	299,829,128	119,652,869	5,800,214	30,145,721	49,167,709	21,319,579	525,930,728
Louisiana	-	303,235,120	105,703,647	7,018,030	33,981,084	96,746,105	13,337,566	560,021,551
Maine	1,531	39,574,159	14,921,501	986,250	5,121,185	8,897,531	3,103,986	72,606,143
Maryland	157,892	228,337,423	78,154,083	4,367,499	39,423,036	46,435,529	17,136,635	414,012,098
Massachusetts	44,078	287,345,932	93,671,421	3,826,834	30,163,367	68,017,191	11,486,094	494,554,918
Michigan	130,889	412,448,621	152,704,943	7,478,776	43,739,583	65,422,632	18,421,978	700,347,423
Minnesota	623,480	226,023,815	62,558,383	4,219,149	29,058,297	70,007,438	10,693,912	403,184,474
Mississippi	5,287	196,778,187	73,821,011	3,706,599	21,458,606	45,573,347	4,806,757	346,149,795
Missouri	131,601	233,409,226	87,370,639	4,691,353	33,286,204	66,837,053	15,029,650	440,755,726
Montana	6,112	33,775,169	11,892,967	978,030	4,510,019	10,457,551	3,897,464	65,517,312
Nebraska	47,158	104,865,691	26,738,458	1,485,912	12,275,915	28,708,291	3,117,445	177,238,870
Nevada	31,289	137,498,914	45,817,499	1,311,641	14,404,017	14,044,153	5,407,724	218,515,238
New Hampshire	21,365	23,453,082	5,617,509	469,215	4,394,559	3,869,602	933,955	38,759,287
New Jersey	111,917	330,727,092	113,287,334	7,611,910	36,529,955	98,321,156	18,159,106	604,748,469
New Mexico	-	118,993,353	48,208,381	1,756,062	11,570,517	35,007,581	3,620,419	219,156,313
New York	277,938	1,011,159,459	335,485,235	18,746,973	78,925,860	225,311,528	105,238,752	1,775,145,744
North Carolina	72,591	465,457,109	166,044,020	6,114,983	50,926,902	101,618,436	15,434,044	805,668,085
North Dakota	15,085	29,348,442	7,809,321	755,003	5,649,106	11,468,637	1,737,596	56,783,190
Ohio	250,872	440,075,738	148,368,692	8,945,145	60,516,209	93,185,069	16,306,887	767,648,613
Oklahoma	7,048	193,246,810	63,942,411	3,926,990	25,910,019	60,468,869	6,206,635	353,708,781
Oregon	59,865	129,958,966	41,020,267	3,225,198	14,596,217	25,996,992	6,163,046	221,020,549
Pennsylvania	197,318	523,829,266	178,375,843	8,674,768	51,216,786	114,918,825	13,230,852	890,443,659
Rhode Island	15,218	34,383,232	10,717,718	744,504	3,585,839	7,159,807	1,471,772	58,078,090
South Carolina	-	285,868,795	103,218,997	4,526,045	18,667,513	37,007,978	5,314,204	454,603,533
South Dakota	13,445	35,060,015	8,257,029	787,736	3,860,226	7,316,970	1,515,195	56,810,616
Tennessee	6,781	327,498,669	124,417,195	6,203,119	34,278,679	68,896,200	12,191,836	573,492,478
Texas	-	1,992,652,416	707,677,096	32,515,401	228,700,237	554,868,448	22,170,707	3,538,584,305
Utah	35,031	116,435,718	21,824,208	2,223,034	17,003,288	32,609,908	831,544	190,962,730
Vermont	15,292	19,640,716	7,996,446	643,325	2,574,087	4,844,509	3,737,288	39,451,662
Virginia	40,705	364,205,770	135,918,027	4,863,458	26,964,819	54,222,194	12,220,755	598,435,728
Washington	113,942	269,696,963	78,785,417	3,933,821	19,680,232	41,087,778	5,535,580	418,833,733
West Virginia	9,276	100,534,786	50,070,928	2,180,037	6,600,159	18,379,445	5,181,180	182,955,810
Wisconsin	610,367	208,712,973	59,077,652	3,950,404	27,326,887	34,578,921	10,058,206	344,315,410
Wyoming	14,313	16,486,663	4,196,520	530,002	2,306,347	4,495,157	1,046,195	29,075,197
Guam	-	11,021,276	3,778,905	240,484	22,180	495,487	-	15,558,333
Puerto Rico	-	114,782,576	19,806,812	1,747,490	12,412,079	20,734,871	7,371,933	176,855,761
Virgin Islands	-	3,959,680	1,172,782	357,719	207,465	696,397	345,335	6,739,379
DOD/AF/USMC/Navy	-	10,380,032	1,330,337	-	1,103,640	-	-	12,814,009
AMS/WBSCM/Admin Exp	-	-	-	-	24,952,120	-	-	21,696,725
Anticipated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustment	-91,974	810,269,898	-227,394,769	71,473,764	221,418,853	-32,493,495	-34,131,854	809,050,423
Total	\$5,046,000	\$16,475,420,000	\$4,989,640,000	\$346,916,000	\$1,932,225,000	\$3,713,638,000	\$511,681,000	\$27,974,565,999

Note: Data based on obligations as reported September 30, 2022. Commodities are based on food orders for Fiscal Year 2022. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Child Nutrition Program

Table FNS-45. Commodities to States for Entitlement for 2023

State Or Territory	Entitlement Commodities
Alabama	\$39,559,692
Alaska	3,706,969
Arizona	45,216,894
Arkansas	19,561,858
California	211,296,963
Colorado	26,521,824
Connecticut	21,110,733
Delaware	7,102,520
District of Columbia	4,680,770
Florida	118,942,680
Georgia	78,792,239
Guam	266,382
Hawaii	6,664,438
Idaho	10,750,721
Illinois	67,404,617
Indiana	48,507,572
Iowa	25,475,975
Kansas*	-
Kentucky	33,627,196
Louisiana	36,044,045
Maine	6,856,498
Maryland	32,843,851
Massachusetts	43,938,296
Michigan	55,903,497
Minnesota	39,021,481
Mississippi	19,752,621
Missouri	36,267,223
Montana	5,461,789
Nebraska	18,684,251
Nevada	15,543,743
New Hampshire	6,261,331
New Jersey	59,881,761
New Mexico	12,768,591
New York	128,363,228
North Carolina	57,356,589
North Dakota	6,650,851
Ohio	72,445,156
Oklahoma	27,024,089
Oregon	18,758,638
Pennsylvania	62,756,870
Puerto Rico	11,444,634
Rhode Island	5,983,553
South Carolina	35,820,379
South Dakota	7,187,684
Tennessee	43,405,451
Texas	220,029,468
Utah	23,712,145
Vermont	3,359,315
Virginia	356,197
Washington	41,915,883
West Virginia	45,722,343
Wisconsin	13,613,133
Wyoming	36,407,488
Virgin Islands	3,779,275
AAFES	703,101
Unassigned to States	32,292,985
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expenses	24,952,120
Anticipated Adjustment	-150,234,596
Total	1,932,225,000

* Kansas received all assistance as cash in lieu. In addition to Kansas, some school districts across the U.S. also receive cash in lieu. Data Source: WBSCM sales orders and contract information.

Child Nutrition Program**Table FNS-46. Commodities to States for Entitlement and Bonus for 2023**

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
Alaska Pollock, Bulk For Processing.....	1,188,000	\$2,483,926
Alaska Pollock, Breaded Sticks, Frozen.....	1,216,000	3,594,986
Apples, Canned, Unsweetened.....	2,240,784	2,535,145
Apple, Frozen, Unsweetened.....	79,200	89,892
Apples, Fresh.....	1,992,144	1,163,529
Apples, Bulk For Processing.....	41,196,870	13,678,852
Applesauce, Canned, Unsweetened.....	14,433,084	10,666,227
Applesauce, Cups, Unsweetened.....	24,154,200	20,384,226
Apricots, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	443,232	528,082
Apricots, Cups, Frozen.....	1,884,960	3,272,859
Beans, Canned, Baby Lima, Low-Sodium.....	34,992	19,077
Beans, Canned, Black Turtle, Low-Sodium.....	3,394,224	1,794,295
Beans, Canned, Black-Eyed Peas, Low-Sodium.....	664,848	482,751
Beans, Canned, Garbanzo, Low-Sodium.....	2,309,472	1,220,556
Beans, Canned, Great Northern, Low-Sodium.....	664,848	363,779
Beans, Canned, Green, Low-Sodium.....	15,213,984	10,353,961
Beans, Canned, Pink, Low-Sodium.....	244,944	161,793
Beans, Canned, Pinto, Low-Sodium.....	6,473,520	3,452,404
Beans, Canned, Red Kidney, Low-Sodium.....	1,539,648	848,094
Beans, Canned, Refried, Low-Sodium.....	1,995,840	1,914,494
Beans, Canned, Small Red, Low Sodium.....	244,944	132,218
Beans, Canned, Vegetarian, Low-Sodium.....	5,913,648	3,400,440
Beans, Dry, Great Northern.....	40,000	29,200
Beans, Dry, Pinto.....	80,640	43,746
Beans, Dry, Pinto, Bulk For Processing.....	660,000	341,088
Beans, Frozen, Green, No Salt Added.....	4,325,040	3,783,775
Beef, Bulk For Processing.....	66,226,000	205,363,171
Beef, Canned.....	576,000	2,487,488
Beef, Crumbles, With Soy Protein, Cooked, Frozen.....	3,040,000	11,335,320
Beef, Fine Ground, 85/15, Frozen.....	17,721,000	61,324,447
Beef, Fine Ground, 85/15, Frozen, LFTB Optional.....	360,000	1,315,012
Beef, Patties, 85/15, Frozen.....	1,824,000	6,690,801
Beef, Patties, 85/15, With Soy Protein, Frozen.....	760,000	2,532,096
Beef, Patties, 90/10, Frozen.....	836,000	3,326,448
Beef, Patties, Cooked, Frozen.....	3,914,000	21,360,788
Beef, Patties, Cooked, With Soy Protein, Frozen.....	1,900,000	8,918,285
Beef, Patties, Lean, Frozen.....	722,000	3,072,783
Blueberries, Highbush, Frozen, Unsweetened.....	2,455,200	3,121,874
Blueberries, Wild, Frozen, Unsweetened.....	2,311,920	3,305,423
Broccoli, Frozen, No Salt Added.....	5,137,020	9,247,804
Carrots, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	2,773,848	1,813,931
Carrots, Frozen, No Salt Added.....	5,372,640	3,790,154
Catfish, Whole Grain-Rich Breaded, Fillet Strips, Frozen.....	320,000	2,138,400
Cheese, American.....	7,207,200	15,599,190
Cheese, American, Reduced Fat.....	5,900,400	10,472,140
Cheese, Cheddar, Bulk For Processing.....	47,572,800	94,116,685
Cheese, Cheddar, Reduced Fat.....	3,072,000	6,900,279
Cheese, Cheddar.....	3,299,520	7,350,371
Cheese, Mozzarella, Bulk For Processing.....	53,956,000	103,779,244
Cheese, Mozzarella, Individual, Low Moisture, Part Skim.....	3,466,890	12,275,468
Cheese, Mozzarella, Lite.....	1,370,880	2,938,199
Cheese, Mozzarella, Low Moisture, Part Skim.....	7,902,720	16,381,356
Cheese, Pepper Jack.....	38,800	107,554
Cherries, Dried.....	118,272	559,574
Cherries, Dried, Individual Portion.....	572,220	2,864,000
Cherries, Frozen, Unsweetened.....	237,600	393,967
Chicken, Breast Fillet, Cooked, Frozen.....	1,365,000	3,834,098
Chicken, Bulk For Processing.....	157,968,000	208,010,294
Chicken, Cut Up, Frozen.....	1,824,000	3,605,176
Chicken, Diced, Cooked, Frozen.....	8,160,000	21,113,195

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
Chicken, Fajita Strips, Cooked, Frozen	6,123,000	17,274,516
Chicken, Oven Roasted, Cooked, Frozen	4,032,000	19,044,803
Chicken, Unseasoned Strips, Cooked, Frozen	4,076,400	10,461,185
Chicken, White Meat, Canned	150,000	354,000
Corn, Canned, No Salt Added.....	13,159,476	10,513,489
Corn, Frozen, No Salt Added.....	12,078,000	9,905,368
Cranberries, Dried, Individual Portion.....	3,066,750	8,094,679
Eggs, Bulk For Processing	3,936,000	2,772,187
Eggs, Cooked Patty, Frozen.....	2,336,400	5,909,836
Eggs, Liquid Whole, Frozen	2,205,480	2,757,829
Flour, All-Purpose, Enriched	342,720	131,844
Flour, Bulk	19,139,400	6,636,782
Flour, White Whole Wheat/Enriched Blend	1,460,160	557,438
Flour, 100% Whole Wheat	1,400,000	466,429
Milk, 1%, UHT	533,998	410,942
Mixed Berry Cups, Frozen.....	9,240,000	16,819,707
Mixed Fruit, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	19,902,348	21,516,902
Mixed Fruit, Dried	36,400	120,178
Mixed Vegetables, Frozen, No Salt Added	3,326,400	3,178,619
Oats, Rolled.....	32,760	22,975
Oil, Vegetable	2,513,280	2,468,706
Orange Juice, Individual, Frozen, Unsweetened	11,805,696	14,515,549
Pancakes, Whole Grain-Rich	1,179,360	1,435,419
Pasta, Enriched.....	480,000	1,323,480
Pasta, Whole Grain-Rich	2,029,600	5,571,684
Peaches, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	25,158,888	26,996,113
Peaches, Cups, Frozen	20,364,960	34,649,611
Peaches, Frozen.....	218,544	358,716
Peanut Butter.....	850,080	1,078,419
Peanut Butter, Individual Portion	187,110	334,685
Peanuts, Bulk For Processing	7,920,000	4,678,300
Pears, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	34,799,184	39,491,836
Peas, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	720,480	516,137
Peas, Frozen, No Salt Added	2,851,200	2,755,045
Pepper/Onion Blend, Frozen, No Salt Added	554,400	897,824
Pork, Bulk For Processing	7,043,520	9,892,176
Pork, Canned.....	576,000	1,275,444
Pork, Ham, Frozen	4,670,000	12,637,572
Pork, Leg Roast, Frozen.....	160,000	312,772
Pork, Pulled, Frozen.....	5,080,000	13,096,900
Potatoes, Bulk For Processing	157,909,165	24,723,880
Potatoes, Diced, Frozen	514,800	481,246
Potatoes, Oven Fries, Low-Sodium, Frozen	5,504,400	7,052,138
Potato Wedges, Fat Free, Low-Sodium, Frozen	871,200	1,053,215
Potato Wedges, Low-Sodium, Frozen	3,484,800	4,977,091
Raisins, Individual Portion, Unsweetened	2,632,032	4,954,356
Rice, Brown	2,761,488	2,446,340
Rice, White	588,000	473,672
Spaghetti Sauce, Canned/Pouch, Low-Sodium	5,002,140	3,669,808
Spinach, Frozen, No Salt Added.....	380,400	346,582
Strawberries, Cups, Frozen	27,102,600	51,630,158
Strawberries, Sliced, Frozen	2,178,000	3,200,654
Strawberries, Frozen, Unsweetened.....	5,187,600	8,703,013
Sunflower Seed Butter	591,360	1,140,475
Sweet Potatoes, Bulk For Processing.....	13,277,002	2,616,303
Sweet Potatoes, Canned, Light Syrup.....	1,071,144	802,888
Sweet Potatoes, Crinkle Fries, Frozen, Low-Sodium	1,821,600	2,753,270
Sweet Potatoes, Frozen, No Salt Added	554,400	399,993
Tomato Paste, Bulk For Processing	10,812,900	10,249,947
Tomato Paste, Canned/Pouch, No Salt Added.....	455,489	530,875
Tomato Salsa, Canned/Pouch, Low-Sodium	3,068,064	2,548,925
Tomato Sauce, Canned/Pouch, Low-Sodium	2,110,248	1,502,281
Tomatoes, Canned, No Salt Added.....	2,093,040	1,329,895

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Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
Tortillas, Whole Grain- Rich	688,500	707,944
Turkey Ham, Frozen	1,600,000	5,606,800
Turkey, Bulk For Processing	6,696,000	12,007,440
Turkey, Deli Breast, Frozen.....	6,440,000	26,940,028
Turkey, Roast, Frozen.....	3,800,000	12,953,600
Turkey, Taco Filling, Cooked, Frozen.....	3,705,000	8,116,680
Unprocessed Fruit And Vegetable Pilot	-	7,745,792
USDA DoD Fresh Produce.....	368,062,951	582,811,769
Yogurt, Cup, Blueberry, High Protein	605,988	1,028,513
Yogurt, Cup, Strawberry, High Protein	813,582	1,382,600
Yogurt, Cup, Vanilla, High Protein	561,384	946,916
Yogurt, Tub Vanilla, High Protein	147,360	251,886
Total Commodity Entitlement	1,431,743,627	2,057,507,476
Total -- All Commodities		
Entitlement Commodities	1,431,743,627	2,057,507,476
Cash-In-Lieu Of Commodities	-	238,862,463
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expenses	-	24,952,120
Anticipated Adjustments.....	-	-389,097,059
Grand Total- Child Nutrition Programs	1,431,743,627	1,932,225,000

Source: WBSCM – Sales Order and contract information.

Child Nutrition Program**Table FNS-47. National School Lunch Program Schools, Enrollment, and Participation for 2023**

State Or Territory	Number Of Schools	Enrollment (000)	Peak Participation (000)
Alabama	1,451	741	499
Alaska	379	102	42
Arizona.....	1,794	1,053	554
Arkansas.....	1,073	471	315
California	9,808	6,012	3,264
Colorado.....	1,777	816	350
Connecticut	1,024	488	295
Delaware	252	150	93
District of Columbia	246	97	49
Florida	3,970	2,896	1,744
Georgia.....	2,236	1,786	1,107
Hawaii	288	166	89
Idaho	671	314	136
Illinois	4,028	1,660	929
Indiana.....	2,080	1,172	715
Iowa.....	1,339	571	367
Kansas	1,335	575	314
Kentucky	1,298	700	494
Louisiana.....	1,457	725	508
Maine	584	176	113
Maryland.....	1,446	926	428
Massachusetts	2,101	934	598
Michigan	3,267	1,403	789
Minnesota.....	1,944	897	577
Mississippi	877	460	322
Missouri	2,390	922	530
Montana	781	171	76
Nebraska	926	358	243
Nevada	606	415	251
New Hampshire	455	163	76
New Jersey.....	2,627	1,303	685
New Mexico.....	882	307	192
New York.....	4,969	2,763	1,608
North Carolina	2,583	1,571	782
North Dakota.....	405	138	94
Ohio.....	3,526	1,774	953
Oklahoma.....	1,830	669	394
Oregon.....	1,280	574	267
Pennsylvania	3,260	1,676	964
Rhode Island	333	141	71
South Carolina	1,175	789	461
South Dakota.....	678	151	101
Tennessee.....	1,777	1,005	633
Texas	8,521	5,399	3,376
Utah.....	981	657	314
Vermont	330	97	55
Virginia	1,952	1,267	715
Washington	2,107	1,066	531
West Virginia.....	691	257	170
Wisconsin.....	2,349	852	472
Wyoming.....	308	92	43
Guam.....	45	31	16
Puerto Rico.....	669	300	179
Virgin Islands.....	46	13	6
DOD/ Army/AF/USMC/Navy	74	48	21
Total	95,281	50,256	28,967

Note: These data are preliminary and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Child Nutrition Program**Table FNS-48. National School Lunch Program Lunches Served for 2023**

State Or Territory	Paid Lunches (000)	Reduced Price Lunches (000)	Free Lunches (000)	Total Lunches (000)
Alabama.....	15,955	2,649	58,440	77,044
Alaska.....	1,696	297	4,513	6,506
Arizona.....	26,792	7,030	56,778	90,599
Arkansas.....	14,373	5,553	31,406	51,333
California.....	170,252	10,050	368,193	548,495
Colorado.....	27,070	4,977	26,024	58,071
Connecticut.....	19,584	1,437	31,041	52,062
Delaware.....	5,806	395	8,129	14,330
District of Columbia.....	1,240	67	6,421	7,728
Florida.....	41,221	5,869	224,378	271,469
Georgia.....	46,829	10,652	121,157	178,638
Hawaii.....	5,418	1,045	8,154	14,617
Idaho.....	9,228	2,298	8,554	20,079
Illinois.....	33,604	2,641	111,849	148,094
Indiana.....	40,553	6,108	68,175	114,836
Iowa.....	27,506	2,429	27,697	57,632
Kansas.....	20,959	3,758	23,934	48,652
Kentucky.....	10,423	533	65,370	76,326
Louisiana.....	12,344	961	64,526	77,830
Maine.....	11,252	695	6,229	18,176
Maryland.....	20,542	4,357	44,092	68,990
Massachusetts.....	40,993	1,187	56,020	98,200
Michigan.....	33,700	3,002	86,136	122,838
Minnesota.....	46,357	7,585	35,529	89,471
Mississippi.....	9,074	3,701	39,432	52,207
Missouri.....	34,113	6,348	40,769	81,230
Montana.....	5,385	767	5,909	12,061
Nebraska.....	16,903	2,700	18,130	37,732
Nevada.....	10,364	314	28,928	39,606
New Hampshire.....	7,652	712	3,200	11,564
New Jersey.....	43,269	8,620	57,555	109,444
New Mexico.....	6,390	521	24,599	31,510
New York.....	46,810	3,257	209,743	259,809
North Carolina.....	26,945	4,243	95,895	127,083
North Dakota.....	9,330	998	4,011	14,339
Ohio.....	58,874	7,845	81,365	148,083
Oklahoma.....	17,245	4,820	35,994	58,060
Oregon.....	17,176	951	25,256	43,383
Pennsylvania.....	47,601	2,260	107,522	157,383
Rhode Island.....	4,471	714	6,276	11,461
South Carolina.....	17,104	2,438	58,263	77,805
South Dakota.....	8,906	1,173	5,231	15,310
Tennessee.....	30,490	5,014	63,376	98,880
Texas.....	109,420	18,968	412,477	540,865
Utah.....	28,492	3,895	17,646	50,033
Vermont.....	5,829	332	3,066	9,227
Virginia.....	36,084	2,861	73,228	112,173
Washington.....	29,134	2,915	52,770	84,819
West Virginia.....	4,900	150	21,523	26,572
Wisconsin.....	31,119	3,476	38,039	72,634
Wyoming.....	3,548	781	2,347	6,676
Guam.....	167	24	2,081	2,272
Puerto Rico.....	3,386	2,029	18,800	24,214
Virgin Islands.....	122	-	736	858
DOD Army/AF/USMC/Navy.....	2,036	559	676	3,272
Total.....	1,356,036	178,960	3,097,586	4,632,582

Note: These data are preliminary and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Child Nutrition Program**Table FNS-49. School Breakfast Program Schools, Participation and Enrollment 2023**

State Or Territory	Number Of Schools And Institutions	Enrollment (000)	Peak Participation (000)
Alabama.....	1,427	736	276
Alaska.....	351	92	22
Arizona.....	1,739	1,020	258
Arkansas.....	1,066	470	196
California.....	9,756	5,997	1,786
Colorado.....	1,565	721	145
Connecticut.....	950	459	147
Delaware.....	253	150	53
District of Columbia.....	245	97	36
Florida.....	3,920	3,745	799
Georgia.....	2,290	1,608	629
Hawaii.....	282	165	26
Idaho.....	642	304	55
Illinois.....	3,533	1,522	407
Indiana.....	1,949	1,133	311
Iowa.....	1,259	557	122
Kansas.....	1,265	556	124
Kentucky.....	1,266	691	317
Louisiana.....	1,397	697	280
Maine.....	571	174	68
Maryland.....	1,432	914	234
Massachusetts.....	1,954	884	273
Michigan.....	3,104	1,356	417
Minnesota.....	1,779	859	233
Mississippi.....	853	440	182
Missouri.....	2,295	898	288
Montana.....	734	161	39
Nebraska.....	788	324	81
Nevada.....	581	401	123
New Hampshire.....	430	158	25
New Jersey.....	2,243	1,125	369
New Mexico.....	837	302	122
New York.....	4,764	2,664	814
North Carolina.....	2,554	1,555	447
North Dakota.....	376	125	34
Ohio.....	3,235	1,648	454
Oklahoma.....	1,819	666	203
Oregon.....	1,249	567	134
Pennsylvania.....	3,132	1,624	524
Rhode Island.....	328	139	32
South Carolina.....	1,174	789	263
South Dakota.....	601	144	30
Tennessee.....	1,760	996	366
Texas.....	8,559	5,403	1,808
Utah.....	948	639	74
Vermont.....	324	91	36
Virginia.....	1,948	1,268	402
Washington.....	2,003	1,016	241
West Virginia.....	684	255	139
Wisconsin.....	2,075	768	214
Wyoming.....	294	90	17
Guam.....	42	28	9
Puerto Rico.....	809	300	51
Virgin Islands.....	46	13	3
Total.....	91,541	49,546	14,738

Note: These data are preliminary and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Child Nutrition Program

Table FNS-50. School Breakfast Program Breakfasts Served 2023

State Or Territory	Paid (000)	Reduced Price Regular (000)	Reduced Price Severe Need (000)	Free Regular (000)	Free Severe Need (000)	Total (000)
Alabama	6,448	80	1,252	740	34,266	42,786
Alaska	707	28	108	340	2,134	3,316
Arizona.....	8,778	203	2,748	1,033	29,516	42,278
Arkansas.....	7,366	3,043	218	18,661	2,354	31,643
California	89,122	1,019	4,333	11,155	194,199	299,828
Colorado.....	7,367	181	1,993	788	12,927	23,256
Connecticut	6,468	212	354	1,152	16,002	24,187
Delaware	2,705	40	147	267	4,852	8,012
District of Columbia	895	17	23	165	4,788	5,888
Florida.....	14,518	225	1,979	3,489	105,416	125,627
Georgia.....	19,441	322	5,372	1,922	75,112	102,168
Hawaii.....	1,095	46	228	138	2,996	4,502
Idaho.....	2,649	85	801	267	4,100	7,901
Illinois.....	6,587	88	617	1,032	58,630	66,954
Indiana.....	9,882	337	2,004	2,364	35,294	49,881
Iowa.....	5,022	231	577	1,976	11,236	19,042
Kansas.....	4,758	242	1,393	1,318	11,462	19,174
Kentucky.....	4,843	32	214	223	43,352	48,664
Louisiana.....	4,254	40	293	886	37,600	43,073
Maine.....	6,256	90	362	521	3,610	10,840
Maryland.....	9,244	188	2,038	1,167	24,573	37,211
Massachusetts	11,981	178	245	2,355	30,468	45,226
Michigan.....	10,670	179	1,041	4,246	50,469	66,605
Minnesota.....	13,305	964	2,306	3,917	14,898	35,389
Mississippi.....	3,561	47	1,835	449	24,833	30,725
Missouri.....	12,927	399	3,072	2,077	25,510	43,985
Montana.....	1,908	73	284	321	3,517	6,103
Nebraska.....	2,880	187	655	996	7,898	12,616
Nevada.....	4,379	13	79	465	15,832	20,768
New Hampshire.....	1,859	92	226	370	1,178	3,725
New Jersey.....	14,748	508	3,647	2,416	33,998	55,317
New Mexico.....	3,743	66	195	1,086	16,174	21,264
New York.....	13,040	184	1,166	4,526	117,951	136,867
North Carolina.....	11,701	117	1,944	1,318	56,920	71,999
North Dakota.....	2,410	287	159	861	1,401	5,118
Ohio.....	17,781	432	2,923	2,821	46,870	70,826
Oklahoma.....	7,085	112	2,179	416	20,208	30,000
Oregon.....	7,235	35	372	274	13,420	21,336
Pennsylvania.....	20,553	201	814	4,240	58,414	84,221
Rhode Island.....	1,187	42	227	288	3,314	5,058
South Carolina.....	7,206	106	1,005	1,378	35,012	44,707
South Dakota.....	1,468	180	223	530	2,039	4,439
Tennessee.....	13,947	220	2,437	1,506	40,308	58,417
Texas.....	37,249	525	7,782	3,901	246,666	296,122
Utah.....	3,928	173	903	758	5,866	11,629
Vermont.....	3,457	67	148	300	1,929	5,901
Virginia.....	13,801	270	1,011	2,260	45,236	62,577
Washington.....	9,696	156	864	-	25,897	36,614
West Virginia.....	3,509	10	99	210	17,776	21,604
Wisconsin.....	9,114	353	1,001	2,082	17,508	30,058
Wyoming.....	964	92	218	239	928	2,441
Guam.....	27	-	-	-	1,196	1,223
Puerto Rico.....	819	14	547	93	5,559	7,032
Virgin Islands.....	58	-	-	-	358	416
DOD Army/AF/USMC/Navy.....	283	113	-	217	-	614
Total.....	486,886	13,143	66,655	97,577	1,703,967	2,368,228

Note: These data are preliminary and are subject to change as revised reports are received. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Child Nutrition Program

Table FNS-51. Child and Adult Care Food Program Participation and Meals Served 2023

State Or Territory	Number Of Centers/Ho mes	Participation (000)	Paid Center Meals (000)	Reduced Price Center Meals (000)	Free Center Meals (000)	Total Centers (000)	Meals Homes (000)	Total (000)
Alabama	1,530	63	4,500	1,349	18,287	24,136	2,179	26,315
Alaska	366	7	914	115	881	1,911	599	2,510
Arizona.....	2,779	60	5,721	1,389	14,539	21,649	5,891	27,540
Arkansas.....	1,436	63	5,214	2,263	15,538	23,015	1,056	24,072
California.....	20,499	661	18,203	5,009	117,829	141,042	54,128	195,170
Colorado.....	1,527	41	4,872	566	7,639	13,077	2,721	15,798
Connecticut.....	1,177	25	1,533	492	4,488	6,512	2,969	9,481
Delaware.....	681	37	2,157	343	4,927	7,426	1,251	8,677
District of Columbia.....	281	27	786	163	2,454	3,403	106	3,509
Florida.....	6,828	326	31,121	11,054	101,582	143,757	7,253	151,010
Georgia.....	3,241	148	17,254	3,964	43,878	65,096	3,838	68,933
Hawaii.....	373	10	2,757	251	1,111	4,119	420	4,539
Idaho.....	408	11	1,632	240	1,967	3,839	494	4,333
Illinois.....	6,859	140	13,087	2,896	36,786	52,769	22,243	75,012
Indiana.....	2,406	96	6,009	1,250	10,991	18,250	10,507	28,757
Iowa.....	1,827	37	8,310	607	4,543	13,459	6,077	19,537
Kansas.....	2,711	44	5,509	636	4,285	10,430	8,940	19,370
Kentucky.....	1,655	80	7,479	1,331	16,300	25,110	726	25,836
Louisiana.....	7,340	105	3,210	900	14,538	18,648	20,849	39,497
Maine.....	688	11	837	151	1,304	2,292	2,227	4,520
Maryland.....	2,909	90	3,143	278	11,779	15,200	5,831	21,030
Massachusetts.....	4,053	81	3,171	715	15,417	19,303	11,628	30,931
Michigan.....	4,134	60	5,403	718	13,221	19,341	12,227	31,568
Minnesota.....	5,350	635	6,386	477	8,711	15,574	20,125	35,699
Mississippi.....	1,402	48	3,900	1,417	15,193	20,510	1,329	21,839
Missouri.....	2,221	253	7,894	840	18,531	27,266	3,985	31,250
Montana.....	633	11	1,363	166	1,797	3,326	2,190	5,516
Nebraska.....	1,841	35	5,639	523	4,910	11,072	6,034	17,106
Nevada.....	545	21	1,067	220	4,007	5,294	343	5,636
New Hampshire.....	214	8	1,570	103	1,127	2,800	200	2,999
New Jersey.....	1,741	98	4,976	2,387	31,450	38,813	1,047	39,860
New Mexico.....	2,041	41	3,221	838	8,384	12,442	3,672	16,114
New York.....	10,690	265	12,794	2,705	44,602	60,101	36,603	96,704
North Carolina.....	3,345	124	18,964	3,961	30,238	53,163	4,185	57,348
North Dakota.....	871	15	2,619	132	1,148	3,899	3,693	7,592
Ohio.....	3,561	107	12,508	2,686	27,508	42,702	4,795	47,497
Oklahoma.....	2,253	61	5,307	1,181	15,627	22,115	5,627	27,742
Oregon.....	1,799	33	1,031	148	4,419	5,599	5,435	11,034
Pennsylvania.....	4,016	127	14,450	3,717	35,352	53,519	3,406	56,925
Rhode Island.....	331	10	861	164	1,969	2,993	445	3,439
South Carolina.....	1,140	48	3,317	949	10,830	15,095	1,798	16,893
South Dakota.....	508	11	1,918	80	1,165	3,163	1,696	4,859
Tennessee.....	2,507	111	6,641	1,967	21,694	30,303	3,288	33,591
Texas.....	11,784	1,237	39,114	13,574	137,817	190,505	14,916	205,421
Utah.....	1,492	33	3,080	318	5,814	9,212	6,811	16,023
Vermont.....	376	9	653	94	926	1,673	818	2,491
Virginia.....	3,173	105	8,908	1,279	14,365	24,552	5,872	30,424
Washington.....	2,292	60	7,299	850	10,212	18,361	4,986	23,347
West Virginia.....	1,115	26	2,575	337	4,895	7,807	1,471	9,278
Wisconsin.....	1,905	36	8,612	498	7,494	16,604	4,391	20,995
Wyoming.....	295	7	940	169	806	1,915	810	2,725
Guam.....	23	1	195	7	142	344	0	344
Puerto Rico.....	883	17	125	66	7,400	7,592	167	7,759
Virgin Islands.....	17	1	10	10	247	267	-	267
Total.....	146,072	5,820	340,758	78,545	943,061	1,362,364	334,296	1,696,660

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.

Child Nutrition Program**Table FNS-52. Summer Food Service Program Sites, Participation and Meals Served 2023**

State Or Territory	Number Of Sites	Participation (July) (000)	Total Meals Served (000)
Alabama	352	21	1,724
Alaska	70	2	153
Arizona.....	274	13	1,182
Arkansas.....	213	13	726
California	1,135	62	3,431
Colorado.....	467	23	1,675
Connecticut	462	29	1,415
Delaware	290	16	694
District of Columbia	173	8	424
Florida	2,400	130	8,765
Georgia.....	810	49	2,886
Hawaii	115	5	846
Idaho	165	13	790
Illinois.....	1,509	72	3,799
Indiana.....	738	42	2,235
Iowa.....	400	22	1,598
Kansas	416	48	2,487
Kentucky	1,441	86	5,316
Louisiana.....	395	32	3,295
Maine	410	14	697
Maryland.....	1,326	78	4,174
Massachusetts	1,054	62	2,838
Michigan	1,280	80	4,444
Minnesota.....	690	48	2,639
Mississippi	193	17	1,210
Missouri	515	26	3,604
Montana	236	16	951
Nebraska	156	10	734
Nevada	242	10	1,290
New Hampshire	140	11	230
New Jersey.....	1,221	95	4,462
New Mexico.....	344	14	796
New York.....	2,524	427	28,581
North Carolina	1,751	69	3,579
North Dakota.....	102	7	405
Ohio.....	1,204	54	3,985
Oklahoma.....	441	13	1,596
Oregon.....	592	28	1,373
Pennsylvania	1,524	58	3,389
Rhode Island	183	7	284
South Carolina	741	26	1,405
South Dakota.....	66	5	327
Tennessee.....	953	57	3,009
Texas.....	1,439	59	5,463
Utah.....	98	4	182
Vermont	252	28	963
Virginia	954	69	2,918
Washington	791	35	1,244
West Virginia.....	424	20	1,303
Wisconsin.....	524	37	2,411
Wyoming.....	76	4	212
Puerto Rico.....	1,080	23	1,863
Virgin Islands.....	88	2	85
Total	35,439	2,200	136,088

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.

Child Nutrition Program**Table FNS-53. Special Milk Participating Outlets and Obligations 2023**

State Or Territory	Schools	Institutions	Summer Camps	Total	Obligations (000)
Alabama.....	1	-	-	1	\$14
Arizona.....	20	-	-	20	19
California.....	27	1	6	34	116
Colorado.....	42	-	-	42	153
Connecticut.....	23	-	4	27	73
Florida.....	-	-	-	-	4
Georgia.....	2	-	-	2	12
Idaho.....	6	-	2	8	24
Illinois.....	350	-	9	359	1,453
Indiana.....	16	-	2	18	100
Iowa.....	26	-	6	32	43
Kansas.....	52	-	-	52	44
Kentucky.....	3	-	-	3	16
Maine.....	3	-	-	3	2
Maryland.....	23	27	3	53	158
Massachusetts.....	17	5	2	24	44
Michigan.....	9	-	14	23	131
Minnesota.....	167	54	27	248	623
Mississippi.....	1	-	-	1	5
Missouri.....	37	-	2	39	132
Montana.....	9	-	-	9	6
Nebraska.....	33	-	2	35	47
Nevada.....	5	5	-	10	31
New Hampshire.....	14	-	3	17	21
New Jersey.....	33	-	-	33	112
New York.....	83	10	26	119	278
North Carolina.....	6	-	6	12	73
North Dakota.....	13	-	1	14	15
Ohio.....	64	1	3	68	251
Oklahoma.....	155	-	1	156	7
Oregon.....	15	-	7	22	60
Pennsylvania.....	26	9	18	53	197
Rhode Island.....	1	-	1	2	15
South Dakota.....	21	-	-	21	13
Tennessee.....	1	-	1	2	7
Utah.....	12	-	8	20	35
Vermont.....	309	-	2	311	15
Virginia.....	8	-	1	9	41
Washington.....	24	9	-	33	114
West Virginia.....	3	-	-	3	9
Wisconsin.....	185	19	5	209	610
Wyoming.....	3	5	1	9	14
Total.....	1,848	145	163	2,156	\$5,138

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.

Child Nutrition Program

Table FNS-54. Special Milk Half Pints Served 2023

State Or Territory	Average Daily Free Served (000)	Average Daily Paid Served (000)	Total Average Daily (000)	Total Free (000)	Total Paid (000)	Total (000)
Alabama	0	0	0	0	5	6
Arizona.....	0	0	0	0	7	7
California	0	1	1	1	16	17
Colorado.....	0	5	5	3	77	80
Connecticut	0	1	1	2	20	22
Florida.....	-	0	0	-	1	1
Georgia.....	0	0	0	0	6	6
Idaho	0	0	0	0	7	7
Illinois	6	24	30	110	413	523
Indiana.....	0	2	2	4	31	35
Iowa.....	0	1	1	0	12	12
Kansas	0	1	1	2	16	18
Kentucky.....	-	0	0	-	6	6
Maine	0	0	0	0	0	1
Maryland.....	-	3	3	-	50	50
Massachusetts	0	1	1	1	11	11
Michigan	1	2	2	11	29	40
Minnesota.....	0	8	8	2	138	141
Mississippi.....	-	0	0	-	2	2
Missouri	0	3	3	3	50	53
Montana	0	0	0	0	2	3
Nebraska	0	1	1	0	13	14
Nevada	-	0	0	-	7	7
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0	7	7
New Jersey.....	0	2	2	2	39	42
New York.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Carolina	-	1	1	-	11	11
North Dakota.....	0	0	0	0	4	4
Ohio.....	0	5	5	3	92	95
Oklahoma.....	-	0	0	-	2	2
Oregon.....	0	1	1	0	13	14
Pennsylvania	0	1	1	3	20	23
South Dakota.....	0	0	0	1	4	5
Tennessee.....	-	0	0	-	1	1
Utah.....	-	1	1	-	11	11
Vermont	-	0	0	-	0	0
Virginia	-	1	1	-	10	10
Washington	0	2	2	0	30	31
West Virginia.....	0	0	0	0	2	3
Wisconsin.....	0	11	12	5	210	215
Wyoming.....	-	0	0	-	1	1
Total	10	83	93	176	1,449	1,625

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.

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ACCOUNT 2: SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

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

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

For necessary expenses to carry out the special supplemental nutrition program as authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), [~~\$6,300,000,000~~]\$7,697,000,000, to remain available through September 30, [2025]2026: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 17(h)(10) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(h)(10)), not less than \$90,000,000 shall be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other related activities, and [~~\$14,000,000~~]\$16,000,000 shall be used for infrastructure, including investments to develop strategies to improve timely program data collection and reporting: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to award grants and cooperative agreements to State agencies or other entities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall use funds made available under this heading to increase the amount of a cash-value voucher for women and children participants to an amount recommended by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine and adjusted for inflation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this account shall be available for the purchase of infant formula except in accordance with the cost containment and competitive bidding requirements specified in section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided shall be available for activities that are not fully reimbursed by other Federal Government departments or agencies unless authorized by section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That upon termination of a federally mandated vendor moratorium and subject to terms and conditions established by the Secretary, the Secretary may waive the requirement at 7 CFR 246.12(g)(6) at the request of a State agency: *Provided further*, That on not less than a quarterly basis in fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Agriculture shall determine if, for a prior three-month period, monthly average participation in the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children as authorized by section 17 of the Children Nutrition Act of 1966 exceeded 6,958,000 participants or monthly average food costs for participants in such program exceeded \$59.97 per person, and if additional funds are necessary to support participation among all eligible individuals seeking benefits for such program: *Provided further*, That based upon the determination specified in the previous proviso, such sums as may be necessary are made available for carrying out section 17(c) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided further*, That amounts made available pursuant to the preceding proviso are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That such amounts shall be available only if the President designates such amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A).

Change Description

The first change (line 5 of paragraph 1) specifies that infrastructure funds may be used to support the timely collection and reporting of WIC program data.

The second change (line 6 of paragraph 1) makes explicit the WIC program’s general grant authority.

The third change (line 17 of paragraph 1) establishes a discretionary emergency contingency to provide additional funding when WIC participation or average monthly food costs per person rise unexpectedly during the fiscal year.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table FNS-55. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2024	\$6,000,000,000
Change in Appropriation	+1,730,873,000
Budget Estimate, 2025	<u>7,730,873,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

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

Item	2022		2023		2024		2025		Inc. or Dec.	Chg. Key
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs		
Discretionary Appropriations:										
Grants to States (Food & NSA).....	\$5,853,500	-	\$5,842,346	-	\$5,842,346	-	\$7,546,410	-	+\$1,704,064	(1)
Infrastructure Grants.....	13,600	-	13,600	-	13,600	-	15,600	-	+2,000	(2)
Technical Assistance	400	1	400	1	400	1	400	1	-	-
Program Eval & Monitoring	12,000	9	22,000	9	22,000	9	12,000	9	-10,000	(3)
Breastfeeding Peer Counselors.....	90,000	-	90,000	-	90,000	-	90,000	-	-	-
Federal Admin and Oversight	30,500	37	31,654	75	31,654	73	32,590	73	+936	(4)
WIC Contingency Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	6,000,000	47	6,000,000	85	6,000,000	83	7,697,000	83	+1,697,000	
Emergency Contingency Fund.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	33,873	-	+33,873	(5)
Subtotal, Discretionary Appropriation	6,000,000	47	6,000,000	85	6,000,000	83	7,730,873	83	+1,730,873	
Mandatory Appropriations:										
UPC Database	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
Subtotal, Mandatory Appropriation	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
Total Appropriation.....	6,001,000	47	6,001,000	85	6,001,000	83	7,731,873	83	+1,730,873	(6)

Table FNS-57. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTE)

Item	2022		2023		2024		2025		Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	
Discretionary Obligations:									
Grants to States (Food & NSA).....	\$6,951,061	-	\$7,801,599	-	\$6,754,403	-	\$7,725,753	-	+\$971,350
Infrastructure Grants.....	12,725	-	10,035	-	13,600	-	15,600	-	+2,000
Technical Assistance	409	1	576	1	400	1	400	1	-
Breastfeeding Peer Counselors.....	90,073	-	90,000	-	90,000	-	90,000	-	-
Management Information Systems.....	6,798	-	4,657	-	-	-	-	-	-
Federal Admin. Oversight	13,490	37	29,485	75	31,654	73	32,590	73	+936
Program Evaluation & Monitoring	6,582	9	10,675	9	12,000	9	12,000	9	-
WIC Contingency Fund	-	-	-	-	150,000	-	-	-	-150,000
Emergency Contingency Fund.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	33,873	-	+33,873
Subtotal Discretionary Obligations.....	7,081,138	47	7,947,027	85	7,052,057	83	7,910,216	83	+858,159
Mandatory Obligations:									
UPC Database	-	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-
WIC ARPA CVB Increase	46,531	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WIC ARPA Innovation Fund.....	81,509	-	299,525	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Mand Obligations	128,040	-	300,525	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-
Total Obligations.....	7,209,178	47	8,247,552	85	7,053,057	83	7,911,216	83	+858,159
Lapsing Balances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, EOY	794,000	-	261,391	-	5,500	-	165,600	-	+160,100
Rescission	621,672	-	315,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Transfer In	-	-	-503,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sequestration.....	57	-	57	-	57	-	57	-	-
Recoveries, Other.....	-1,416,339	-	-1,527,000	-	-800,314	-	-339,500	-	+460,814
Balances Available, SOY.....	-1,208,568	-	-794,000	-	-258,300	-	-5,500	-	+252,800
Total Appropriation	6,000,000	47	6,000,000	85	6,000,000	83	7,731,873	83	+1,731,873

*A note on 2024: Under a continuing resolution, total obligations from \$6 billion in appropriations and all other resources available in 2024 (i.e. carryover, recoveries, and full utilization of the \$150 million WIC contingency) would be limited to \$7 billion, instead of the \$7.9 billion in obligations needed to serve all eligible participants who seek WIC benefits.

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

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 numbers in the following listing relate to values in the Change Key (Chg. Key) column on the Project Statement.

(1) An increase of \$1,704,064,000 for the Grants to States programs (\$5,842,346,000 available in 2024).

The funds requested will support benefits for all eligible women, infants, and children who seek WIC benefits – currently estimated at about 7 million for 2025. After many years of declining participation, WIC participation began rising sharply in 2023 to nearly 6.6 million individuals and is expected to continue rising to nearly 7 million in 2025, if fully funded across both 2024 and 2025. The requested level continues the provision of the Cash Value Benefits (CVBs) in amounts that ensure all participating women and children have access to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) 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, including expected changes in infant formula rebates.

A note on 2024: Under a continuing resolution, total obligations from \$6 billion in appropriations and all other resources available in 2024 (i.e. carryover, recoveries, and full utilization of the \$150 million WIC contingency) would be limited to \$7 billion, instead of the \$7.9 billion in obligations needed to serve all eligible participants who seek WIC benefits. WIC needs an appropriation of \$7.03 billion in 2024 to ensure total resources are available to support \$7.9 billion in obligations in 2024. For display purposes, the Budget assumes a full year continuing resolution in 2024, which would limit access and create a \$1.03 billion shortfall in program funding. That shortfall is equivalent to 1.5 months of benefits for all program beneficiaries. It also equals the estimated cost of providing six months of benefits to all pregnant women and infants participating in WIC. A federal funding shortfall of this magnitude would present States with difficult decisions on how to manage the program, likely resulting in the need for many States to implement applicant waitlists to reduce cost. Given the size of the funding shortfall, it is likely that wait lists would stretch across all participant categories, affecting both new applicants and mothers, babies, and young children enrolled in the program who are up for renewal of benefits. The Administration believes it is critical that the final 2024 appropriation continue the longstanding bipartisan commitment to fully funding WIC to allow the program to continue to serve all eligible pregnant women, mothers, infants, and children who apply.

Table FNS-58. Program Performance

Program Performance	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	Increase	2025 Estimated ^{1/}
Average Participation Per Month (in thousands).....	6,256	6,574	6,132*	+826	6,958
Average Food Cost Per Person Per Month	\$47.72	\$55.95	\$58.49	+\$1.48	\$59.97
Average Admin. Cost Per Person Per Month	\$27.16	\$28.51	\$29.51	+\$0.94	\$30.45
Total Benefit Costs Per Person Per Month	\$74.88	\$84.46	\$88.00	+\$2.42	\$90.42

^{1/} Projections based on program data released December 2023.

*Participation with full funding in 2024 would be estimated at 6.847 million. Estimated participation in 2024 under a full year continuing resolution would limit access to over 700,000 participants on average over the year. However, absorbing the funding shortfall later in the fiscal year means far more participants would be impacted. The Administration believes it is critical for the 2024 appropriation to support all women, infants, and children seeking benefits.

(2) An increase of \$2,000,000 in Infrastructure Grants to States (\$13,600,000 available in 2024).

These funds are used for infrastructure for the program and for special State projects of regional or national significance to improve services of the program. The \$2,000,000 increase will support investments to develop strategies to improve timely program data collection and reporting. Currently, there is almost a three-month lag in WIC program data reporting. This is a new initiative designed to improve the timeliness of critical information related to program participation and costs that will inform policy makers on WIC needs and ensure the proposed Emergency Contingency Fund is based on the best and latest data.

- (3) A decrease of \$10,000,000 for Program Evaluation & Monitoring (\$22,000,000 and 9 FTEs available in 2024).

FNS conducts a variety of studies, evaluations, and related activities that respond to the needs of policy makers and managers and helps to ensure that the WIC program effectively achieves its goals. This decrease returns funding for program evaluation and monitoring to the traditional level. This decrease returns funding for WIC program evaluation to traditional levels.

- (4) An increase of \$936,000 for the Federal Administration and Oversight of WIC (\$31,654,000 and 73 FTEs available in 2024).

These funds enable FNS staff to provide oversight and technical assistance to States. An increase of \$411,000 in federal administration and oversight reflects the 2025 pay costs. This funding will support the salaries and benefits of current FTEs.

- (5) An increase of \$33,873,000 for the WIC Emergency Contingency Fund (\$0 available in 2024).

For the past 25 years, Congress, on a bipartisan basis, has committed to fully funding WIC to serve every eligible mother and child seeking benefits. This proposal would establish a new discretionary emergency contingency fund to trigger additional program resources during unexpected increases in participation and food package costs. Managing these funds would require USDA to conduct periodic assessments of actual WIC participation and food costs data in comparison to projections, automatically triggering additional funds to cover program costs only when needed. This new emergency contingency fund is designed to provide assurance to Congress, State agencies, and the public, that WIC will continue serving all eligible participants seeking the program's vital nutrition benefits and services. Based on a probabilistic model using historic participation and food cost data, the expected cost is roughly \$33,873,000.

- (6) No change in funding to create WIC General Grant Authority.

The Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 1786) provides WIC with authority to provide grants to States for food and administrative expenses, as well as for several specific activities, such as infrastructure improvements. This technical change would make explicit the program's general authority to provide grants to States for allowable program purposes. This would ensure that all current and any future supplemental funding could be effectively utilized to meet the needs of State agencies and Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) that operate the program.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTE'S

Table FNS-59. Geographic Breakdown (thousands of dollars, FTE)

State/Territory/Country	2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE
California	\$391	2	\$921	5	\$575	4	\$939	5
Colorado.....	580	4	1,033	6	853	6	1,053	6
Connecticut	83	1	60	-	122	1	61	-
District of Columbia	1,152	7	1,303	8	1,684	12	1,329	7
Georgia.....	455	3	710	4	699	5	725	4
Illinois	383	2	547	3	564	4	558	3
Indiana.....	63	-	-	-	92	1	-	-
Massachusetts	439	3	799	5	646	5	815	5
Maryland	978	6	1,581	9	1,438	10	1,613	9
Maine	154	1	172	1	227	2	176	1
Michigan	26	-	312	1	38	-	318	2
Minnesota.....	-	-	166	1	-	-	170	-
North Carolina	13	-	219	1	19	-	223	1
New Jersey	528	3	700	4	777	6	714	4
Puerto Rico.....	80	-	88	1	118	1	89	-
South Carolina	-	-	159	1	-	-	162	1
Tennessee.....	141	1	133	1	207	2	135	1
Texas	577	4	1,061	6	849	6	1,082	6
Virginia	16,987	10	110,496	27	17,787	18	110,536	27
West Virginia.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-
Wisconsin.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-
Total, Available.....	23,030	47	120,460	85	26,695	83	120,751	83

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table FNS-60. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2022	2023	2024	2025
		Actual	Actual	Estimated	Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$2,131	\$3,918	\$4,039	\$4,098
	Personnel Compensation, Field	3,197	5,877	6,059	6,147
11	Total personnel compensation.....	5,328	9,795	10,098	10,245
12	Personal benefits.....	2,283	4,198	4,328	4,391
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	7,611	13,993	14,426	14,636
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	70	135	135	200
22.0	Transportation of things	2	3	3	4
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	12,014	13,574	13,574	14,000
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	239	400	400	600
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	7,189,242	8,219,452	7,024,519	7,881,776
	Total, Other Objects	7,201,567	8,233,564	7,038,631	7,896,580
99.9	Total, new obligations	7,209,178	8,247,557	7,053,057	7,911,216

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STATUS OF PROGRAMS

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, 2023, to June 30, 2024, this represented \$55,550 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-61. Program Participation and Costs (thousands of dollars)

Average Monthly Participation (In Thousands)	2020	2021	2022	2023
Women.....	1,446	1,379	1,400	1,486
Infants	1,551	1,465	1,429	1,470
Children <5	3,250	3,400	3,431	3,618
Total	6,247	6,244	6,260	6,574
Change from Prior Year.....	-2.33%	-0.05%	0.26%	5.01%
Food Cost Total (Million \$).....	\$2,884	\$2,666	\$3,587	\$4,414
Avg./Person/Month.....	\$38.48	\$35.58	\$47.75	\$55.95
Change in Per Person Food Cost	-5.90%	-7.50%	34.20%	17.20%
Per Person Per Month Total (Food/Admin).....	\$64.90	\$62.20	\$74.64	\$82.84

Source: Program Information Reports, December 15, 2023, National Data Bank, KD21 US 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019. 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 food benefits for a longer period and receive a larger food package than non-breastfeeding postpartum women.

In 2023, pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P. L. 117-328) and prior 2023 continuing resolutions, the monthly CVB for fruit and vegetable purchases equaled \$25 for child participants, \$44 for pregnant and postpartum participants and \$49 for fully and partially breastfeeding participants. The CVB amount 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 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 proposed changes that are strongly rooted in the latest nutrition science and are best positioned to improve nutrition security, while also considering cultural preferences, special dietary needs, and WIC State agency operational and implementation considerations. FNS received and analyzed approximately 17,000 public comments in response to the proposed rule and is currently developing the final rule, which is expected to publish as early as spring 2024.

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 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 participants, 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 participants, and to parents or caregivers of infants and children.

Program regulations also require clinics to promote breastfeeding to all pregnant participants, 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, social media resources and posters via a mobile-friendly website, wicbreastfeeding.fns.usda.gov. In 2023, 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. 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. FNS disseminated lessons learned and research findings from the cooperative agreement through a two-day webinar series for WIC State and local agencies, increasing knowledge of breastfeeding and promoting behavior change among WIC staff and participants.

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 2023, FNS awarded \$88 million in grants to 78 State agencies to support breastfeeding peer counseling services.

In 2023, FNS provided \$2 million in WIC Breastfeeding Bonus Awards to recognize fifteen State agencies with the highest rates of fully breastfed infants: Pueblo of Zuni, Pueblo of San Felipe, Vermont, Acoma-Canoncito-Laguna, Oregon, Santo Domingo Pueblo, Idaho, Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Indian Township, and Navajo Nation. For the 2024 Breastfeeding Bonus Awards, FNS announced in advance of the Fiscal Year a \$2 million funding level to recognize the fifteen State agencies with the greatest improvement in rates of fully breastfed infants, to provide State agencies with an incentive to improve their breastfeeding rates during 2024.

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 2023, FNS awarded 1 Elite, 13 Premiere and 111 Gold awards to local agencies that demonstrated excellence in breastfeeding promotion and support. In 2023, FNS implemented a new online application process for the WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence, which allowed FNS to send notifications to users to assist in their complete and timely application submission.

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. 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, and also continues to partner with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through an interagency collaboration workgroup with WIC, Healthy Start, and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV).

FNS expanded the reach of the monthly e-newsletter of curated nutrition education content, WIC Picks, to a total of 97,502 recipients in 2023 (an increase of 32 percent from 73,699 recipients in 2022) while also seeing an increase in the average open rate of newsletter articles. The WIC Picks Newsletter features updates from the WIC Works Resource System and WIC Breastfeeding Support websites as well as from other agencies such as CDC and FDA, to bring the target audiences the latest information on important topics, such as proposed food package rule comment period, the Affordable Connectivity Program, vaccination information, and more.

Program Oversight and Monitoring

FNS works with State agency partners, including 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. WIC MEs are conducted in a hybrid manner, with both on-site and virtual components, 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. Observation of clinic operations and on-site vendor visits are also 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. The ME process also allows for identification of best practices and recognition of noteworthy initiatives by State agencies.

FNS regularly assesses its WIC ME process and makes improvements to ensure effective and efficient federal oversight. The functional areas that are reviewed through 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. Additionally, Regional Offices participate in ongoing WIC ME improvement projects.

Each WIC ME examines a specific functional area throughout a two- or three-year cycle. FNS issues an annual WIC ME Target Area Memorandum outlining the focus area for program integrity and oversight efforts. In 2023, FNS continued focusing WIC MEs in the functional area of Nutrition Services, examining how State agencies plan for and deliver high-quality nutrition services, including nutrition and breastfeeding education. In addition, FNS performs an annual risk assessment to identify State agencies that require attention through the WIC ME process outside of the focus area.

Between 2020 and 2023, FNS conducted 68 Nutrition Services MEs in addition to MEs conducted based on the risk assessments. All Nutrition Services MEs included within the current cycle will be performed by the end of 2024.

Cost Containment and Vendor Management

WIC State agencies are required to implement certain cost containment strategies 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, setting price limitations, and authorizing lower cost foods. While these strategies keep food costs down, they can make shopping for WIC foods difficult. To help mitigate this, in 2023, FNS offered grants to WIC State agencies (see Innovation and Modernization, below), to support the identification of best practices for authorizing WIC foods and supporting WIC participants in how to shop for the correct items.

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 of 1966, as amended, and implementing regulations. For 2022, total rebates received for WIC were approximately \$1.5 billion, the cost of providing benefits to an average of 1.32 million participants each month, or 21 percent of WIC participants. In

response to the infant formula recall and resulting supply chain issues 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. FNS supported State agencies as they returned to normal operations during 2023.

A recent FNS study identified six voluntary food cost containment practices that offer food cost savings without negative impacts on participant satisfaction, redemption, and/or consumption. These cost containment practices included container and type restrictions for certain WIC foods (e.g., not allowing Greek yogurt and organic infant fruits and vegetables; restricting cheese container sizes to 16 ounces only; and not allowing 48-ounce containers of juice). The practices were widely being implemented by most State agencies during 2018, when the study was conducted, and few State agencies reported barriers to implementation.

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 since the program is currently discretionary and funding from year to year is not guaranteed to cover all who are eligible and apply 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. FDP improves program oversight and integrity in all areas of WIC food delivery and vendor management, streamlining the reporting process and supporting State agencies in meeting key regulatory requirements. In 2023, FNS supported the application and provided technical assistance to State agency users.

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.

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 and recommended FNS focus on providing resources to WIC State agencies as they build online applications rather than creating a national application. Based on this recommendation, FNS is currently working with GSA to develop a model application tool to assist State agencies as they build and upgrade their online applications to meet the needs of a modern program.

State Agency Model Systems (SAMS)

Through the SAM Project, FNS developed model WIC management information systems (MIS) with multiple State agencies joining to form SAMS Users Groups. FNS funds the maintenance and operational expenses of the SAMS MIS through grants to State agencies.

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)

EBT systems enhance benefit delivery and improve accountability of food benefits and vendor payment systems. As of the end of 2023, 87 of 88 WIC State agencies are delivering benefits to 99 percent of WIC participants via EBT. FNS continues to work with the remaining State agency to implement WIC EBT. In 2023, through its innovation and modernization work, FNS awarded grants to support the 17 State agencies currently using offline EBT technology in switching to online technology, which supports a modern program including the provision of virtual WIC services. These State agencies will work to make the transition to online technology over the next several years.

Nutrition Risk Assessment

The Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA) initiative was implemented in 2006 and updated in 2021 with the purpose of improving the WIC nutrition assessment process and to align nutrition risk determination more closely with WIC nutrition interventions. In 2021, VENA Training videos were developed and made available to WIC State agencies. In 2022, additional, targeted VENA trainings were initiated based on input from Regions and State Agencies. In 2023 FNS developed an independent online learning course and a VENA training toolkit. These trainings were released to WIC State agencies in December 2023 and made widely available via WIC Works in January 2024.

Outreach, Innovation, and Modernization

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2, ARPA) provided \$390 million to WIC and WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) to carry out outreach, innovation, and program modernization efforts; the Act also provided waiver authority. This authority is being used to support WIC and FMNP modernization, including through the continuation of remote services in WIC and to support State agencies as they pilot and implement online shopping in WIC.

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 includes five priority areas that support 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, increase redemption of benefits, and reduce disparities in program delivery.

By the end of 2023, FNS had obligated about \$385 million, approximately \$218 million of which went directly to WIC and FMNP State agencies to invest in their modernization priorities. FNS plans to obligate the remaining funds to support FMNP e-Solution grants in 2024. Summaries of the five priority areas and key activities follow.

1) Prioritize Outreach

FNS invested almost \$50 million toward the development and implementation of a WIC National Outreach Campaign. In 2023, FNS worked with Porter Novelli to develop a campaign strategic plan. 2024 tasks will include additional market research, brand strategy and visual identity development, creative development and production, media and advertising, strategic partnerships and outreach, and campaign evaluation. This will be the first time that FNS has developed branding (including a public facing WIC logo) and a dedicated website for the program, both of which have been identified as necessary to create strong, nationwide awareness.

To support local level outreach, FNS also invested about \$44 million in a cooperative agreement with the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC). Through this Community Innovation and Outreach (CIAO) project, FRAC awarded \$16 million to 36 subgrantees in 2023 to test innovative outreach strategies, with more subgrants to come in 2024. FRAC will also identify and promote promising practices for reaching underserved communities at the local level through development of tools and resources for WIC State and local agencies and partners. FRAC's Community Innovation and Outreach (CIAO) project awarded \$16 million to 36 subgrantees in 2023, with more to come in 2024.

2) Modernize Technology and Service Delivery

In 2022 and 2023, 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 participants to submit documentation remotely, offering more virtual and text-based experiences, and focusing more face-to-face time on providing direct client services.

To support State agencies as they work toward this vision, in May 2023, FNS awarded WIC Modernization Grants to all 89 State agencies to fund projects around planning and implementation of technology enhancements that improve the WIC participant experience. FNS issued waivers to nearly all WIC State agencies to support the continuation of remote services into the future. FNS also published two policy memos encouraging State agencies to simplify and streamline WIC enrollment by using new flexibilities, as well as through data matching and referrals.

FNS continues to assess needs and develop resources for State agencies as they modernize in these areas, beginning with resources related to online applications expected in 2024.

3) Improve the Shopping Experience

In May 2023, FNS awarded WIC Modernization Grants to all 89 State agencies to support a variety of planning and implementation projects focused on enhancements that improve the WIC participant experience, including improving the WIC shopping experience. FNS also used ARPA funds to invest in online shopping through a new \$25 million cooperative agreement with the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition (GSCN), the same entity that has been working with FNS and a group of subgrantees for several years on this effort. GSCN is tasked with supporting current subgrantees, awarding additional subgrants, and developing a vast array of technical assistance resources for all stakeholders (e.g., State agencies, grocery stores, and technology providers), including State agencies pursuing online shopping using other funding sources.

Research shows providing WIC benefits using an offline, chip-based EBT card presents barriers in delivering services remotely and may negatively impact the WIC participant experience. Therefore, in 2023, FNS awarded grants to support the transition to online EBT systems for the remaining 17 State agencies currently using an offline platform.

4) Expand Access to Farmers' Markets

FMNP is in the process of transitioning from paper coupons to eSolutions (EBT) over the next several years. To date, FNS has provided funding to 32 FMNP State agencies and has announced a 2024 funding opportunity to support the transition to eSolutions. This funding enables programs to continue operations despite discontinuation of certain, previously necessary, paper-based banking services. Modernization Grants can also be used to support solutions to allow farmers and markets to accept the WIC CVB.

5) Invest in and Diversify the Workforce

FNS continued an interagency agreement (IAA) with USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to improve the WIC workforce. This includes investments in research, education, and extension to increase the diversity and cultural competency of the WIC front-line staff. This \$21 million initiative will be implemented through a series of sequential funding opportunities. As part of this initiative, in 2023, USDA announced a cooperative agreement to Regents of the University of Minnesota to conduct research, including conducting discussions with key stakeholders, to develop a strategy to strengthen WIC's front-line workforce. FNS expects the workforce development strategy to be finalized in 2024. Additional cooperative agreements will be announced and awarded in 2024 as part of the larger initiative.

WIC Online Shopping

FNS continues to support cooperative agreements 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 development and testing phase, and all projects are scheduled to go live with testing in 2024. Best practices and lessons learned from WIC online shopping sub-grant 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. GSCN is also working with FNS to develop resources to expand online shopping to other State agencies in the coming years.

In 2023, FNS published the proposed rule, WIC Online Ordering and Transactions and Food Delivery Revisions to Meet the Needs of a Modern, Data-Driven Program (RIN: 0584-AE85). This proposed rule addressed key regulatory barriers to online ordering in the WIC Program by making proposed changes to the provisions that prevent online transactions and types of online capable stores from participating in the Program. The rule also proposed changes to modernize WIC vendor regulations to reflect current technology. FNS anticipates a final rule publication in 2025.

American Rescue Plan Act Waivers

ARPA waiver flexibilities support State agency efforts to develop and test innovative and modern ideas intended to increase WIC and FMNP enrollment, retention, redemption of benefits, and equity in program access. Beginning in November 2021, in support of innovative projects, FNS communicated to WIC State agencies an option to request

waivers to support online ordering and transaction projects under authority granted by ARPA and set forth a process for requesting such waivers.

In March 2023, FNS communicated to WIC State agencies the opportunity for additional waivers to modernize WIC through building or enhancing remote services. The provision of remote services over the past several years during the COVID-19 pandemic proved to be an effective and efficient way to provide WIC services to eligible families. ARPA waivers support State agency efforts—including outreach, innovation, and modernization efforts—to develop and test remote service delivery options to determine what models work best for participants. FNS provided these waivers, specifically related to physical presence and remote benefit issuance in the WIC Program, via WIC State agency opt-in.

In October 2023, to support State agencies working to improve the customer experience for all applicants and participants, FNS launched a streamlined ARPA waiver request process. As of October 2023, FNS has granted a total of over 267 ARPA waivers to WIC and WIC FMNP State agencies.

WIC EBT MIS Delivery Assessment

Through its innovation and modernization work, FNS is currently assessing the best path forward to modernize WIC MIS to ensure long term viability. This includes efforts via contract to assess the delivery of EBT and MIS through cloud-based computing. The assessment also considers the costs of developing such systems and potential savings through a more efficient MIS model. FNS is engaging stakeholders throughout this process, including WIC State agencies and the EBT and MIS industry.

Participant-Centered Service Optimization

In 2023, FNS continued participating in collaboration efforts with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), specifically with the HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Administration for Children & Families' 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 agencies and programs that serve young children, e.g., childcare facilities, CACFP, Head Start and Early Head Start, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, HRSA's Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) and Tribal MIECHV Program, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will continue in 2024.

The Johns Hopkins University (JHU), through a cooperative agreement with FNS, completed the Participant Research Innovation Laboratory for Enhancing WIC Services in 2023. As 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. Four of the five sub-grants were found to significantly improve child participation and retention. To assist other WIC State agencies in developing, implementing, and evaluating innovative projects aimed at improving the WIC participant experience and increasing participant retention, JHU developed an interactive resource guide.

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. Final grantee and subgrantee reports are available online at the WIC Works Resource System (usda.gov) – 2019-2023 WIC Special Project Innovation Grant (WSPI) Final Reports.

In 2023, FNS continued its cooperative agreement with Tufts University for the USDA WIC Telehealth Innovations Project. Through this agreement, Tufts tested and evaluated 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 presented information on their projects at the Telehealth Intervention Strategies for WIC

(THIS-WIC) Summit in fall 2023. Preliminary findings are promising and indicate that WIC participant satisfaction with telehealth services is high. A final report on the findings is expected to be published in summer 2024.

WIC Studies and Evaluations

FNS published several reports related to WIC during 2023, which are available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/research-analysis>. These include:

WIC Food Cost-Containment Practices Study. This report describes the voluntarily approaches WIC State agencies used in 2018 to reduce food costs when selecting and authorizing WIC foods. This study is the second of its kind; the first was conducted by the USDA Economic Research Service in 2003. This report examines how six types of food cost-containment practices are associated with food costs and WIC participant satisfaction, benefit redemption, and food consumption in 12 State agencies.

National and State Level Estimates of WIC Eligibility and Program Reach in 2020. This report, the latest in a series of annual reports on WIC eligibility, presents 2020 national and State estimates of the number of people eligible for WIC benefits, percentage of eligible population, and the U.S. 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.

The Use and Impact of Federal Waivers During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Summary Findings From Surveys of WIC State and Local Agencies. Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, the USDA FNS issued certain programmatic waivers to WIC State agencies to support continued access to WIC services and provide flexibilities to some administrative requirements. This brief report summarizes findings about the use and impact of these waivers from surveys of WIC State and local agencies.

Conducting Remote WIC Certification Appointments During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Findings from Surveys of WIC State and Local Agencies. The physical presence waiver, issued under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, allowed WIC State and local agencies to remotely certify participants into WIC during the COVID-19 pandemic. This report summarizes data collected from surveys of WIC State and local agencies about the use of the physical presence waiver and the impact it had on WIC services.

Estimates of Nonparticipation Rates of Medicaid and SNAP Beneficiaries in WIC. This report responds to House Report 117-82, which directs the USDA to publish State-level estimates of the percentage of WIC-eligible pregnant women, infants, and children under age five participating in SNAP or in Medicaid but not participating in WIC.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC)

Table FNS-62. Average Monthly Participation and Program Financing, 2023

State/Territory	Women	Infants	Children	Total	Program Grant ^{2/} (000)
Alabama	24,907	28,442	57,805	111,154	\$117,958
Alaska	2,998	2,962	7,842	13,801	24,192
Arizona ^{1/}	30,641	32,866	85,740	149,247	157,238
Arkansas	15,120	16,891	30,146	62,157	71,637
California	203,506	178,672	582,158	964,336	1,193,696
Colorado ^{1/}	19,374	18,183	47,409	84,967	86,468
Connecticut	9,857	11,183	26,482	47,522	52,440
Delaware	4,132	4,537	11,110	19,779	16,813
District of Columbia	2,827	2,945	5,411	11,184	16,269
Florida	97,664	97,842	225,834	421,340	466,874
Georgia	47,345	53,993	103,262	204,600	221,961
Hawaii	5,614	5,398	15,104	26,116	35,064
Idaho	6,714	6,413	17,480	30,607	30,588
Illinois	37,321	43,443	83,984	164,748	227,831
Indiana	32,563	33,865	79,351	145,779	151,281
Iowa	12,314	12,989	32,063	57,366	60,758
Kansas	10,286	10,438	25,650	46,374	47,315
Kentucky	23,440	26,157	65,854	115,451	115,497
Louisiana	25,142	27,350	39,176	91,668	118,691
Maine ^{1/}	3,597	3,952	10,385	17,935	19,219
Maryland	28,326	27,719	66,055	122,099	132,113
Massachusetts	24,622	23,594	75,308	123,524	122,456
Michigan	40,875	44,369	120,631	205,875	210,516
Minnesota	22,601	21,988	61,519	106,108	117,606
Mississippi ^{1/}	14,051	17,857	32,665	64,572	93,907
Missouri	22,240	23,823	43,484	89,547	90,049
Montana	2,962	3,007	7,996	13,965	17,521
Nebraska ^{1/}	7,555	7,469	21,328	36,352	38,261
Nevada ^{1/}	11,554	12,094	29,181	52,830	57,718
New Hampshire	2,469	2,447	8,458	13,373	13,794
New Jersey	35,681	33,868	92,913	162,462	210,581
New Mexico ^{1/}	9,629	9,575	19,053	38,257	53,985
New York	89,602	87,068	239,453	416,123	548,674
North Carolina ^{1/}	57,470	57,360	146,320	261,150	205,680
North Dakota ^{1/}	2,054	2,144	6,146	10,343	18,513
Ohio	41,198	42,720	90,454	174,372	190,541
Oklahoma ^{1/}	22,629	23,225	51,261	97,115	105,977
Oregon	16,390	14,413	46,373	77,175	84,491
Pennsylvania	37,942	39,464	92,848	170,254	213,053
Rhode Island	3,858	3,856	9,521	17,235	20,126
South Carolina	20,475	22,754	49,514	92,743	95,494
South Dakota ^{1/}	3,069	3,385	8,788	15,242	25,511
Tennessee	32,129	32,663	63,132	127,924	139,893
Texas	208,129	183,796	370,892	762,817	747,624
Utah	9,425	9,224	22,082	40,731	47,780
Vermont	2,173	1,877	6,879	10,928	14,606
Virginia	25,212	27,437	70,458	123,107	112,073
Washington	27,886	25,397	74,532	127,815	149,219
West Virginia	7,413	8,239	21,396	37,048	39,780
Wisconsin	18,024	18,805	52,481	89,310	99,831
Wyoming ^{1/}	1,749	1,715	4,119	7,582	12,730
American Samoa	711	628	2,451	3,790	8,710
Guam	1,152	1,251	3,445	5,848	11,126
North Mariana Island	517	414	1,721	2,652	5,468
Puerto Rico	18,345	14,993	51,641	84,979	218,138
Virgin Islands	630	606	1,313	2,550	6,736
Anticipated adjustment	-	-	-	-	290,528
Total	1,486,110	1,469,758	3,618,057	6,573,925	\$7,802,599

^{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 revision.

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ACCOUNT 3: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

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

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

For necessary expenses to carry out the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), [~~\$122,133,239,000~~]\$123,324,961,000, of which \$3,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, [~~2026~~]2027, shall be placed in reserve for use only in such amounts and at such times as may become necessary to carry out program operations: *Provided*, That funds provided herein shall be expended in accordance with section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008[: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$998,000 may be used to provide nutrition education services to State agencies and Federally Recognized Tribes participating in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations]: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, [~~2025~~]2026, shall be used to carry out section 4003(b) of Public Law 115-334 relating to demonstration projects for tribal organizations: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$3,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 4208 of Public Law 115-334: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be subject to any work registration or workfare requirements as may be required by law: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$37,290,000 to remain available until expended, shall be for program evaluation and modernization: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, [~~\$1,794,678,000~~]\$1,886,017,000, to remain available until September 30, [~~2025~~]2026, shall be used to carry out section 28(d)(1), section 4(b), section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, and for Employment and Training and Mandatory Other Program Costs except for program evaluation and modernization: *Provided further*, That if the Secretary determines that the amount provided in the preceding proviso either does not meet or exceeds the amount needed in the current fiscal year to carry out the activities described therein, the Secretary may transfer funds made available under this heading to or from the appropriation within such proviso, to remain available for the same time period as to the appropriation to which the funds are transferred: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be obligated or expended in contravention of section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1183A): *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to enter into contracts and employ staff to conduct studies, evaluations, or to conduct activities related to program integrity provided that such activities are authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to enter into contracts and employ staff to conduct studies and evaluations related to section 27 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and the Emergency Food Assistance Program authorized by the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983, as amended.

For making, after June 30 of the current fiscal year, benefit payments to individuals, and payments to States or other non-Federal entities, pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), for unanticipated costs incurred for the last three months of the fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

For necessary expenses to carry out the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) for the first quarter of fiscal year [~~2025~~]2026, [~~\$27,511,000,000~~]\$27,844,000,000, to remain available through September 30, [~~2025~~]2026.

Change Description

The first change (line 5 of paragraph 1) eliminates discretionary funds for FDPIR nutrition education.

The second change (line 12 of paragraph 1) makes research and evaluation funding available until expended.

The third change (line 16 of paragraph 1) is a conforming change to make research and evaluation funding available until expended.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table FNS-63. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2024	\$122,376,921,000
Change in Appropriation	+948,040,000
Budget Estimate, 2025	<u>123,324,961,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table FNS-64. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2022 Actual	FTEs	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Estimated	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg. Key
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Discretionary Other Program Costs:											
FDPIR Nutrition Education.....	\$998	-	\$998	-	\$998	-	-	-	-\$998	-	(1a)
FDPIR Demonstration	3,000	-	3,000	-	3,000	-	\$5,000	-	+2,000	-	(1b)
Healthy Fluid Milk	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	-	+3,000	-	(1c)
Healthy Fluid Milk (GP).....	3,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	-4,000	-	(1c)
Subtotal, Discretionary Other Program Costs	6,998	-	7,998	-	7,998	-	8,000	-	+2	-	
Mandatory Appropriations:											
Participant Benefits:											
SNAP Benefits.....	127,379,769	-	104,348,000	-	108,300,851	-	108,730,689	-	+429,838	-	(2)
EA Payments	-	-	35,779,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal, Participant Benefits	127,379,769	-	140,127,000	-	108,300,851	-	108,730,689	-	+429,838	-	
State Administrative Costs	5,536,316	-	5,707,550	-	5,874,192	-	6,040,792	-	+166,600	-	(3)
Nut. Ed. & Obesity Prevention Grant Prog.....	464,000	-	506,000	-	524,000	-	538,000	-	+14,000	-	(4)
Employment and Training:											
Federal Funds 100%.....	123,900	-	123,900	-	123,900	-	123,900	-	-	-	
Federal Funds and Participant Costs 50%.....	511,929	-	525,935	-	539,565	-	556,292	-	+16,727	-	(5)
Subtotal, Employment and Training	635,829	-	649,835	-	663,465	-	680,192	-	+16,727	-	
Subtotal, State Administrative Funding	6,636,145	-	6,863,385	-	7,061,657	-	7,258,984	-	+197,327	-	
Mandatory Other Program Costs:											
Benefit & Retailer Redemption and Monitoring	56,745	144	73,509	151	73,509	170	82,688	170	+9,179	-	(6a)
Certification of SSI Recipients for SNAP.....	20,726	-	21,045	-	21,045	-	21,369	-	+324	-	(6b)
Payment Accuracy and Cooperative Services....	74,645	90	77,837	105	77,837	120	89,651	145	+11,814	+25	(6c)
Web-Based Automation of Systems	7,689	2	7,898	4	7,898	4	8,144	4	+246	-	(6d)
Retailer Integrity and Trafficking	34,796	50	35,879	60	35,879	68	46,872	127	+10,993	+59	(6e)
Computer Support	20,785	-	21,105	14	21,105	-	21,430	-	+325	-	(6f)
Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems.....	18,788	34	19,167	40	19,167	51	24,478	66	+5,311	+15	(6g)
Nutrition Education and Program Information ..	60,555	62	65,378	22	65,378	122	72,205	142	+6,827	+20	(6h)
Program Evaluation and Modernization.....	22,544	11	42,162	16	42,162	13	37,290	15	-4,872	+2	(6i)
FMMI.....	3,587	-	3,682	-	3,682	-	3,786	-	+104	-	(6j)
IT Modernization and Support	22,494	-	23,090	-	23,090	-	39,244	2	+16,154	+2	(6k)
Driving System Improvements to Simplify and Improve the Enrollment Experience	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	+100,000	-	(6l)
Subtotal, Mandatory Other Program Costs	343,354	393	390,752	412	390,752	548	547,157	671	+156,405	+123	
TEFAP Commodities ^{1/}	399,750	2	445,500	2	463,750	2	472,250	2	+8,500	-	(7)
FDPIR.....	126,000	2	162,150	2	165,001	1	242,000	1	+76,999	-	(8)
Community Food Project.....	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	
Program Access.....	5,000	-	5,000	78	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	
Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico	2,501,805	-	2,815,630	-	2,930,332	-	2,983,775	-	+53,443	-	(9)
American Samoa	10,047	-	11,308	-	11,768	-	11,983	-	+215	-	(10)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.....	30,000	-	34,000	-	34,812	-	60,123	-	+25,311	-	(11)
Contingency Reserve	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	-	-	-	
Subtotal, Mandatory	140,436,870	397	153,859,725	494	122,368,923	551	123,316,961	674	+948,038	+123	
Subtotal, Total Regular Appropriations	140,443,868	397	153,867,723	494	122,376,921	551	123,324,961	674	+948,040	+123	
Supplemental Appropriations											
American Rescue Plan: P-EBT Benefits	25,000,000	-	30,000,000	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	
American Rescue Plan: P-EBT Admin	700,000	-	1,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
American Rescue Plan: Extension of SNAP Waiver Authority.....	3,600,000	-	3,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Appropriation including Supplemental Funding	169,743,868	397	188,367,723	499	122,376,921	551	123,324,961	674	+948,040	+123	
Transfer	-	-	-503,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Rescission.....	-	-	-8,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sequestration	-12,879	-	-14,656	-	-14,656	-	-17,067	-	-2,411	-	
Total Appropriation with Sequester	169,730,989	397	187,842,067	499	122,362,265	551	123,307,894	674	-945,629	+123	

^{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-65. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2022		2023		2024		2025		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs		
Discretionary Obligations:										
Discretionary Other Program Costs:										
FDPIR Nutrition Education.....	\$850	-	\$973	-	\$998	-	-	-	-\$998	-
FDPIR Demonstration	1,500	-	5,950	-	3,000	-	\$5,000	-	+2,000	-
Healthy Fluid Milk	-	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	3,000	-	+3,000	-
Healthy Fluid Milk (GP).....	2,995	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-4,000	-
Subtotal, Discretionary Other Program Costs	5,345	-	10,923	-	7,998	-	8,000	-	+2	-
Mandatory Obligations:										
Participant Benefits:										
SNAP Benefits.....	108,614,865	-	119,143,970	-	108,300,851	-	108,730,689	-	+429,838	-
State Option Reimbursable	93,273	-	118,225	-	150,000	-	150,000	-	-	-
Subtotal, Participant Benefits	108,708,138	-	119,262,195	-	108,450,851	-	108,880,689	-	+429,838	-
State Administrative Costs	4,869,776	-	5,024,206	-	5,874,192	-	6,040,792	-	+166,600	-
Nut. Ed. & Obesity Prevention Grant Prog.....	472,258	-	504,389	-	524,000	-	538,000	-	+14,000	-
Employment and Training:										
Federal Funds 100%.....	122,779	-	113,279	-	123,900	-	123,900	-	-	-
Federal Funds and Participant Costs 50%.....	516,325	-	484,150	-	539,565	-	556,292	-	+16,727	-
Subtotal, Employment and Training	639,104	-	597,429	-	663,465	-	680,192	-	+16,727	-
Subtotal, State Administrative Funding	5,981,138	-	6,126,024	-	7,061,657	-	7,258,984	-	+197,327	-
Mandatory Other Program Costs:										
Benefit & Retailer Redemption and Monitoring	42,562	144	62,167	151	73,509	170	82,688	170	+9,179	-
Certification of SSI Recipients for SNAP	12,532	-	17,798	-	21,045	-	21,369	-	+324	-
Payment Accuracy and Cooperative Services.....	59,259	90	65,828	105	77,837	120	89,651	145	+11,814	+25
Web-Based Automation of Systems	4,993	2	6,679	4	7,898	4	8,144	4	+246	-
Retailer Integrity and Trafficking	28,028	50	30,343	60	35,879	68	46,872	127	+10,993	+59
Computer Support	17,796	-	17,849	14	21,105	-	21,430	-	+325	-
Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems.....	10,334	34	16,210	40	19,167	51	24,478	66	+5,311	+15
Nutrition Education and Program Information	31,915	62	55,291	22	65,378	122	72,205	142	+6,827	+20
Program Evaluation and Modernization.....	13,006	11	35,657	16	42,162	13	37,290	15	-4,872	+2
FMMI	3,369	-	3,466	-	3,682	-	3,786	-	+104	-
IT Modernization and Support	20,786	-	20,419	-	23,090	-	39,244	2	+16,154	+2
Longitudinal Data Study	-	-	4,224	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Driving System Improvements to Simplify and Improve the Enrollment Experience	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	+100,000	-
Subtotal, Mandatory Other Program Costs	244,580	393	335,931	412	390,752	548	547,157	671	+156,405	+123
TEFAP Commodities 1/.....	451,376	2	478,228	2	463,750	2	472,250	2	+8,500	-
FDPIR.....	128,535	2	155,576	2	165,001	1	242,000	1	+76,999	-
Community Food Project	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
Program Access.....	4,997	-	5,000	78	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico	2,501,805	-	2,815,630	-	2,930,332	-	2,983,775	-	+53,443	-
American Samoa	10,047	-	11,308	-	11,768	-	11,983	-	+215	-
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ..	30,000	-	34,000	-	34,812	-	60,123	-	+25,311	-
Contingency Fund	-	-	-	-	500,000	-	500,000	-	-	-
Subtotal Mandatory	115,553,764	397	129,223,892	494	120,018,923	551	120,966,961	674	+948,038	-
Subtotal, Total Regular Obligations.....	115,559,109	397	129,234,815	494	120,026,921	551	120,974,961	674	+948,040	+123
Supplemental Funding										
Emergency Sup. (Div N): Benefits-PEBT.....	18,886,199	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Sup. (Div N): PEBT Admin	465,455	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Sup. (Div N): SAE Mass Change	2,256	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Sup. (Div N): Puerto Rico Sup.	108,272	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Sup. (Div N) Online Purchasing & Tech Imp.	2,237	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: P-EBT Benefits & Admin ..	-	-	20,067,986	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: P-EBT Admin	-	-	638,783	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: SAE Mass Change.....	444,923	-	607,100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: SNAP Online Purchasing & Technology Improvements	-	-	7,319	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: Online Purchasing & Tech Improv	-	-	103	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: AmSam Supplemental	3,880	-	22,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: CNMI Supplemental.....	7,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan: Extn. of SNAP Waiver Authority.....	3,600,000	-	2,400,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Item	2022		2023		2024		2025		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs		
Total Obligations including Supplemental Funding	139,079,831	397	152,978,606	499	120,026,921	551	120,974,961	674	+948,040	+123
Transfer	-	-	503,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries	-58,000	-	-12,002	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unobligated Balance, Start of Year	-6,110,000	-	-6,857,000	-	-6,144,000	-	-5,578,000	-	+566,000	-
Unobligated Balance, End of Year	6,857,000	-	6,144,000	-	5,578,000	-	5,011,000	-	-567,000	-
Balance Lapsing	30,055,158	-	35,706,688	-	3,051,344	-	3,049,933	-	-1,411	-
Rescission	-	-	8,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Collections from Reimbursable Obligations	-93,000	-	-118,225	-	-150,000	-	-150,000	-	-	-
Sequestration	12,879	-	14,656	-	14,656	-	17,067	-	+2,411	-
Total Appropriation	169,743,868	397	188,367,723	499	122,376,921	551	123,324,961	674	+948,040	+123

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

- (1) An increase of \$2,000 in discretionary funds (\$7,998,000 available in 2024).

The overall change consists of the following:

- a) A decrease of \$998,000 for FDPIR Nutrition Education (\$998,000 available in 2024).

Based on ITO feedback, the request eliminates the small pot of discretionary funding for competitive FDPIR nutrition education grants, which provided grants to a relatively small number of ITOs each year that apply for these funds. However, the FDPIR Administrative funding line in the mandatory section of the account includes at least \$5 million per year that is available for FDPIR nutrition education. The mandatory funding is distributed to all ITO's participating in the program on a formula basis and should adequately cover ITO's nutrition education needs.

- b) An increase of \$2,000,000 for FDPIR Demonstration (\$3,000,000 available in 2024).

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. Increased funding will allow the FDPIR Self Determination Demonstration Projects to continue and further expand, supporting Tribal economies and food sovereignty through the inclusion of preferred traditional foods in the FDPIR food package, flexibility in delivery schedules and storage, and Tribal choice of food procurement. Feedback from Tribes participating in rounds one and two of the Demonstration Project is overall positive, with many citing the benefits to local producers and positive feedback participants shared.

- c) A net decrease of \$1,000,000 for Healthy Fluid Milk Incentives (\$4,000,000 available in 2024).

The Budget maintains the President's 2024 request for \$3 million for Healthy Fluid Milk Incentives (HFMI). Section 4208 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334), provides cooperative agreements with governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to develop and test methods to increase the purchase and consumption of healthy fluid milk among SNAP households by providing incentives at the point of purchase. At the end of 2023, FNS awarded a cooperative grant agreement of just under \$4 million to continue work to incentivize low and no-fat liquid cow's milk as part of the Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive (HFMI) project. This grant supports efforts to develop and test methods to increase the purchase and consumption of healthy fluid milk among SNAP households by providing incentives at the point of purchase. Close to \$9 million has been allocated to this effort since HFMI was added to the 2018 Farm Bill. The current grantee is partnering with 16 retailer banners to offer HFMI at 575 locations across 15 states. The current project will operate from September 30, 2023, through September 30, 2026. In 2025, FNS would re compete the competitive grant opportunity to allow for further HFMI expansion.

- (2) An increase of \$429,838,000 for SNAP Benefits (\$108,300,851,000 available in 2024).

SNAP provides eligible low-income recipients with monthly allotments of benefits to purchase food at authorized retail stores. In response to the Nation's growing economy and recovery from the pandemic, SNAP participation is projected to decline over the 10-year budget period, from 41.9 million in 2025 to 38.2 million in 2034. In 2025, the average benefit is expected to increase by almost three percent to \$216.

Table FNS-66. SNAP Performance Measure

SNAP Performance Measure	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Estimated
Average Participation per month (millions)	41.2	42.1	42.9	41.9
Maximum Allotment (four-person household) ^U ..	\$835	\$939	\$973	\$1,002
Average Monthly Benefit per person	\$230	\$211	\$210	\$216

^U The Maximum allotment for a four-person household based on the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP)

(3) An increase of \$166,600,000 for State Administrative Expenses (\$5,874,192,000 available in 2024).

State Administrative Expenses (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.

(4) An increase of \$14,000,000 for Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Program (\$524,000,000 available in 2024).

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.

(5) An increase of \$16,727,000 for Employment and Training (\$539,565,000 available in 2024).

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 unique 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.

(6) An increase of \$156,405,000 and 123 FTE for mandatory other program costs (\$390,752,000 and 548 FTE available in 2024).

The change supports high impact investments aimed at strengthening program integrity and payment accuracy, preventing and combating program fraud, modernizing operations, and supporting other system improvements. This includes both 2025 proposals and 2024 re-proposals.

The overall change consists of the following:

A) An increase of \$9,179,000 for Benefit & Retailer Redemption and Monitoring (\$73,509,000 and 170 FTE available in 2024).

This funding provides 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 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: Develop State-of-the-Art-Systems for SNAP Retailer Management. The remainder is due to estimated inflation and 2025 pay cost.

B) An increase of \$324,000 for Certification of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Recipients for SNAP (\$21,045,000 available in 2024).

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 \$11,814,000 and 25 FTE for Payment Accuracy and Cooperative Services (\$77,837,000 and 120 FTE available in 2024).

This line supports a wide range of activities aimed at increasing payment accuracy and promoting 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. The requested increase would enhance this capacity by utilizing additional resources to decrease fraud. This includes a total of \$8,900,000 for current law proposals, \$6,900,000 of which is for 2025 proposals and \$2,000,000 is for 2024 re-proposals. The requested increase includes \$4,000,000 and 20 staff to support the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Investment in Regional Financial Management for Program Integrity, \$2,000,000 to support the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Quality Control Business Process Reengineering, \$900,000 and 5 staff to support the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Address Gaps in SNAP Program Integrity, Oversight and Program Administration, and \$2,000,000 to support the 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: FNS Enterprise Risk Management Program, a. The remainder supports 2025 pay cost.

- D) An increase of \$246,000 for Web-Based Automation of Systems (\$7,898,000 available in 2024).

This line provides funding for IT, automation, and technology-based process improvement resources to improve SNAP recipient program integrity. The requested increase is due to estimated inflation as well as 2025 pay cost.

- E) An increase of \$10,993,000 including 59 FTE for Retailer Integrity and Trafficking (\$35,879,000 and 68 FTE available in 2024).

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 requested increase includes \$9,450,000 for two 2025 proposals: \$3,600,000 to support the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Address Gaps in SNAP Program Integrity, Oversight and Program Administration to support the hiring of 20 additional staff and \$5,850,000 to support the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Invest in Retailer Operations Staff for Program Integrity and Better Service to support the hiring of 39 additional staff. Additional increases are due to estimated inflation and 2025 pay cost.

- F) An increase of \$325,000 for Computer Support (\$21,105,000 available in 2024).

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's internal computer systems that support the activities of Federal staff. The increase is due to estimated inflation.

- G) An increase of \$5,311,000 including 15 FTE for Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems (\$19,167,000 and 51 FTE available in 2024).

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 \$4,700,000 for three Current Law Proposals, two of which are 2025 proposals totaling \$3,800,000 and one 2024 re-proposal totaling \$900,000. The requested increase includes \$1,800,000 for 10 additional staff as part of the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Address Gaps in SNAP Program Integrity, Oversight and Program Administration, \$2,000,000 to support the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Support for Farmers' Markets Mobile Payments and \$900,000 to support the 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: Support EBT Modernization and EBT Benefit Theft Fraud Prevention to support the hiring of 5 subject matter experts with specialized knowledge of payment system industry standards. The remaining increase is due to estimated inflation and 2025 pay cost.

- H) An increase of \$6,827,000 including 20 FTE for Nutrition Education and Program Information (\$65,378,000 and 122 FTEs available in 2024).

This line supports Federal costs for nutrition education initiatives, and supports national projects, including program information and educational efforts to increase awareness of the nutrition benefits. The requested increase includes \$4,300,000, one of which is for a 2025 proposal, totaling \$1,800,000 and two 2024 re-proposals totaling \$2,500,000. This request includes \$1,800,000 to support the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Address Gaps in SNAP Integrity, Oversight and Program Administration, \$1,000,000 to support the 2024

Current Law Re-proposal: Increase promotion of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans in SNAP Nutrition Education, and \$1,500,000 to support the 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: Improve Integrity and Customer Service in TEFAP and FDPIR and hire 10 staff. The remainder is due to estimated inflation and 2025 pay cost.

- I) A decrease of \$4,872,000 including 2 FTEs for Program Evaluation and Modernization (\$42,162,000 and 13 FTEs available in 2024).

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 programs funded in the SNAP account, including the Federal staff needed to oversee this vital work. This net decrease includes four Current Law Proposals totaling a savings of \$5,600,000, of which a net savings of \$11,000,000 is due to two 2025 proposals and a request totaling \$5,400,000 for 2024 re-proposals. This request includes: \$3,000,000 to support the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Research on U.S. Territories and an estimated savings of \$14,000,000 from 2025 Current Law Proposal: Make SNAP Research Funding Available Until Expended. This request also includes \$2,400,000 for 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: SNAP Automation Innovation Emerging Technology Grants, including hiring two staff and \$3,000,000 for one-time studies: 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: Fund Research on TEFAP and the FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration Projects. The remainder is due to estimated inflation and 2025 pay cost.

- J) An increase of \$104,000 for the Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI) (\$3,682,000 available in 2024).

The 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. The remaining increase is due to estimated inflation.

- K) An increase of \$16,154,000 and 2 FTEs for IT Modernization and Support (\$23,090,000 and 0 FTE available in 2024).

This line provides for the operations, maintenance, and enhancement costs associated with Federal systems and equipment. This request includes \$15,500,00 for two 2025 Current Law Proposals. This request includes \$15,000,000 to support the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Increased Support for IT Infrastructure and \$500,000 to support the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Support FNS's Central Analytics Team by supporting two additional staff. The remaining 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 2024).

This line provides \$100,000,000 to support the 2024 Current Law Re-proposal: Driving System Improvements to Simplify and Improve the Enrollment and Participant Experience to establish new 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.

- (7) An increase of \$8,500,000 for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) (\$463,750,000 available in 2024).

Section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, 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 increases in the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) and 2025 pay cost.

- (8) An increase of \$76,999,000 for Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) (\$165,001,000 available in 2024).

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, including nutrition education, of this program. FDPIR participants are generally able to choose whether they participate in SNAP or FDPIR. The request for additional funds supports updated FDPIR guide rates to better align food offerings with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and adjustments for inflation. In 2025, FNS expects average participation to be approximately 80,000 participants.

- (9) An increase of \$53,443,000 for Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) for Puerto Rico (\$2,930,332,000 available in 2024).

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

- (10) An increase of \$215,000 for American Samoa (\$11,768,000 available in 2024).

Section 19(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, 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.

- (11) An increase of \$25,311,000 for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) (\$34,812,000 available in 2024).

This increase reflects the request of \$24,500,000 to support the 2025 Current Law Proposal: Increased Support for the CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program by supporting the projected participation of 5,250 households (13,600 individuals) and benefit levels in 2025 as well as disaster assistance for CNMI and the estimated increase in the TFP. Congress provided additional funding to CNMI during the pandemic which allowed CNMI to establish a household food assistance program more comparable to SNAP. This proposal would ensure that the program can continue at this more appropriate level and maintain a modest cushion to manage immediate disaster needs.

CURRENT LAW PROPOSALS**Summary of Current Law Proposals****Table FNS-67. Summary of Current Law Proposals (thousands of dollars)**

Current Law Proposal	2025 BA	10 Year Total
<i>2025 Budget Proposals</i>		
Address Gaps in SNAP Program Integrity, Oversight and Program Administration	\$8,100	\$95,100
Invest in Retailer Operations Staff for Program Integrity and Better Service	5,850	64,450
Invest in Regional Financial Management for Program Integrity	4,000	44,800
Quality Control Business Process Reengineering	2,000	10,000
Support for Farmers' Markets Mobile Payments	2,000	20,000
Increased Support for IT Infrastructure	15,000	158,200
Increase Support for the CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program	24,500	271,977
Research on the U.S. Territories	3,000	3,000
Make SNAP Research Funding Available Until Expended	-14,000	-156,848
Enhance FNS's Central Analytics Team	500	5,000
<i>2024 Budget Re-proposals*</i>		
Driving Systems Improvements to Simplify and Improve the Enrollment and Participation Experience*	100,000	1,000,000
Develop State-of-the-Art Systems Retailer Management*	6,600	14,100
FNS Enterprise Risk Management Program*	2,000	12,000
Support EBT Modernization and EBT Benefit Theft Fraud Prevention*	900	10,317
Increase promotion of the Dietary Guidelines for American in SNAP Nutrition Education	1,000	10,000
Improve Integrity and Customer Service in TEFAP and FDPIR*	1,500	15,000
SNAP Automation Innovation Emerging Technologies Grant*	2,400	9,600
Fund Research on TEFAP and the FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration Projects*	3,000	3,000
Total Current Law Proposals	168,350	1,579,379

*These proposals were originally submitted as part of the President's 2024 Budget. In the 2025 Budget, these proposals are not included in the 2024 baseline, assuming a full year continuing resolution. However, the proposals are reflected here in the 2025 current law proposals list.

2025 Budget Proposals**Current Law*****Address gaps in SNAP program integrity, oversight and program administration.***

SNAP has identified gaps within existing statutory and regulatory responsibilities that are not being adequately addressed due to a lack of dedicated resources to address these important integrity issues, which represent vulnerabilities in the program. This proposal is intended to strengthen the depth and breadth of SNAP oversight to ensure that integrity responsibilities are effectively met as Congress intended and significantly enhance effectiveness of Federal oversight of SNAP.

Elements of this proposal include:

- a.) Training and Technical Assistance: Create a five person Office of Training and Development to provide SNAP policy training to FNS National Office, Regional, and State staff. The office will enhance integrity by supporting technical assistance strategies and programming to support effective administration of SNAP at the State level and troubleshooting issues with States struggling with payment accuracy or compliance with SNAP certification processes, rules, and standards.
- b.) Resources for Integrity in Administrative Review Process: Add 10 staff to conduct administrative and judicial reviews of SNAP retailer appeals of disqualifications, withdrawals, and denials. Increases in Retailer Operations & Compliance reviews over time has resulted in more retailer disqualifications and withdrawals, which have led to an increase in administrative and judicial appeals and a backlog. This proposal would ensure that there are sufficient administrative review officers to handle the volume of appeals.

- c.) Oversight of Retailer Equipment Providers: Create a 10-person team to address emerging integrity concerns and provide oversight of independent sales organizations and third-party processors that provide EBT point-of-sale equipment and services to retailers. Limited FNS resources to monitor third-party processors has been identified as a vulnerability and a dedicated team to provide oversight ensures that FNS can proactively monitor and address any fraudulent schemes involving these entities. This team would increase oversight in EBT integrity, where FNS currently lacks any dedicated staff focused on third-party processors. This team would further align FNS's overall efforts to increase EBT card security by supporting third party processors as they upgrade to more secure point-of-sale devices.
- d.) Addressing Integrity Among Small Retailers: Create a 10-person team to provide technical assistance and training in multiple languages to small, rural, and independent retailers so that they understand SNAP rules and procedures. Planned activities include outreach and Limited English Proficiency activities designed to increase program integrity. This work will help ensure compliance through education and understanding and address concerns from the USDA Equity Commission by focusing on improving how FNS communicates program rules and provides training to historically underserved retailers and ensures equitable participation by these retailers.
- e.) Retailer Integrity: Refocus the Retailer Policy Branch on integrity issues by breaking out a new 10-person team to manage existing healthy incentive efforts to strengthen their integration within the EBT system (electronic Healthy Incentives Pilot, fruits/vegetable incentives, Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive, Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program). By dedicating a group to this healthy retailer incentive portfolio outside retailer policy, the retailer policy branch will return to its primary focus on retailer policy, especially integrity issues including the retailer sanctions rule.

Table FNS-68. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority...	\$8,100	\$8,400	\$8,700	\$9,000	\$9,300	\$9,600	\$10,000	\$10,300	\$10,700	\$11,000	\$95,100
Outlays.....	6,075	8,325	8,625	8,925	9,225	9,525	9,900	10,225	10,600	10,925	92,350

Current Law

Invest in Retailer Operations Staff and Stronger Systems for Program Integrity Efforts and Better Service to SNAP Retailers.

While the overall rates of trafficking in SNAP remain low, FNS has a notable increase in the number of retailers demonstrating activity that warrants compliance review. There has been a dramatic rise in the volume of investigations initiated – from just over 6,800 in 2022, to over 9,100 in just the first two quarters of 2023. This portion of the budget request is for 12 FTEs for Retailer Operations and Compliance, with an anticipated return on investment of approximately 13,500 more stores/retailers reviewed for compliance each year leading to potentially 9,000 more compliance cases initiated annually. By increasing the staffing footprint, Retailer Operations and Compliance will expand the scope of program integrity, detect and respond to any emerging fraud trends.

There has also been an increase in the number of retailers that appeal EBT administrative cases which has resulted in a backlog or delay in FNS's ability to review these cases. Congressional inquiries about these cases as members inquire on the status of cases under appeal by retailers in their districts has also increased. A significant increase in the level of effort is required by Federal staff to address these administrative cases and actions, as well as the backlog. FNS estimates that the additional staff will allow the agency to process an additional 1,000 cases per year and eliminate the backlog of approximately 350 EBT cases.

Increased FNS program scope and responsibilities for making the online purchasing pilot a permanent FNS program will result in extensive increased levels of effort and workload. This portion of the budget request is for 7 FTEs. By increasing staffing, Retailer Operations and Compliance are positioned to perform increased duties associated with SNAP internet retailer authorizations and efforts to detect and monitor online SNAP transaction activity for program integrity.

This proposal will fulfill FNS retailer customer service and compliance mission requirements more efficiently and effectively to provide timely and accurate SNAP benefits and link participants to SNAP services they need.

Table FNS-69. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$5,850	\$5,850	\$5,850	\$6,400	\$6,500	\$6,600	\$6,700	\$6,800	\$6,900	\$7,000	\$64,450
Outlays.....	4,388	5,850	5,850	6,263	6,475	6,575	6,675	6,775	6,875	6,975	62,701

Current Law**Investment in Regional Financial Management for Program Integrity.**

Note: This proposal is to be taken in conjunction with the CNP proposal of the same name.

Grants Management and Administrative Services (GMAS) is responsible for all aspects of financial management at the seven FNS Regional Offices. From a funds management and control perspective, this includes executing and monitoring the use of funds, completing closeout procedures for all grant awards, and oversight through audits and other internal controls. GMAS also provides a number of other administrative services to ensure effective and efficient business operations within each Regional Office related to travel, IT and equipment, and property management.

Over the last several years, FNS funding has become increasingly diverse and complex, and as a result requires additional oversight and management. This proposal would provide FNS with the resources needed to increase financial oversight to ensure proper stewardship of funds. This proposal would support a total of 40 additional FTEs for regional GMAS staff across the CN and SNAP accounts and increase financial and program integrity. Added GMAS staff would help support the new Summer EBT and non-congregate programs, management of the discretionary grant portfolio, and the provision of financial management technical assistance and oversight of SNAP, including the nutrition education and employment and training components.

Table FNS-70. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
CNP Budget Auth.....	\$4,000	\$4,100	\$4,200	\$4,300	\$4,400	\$4,500	\$4,600	\$4,800	\$4,900	\$5,000	\$44,800
SNAP Budget Auth	4,000	4,100	4,200	4,300	4,400	4,500	\$4,600	4,800	4,900	5,000	44,800
Total Budget Auth	8,000	8,200	8,400	8,600	8,800	9,000	9,200	9,600	9,800	10,000	89,600
Outlays.....	7,000	7,175	7,350	7,525	7,700	7,875	8,050	8,400	8,575	8,750	78,400

Current Law**Quality Control Business Process Reengineering.**

SNAP has one of the most rigorous quality control systems in the federal government. The SNAP quality control (QC) system measures how accurately SNAP state agencies determine a household's eligibility and benefit amount. It consists of both State agency reviews and federal reviews. The key objectives of the QC system are to 1) measure the accuracy of states' SNAP eligibility and benefit determinations and 2) identify and correct errors in eligibility and benefit calculations.

In 2023, FNS published a proposed rule that is intended to strengthen and improve the integrity and accuracy of the SNAP QC system and to better align SNAP with requirements in the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA). These proposed changes include a significant adjustment to the SNAP QC system that involves changes to Federal and State agency sampling processes, as well as shifting quality control reviews to focus only on cases with recent eligibility actions, which would result in more timely and proactive interventions when issues are identified.

Anticipated publication of the final rule, which is expected to include a 5-year implementation period, will reflect some of the most substantive changes that FNS has proposed to SNAP QC in decades. To support effective implementation of these changes, FNS proposes funding for business process reengineering for both FNS and the States. This proposal will modernize SNAP QC systems to strengthen program integrity efforts.

Table FNS-71. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$10,000
Outlays.....	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	\$500	-	-	-	-	10,000

Current Law***Support for Farmers’ Market Mobile Payments.***

Since 2012, \$4 million has been appropriated to support the participation of farmers in SNAP and other Federal nutrition programs. This proposal requests \$20 million over 10 years for on-going support for farmers who accept SNAP benefits via the SNAP-provided mobile app and or the SNAP ecommerce platform. The goal of this proposal is to increase availability of healthy choices for SNAP participants and engage local producers. (This goal aligns with the Agency Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Goal 4: Provide All Americans Safe, Nutritious Food.)

Longstanding community feedback indicates that the ongoing costs associated with the SNAP mobile app and equipment continue to present a challenge to participating small farmers. Therefore, ongoing support for licensing fees and app upgrades would allow farmers that are redeeming a minimum level of SNAP benefits to continue to access the SNAP app at no cost. Similarly, as the online ecommerce platform launches and becomes broadly available for farmers to sell their products online, some farmers may need ongoing support for associated costs. USDA supports the participation of farmers and markets as authorized SNAP retailers to engage local producers of fruits and vegetables and provide healthy choices for SNAP participants.

Table FNS-72. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	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.....	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	19,500

Current Law***Increased Support for IT Infrastructure.***

Note: This proposal is to be taken in conjunction with the CNP proposal of the same name.

FNS programs are heavily dependent on information technology (IT) for program delivery – including data analysis and program integrity, financial management of over \$160 billion in program dollars, communication with and customer service for our State partners, technical assistance for program operators, etc. There are only approximately 1,800 FNS employees across the country to manage 16 nutrition assistance programs serving 1 in 5 Americans every day. This would not be possible without robust IT systems as well as the IT infrastructure underpinning those systems. This proposal will improve program integrity and operations through investments in IT Infrastructure.

At FNS, IT infrastructure includes all the base costs for IT and telecommunications as well as the mixed-use applications such as Microsoft applications and licenses. In the ten-year period from 2014 to 2023, FNS’s IT Infrastructure costs have increased by about \$46.8 million – from \$29.3 million to almost \$76.1 million.

FNS has been able to reduce IT infrastructure costs in some areas, including in applications, software licenses and telecommunications, by limiting the number of employees with access to certain software and by limiting cell phone and tablet use. However, those reductions have resulted in relatively modest savings, which have been far outpaced by increases in other areas.

The largest increases have been in system modernization, external hosting costs, support for financial systems, including the Food Program Reporting System, the National Data Bank and FMMI, IT Security upgrades, and contractor support.

Because the base IT infrastructure activities support all the programs FNS administers, the costs are allocated among all FNS accounts. As a result, SNAP currently pays about 72 percent and CNP currently pays almost 20 percent of IT infrastructure costs from within their Mandatory Other Program Costs lines of funding. In 2023, this means that SNAP funded about \$56 million and CNP funded about \$14 million in IT infrastructure costs out of the Mandatory Other Program Cost budget lines.

Over the last several years, FNS has been striving to reduce IT infrastructure costs as much as possible. FNS’s modernization of multiple legacy systems has been instrumental in reducing IT infrastructure costs for hosting services through the decommissioning of servers, consolidation of support contracts into shared services, transition from datacenters to cloud hosting, software modernization, and migration to enterprise-wide solutions. This work has resulted in a significant cost avoidance of \$1.25 million in 2023 and an expected cost avoidance of \$900,000 in 2024.

Although, FNS has been successful with cutting costs, the overall IT Infrastructure charges have been increasing much faster as a result of the costs associated with the centralized end user support, contractor support for modernization of legacy systems, enhanced security requirements, cloud hosting subscription, as well as support for financial systems, including the Food Program Reporting System, the National Data Bank and FMFI.

In 2021, Congress included funding in each of the mandatory program accounts to help defray IT infrastructure costs. Since that time, costs have continued to increase, requiring FNS to request increases to these lines in the 2025 budget.

Table FNS-73. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
CNP Budget Auth.....	\$7,000	\$7,100	\$7,200	\$7,300	\$7,400	\$7,500	\$7,600	\$7,800	\$7,900	\$8,000	\$74,800
SNAP Budget Auth ..	15,000	15,002	15,400	15,600	15,800	16,020	16,240	16,459	16,679	16,020	158,200
Total Budget Auth	22,000	22,102	22,600	22,900	23,200	23,520	23,840	24,259	24,579	24,020	233,020
Outlays	16,500	22,077	22,476	22,825	23,125	23,440	23,760	24,154	24,499	24,160	227,016

Current Law

Increase CNMI Funds to Support and Maintain the Nutrition Assistance Program Block Grant Participation and Benefit Levels, and Disaster Response.

Congress provided supplemental funds to CNMI in response to the COVID-19 pandemic including through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) of 2020 for pandemic relief and to support greater parity between the CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program and SNAP. This has resulted in a stronger program, but one that needs steady funding in order to maintain benefit levels equitable with SNAP over time. Increased funding of \$24.5 million will continue to support the projected participation of 5,251 households (13,599 individuals) and benefit levels in 2025 as well as disaster assistance for CNMI. If additional funds are not provided, CNMI will have to reduce benefits and participation. CNMI's current block grant is \$34.8 million for 2024. To support projected participation, benefits, and administration of CNMI's nutrition assistance program, FNS estimates that \$53.9 million will be needed in 2025. In addition, funds will be needed to support disaster assistance which is particularly important during CNMI's typhoon season. CNMI will utilize all allocated American Rescue Plan Act funds in 2024 to meet the projected participation, benefits, and administrative costs. Increasing funding to meet the needs of CNMI's Nutrition Assistance Program would send a strong message to stakeholders regarding FNS's commitment to bring nutrition equity to the territories.

This proposal will meet CNMI's Nutrition Assistance Program funding needs and the Administration's goal to bring equity to the Territories nutrition assistance programs.

Table FNS-74. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$24,500	\$25,064	\$25,640	\$26,230	\$26,833	\$27,450	\$28,081	\$28,727	\$29,388	\$30,064	\$271,977
Outlays.....	19,600	24,951	25,525	26,112	26,712	27,327	27,955	28,598	29,256	29,929	265,964

Current Law

Research on the U.S. Territories.

FNS is committed to meeting the needs of U.S. citizens in territories. However, little is known about the changing demographics, culture, needs, and opportunities in the territories as it relates to FNS's food assistance programs. To that end, FNS will convene a study with the aim to better understand the demographics and culture of the three Pacific and two Atlantic territories and needs and opportunities as they related to FNS's food assistance programs. The study will be funded from the SNAP and CNP accounts. The SNAP and CNP accounts fund the Nutrition Assistance Program and the Child Nutrition Assistance Grant in the territories. The goal of this proposal is to understand the unique needs of the U.S. citizens in the territories to ensure those needs are being effectively met by FNS nutrition programs.

Table FNS-75. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
CNP Budget Auth.....	\$2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
SNAP Budget Auth.....	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000
Total Budget Auth.....	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Outlays.....	4,000	\$1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000

Current Law***Make SNAP Research Funding Available until Expended.***

The SNAP Evaluation and Modernization account funds all the SNAP research studies that are listed each year on the FNS Research and Evaluation Plan. It is often challenging to complete the competitive award process for research projects and use all the funds within the fiscal year. Sometimes research contracts require less funding than anticipated, but this is known too late in the fiscal year to effectively use the remaining funds. Other times, the annual funding allocation is not enough to support the less frequent larger studies while continuing to fund smaller studies or analytical contracts. If the account became a no-year funds, then FNS could save up the funds for the larger studies while having sufficient funding in the interim to conduct the other smaller studies.

This proposal will support efficiently managing and planning the funding and research agenda over time and reduce annual funding needs.

Table FNS-76. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	-\$14,000	-\$14,350	-\$14,709	-\$15,076	-\$15,453	-\$15,840	-\$16,236	-\$16,642	-\$17,058	-\$17,484	-\$156,848
Outlays	-10,500	-14,263	-14,619	-14,984	-15,359	-15,743	-16,137	-16,541	-16,954	-17,378	-152,477

Current Law***Enhance FNS's Central Analytics Team.***

Note: This proposal is to be taken in conjunction with the CNP proposal of the same name.

The FNCS Central Analytics Team (FCAT) was established in February 2020 with the hiring of FNS's first Assistant Chief Data Officer (ACDO). Since then, the team has grown from the ACDO to a team with two FTEs and seven contractors. This high impact team provides data analytics support for FNS teams across the agency for a variety of important integrity-related and other projects. FCAT has developed multiple dashboards that relate to the assurance and promotion of integrity across both program operations and internal management processes. For example, the SNAP Error Trends and Characteristics Dashboard allows FNS and States to inspect aggregate quality control data to understand characteristics and patterns in the SNAP caseload, providing a summarized view of QC metrics such as payment accuracy over time and counts of common error causes to better monitor program integrity.

Project work within programs and offices has more than doubled over the last three years, and this has increased the need for core team support to accommodate demand across operational and programmatic offices. Additionally, enterprise-level work has also increased, and the ACDO and two FTEs are fully utilized to expand data analytic capabilities at FNS, including: data governance, management, and stewardship initiatives; broader data visualization training and enablement; project management of dozens of active projects; and a host of Department-level requirements. The latter includes frequent collaboration and leadership in ongoing Department-wide working groups, communities of practice and governing bodies.

The funding would expand the team's core support functions to manage the current work and support increased data and analytic needs at the enterprise level, as well as projects initiated by FNS offices and programs.

In the upcoming year, FNS estimates that project work will increase by 60 to 75 percent as the SNAP and CNP programs expand the capabilities of the team. For example, the team is slated to assist in one of FNS's key priority projects with SNAP and ROC in developing predictive models to identify fraud by card skimming and cloning. Although just one example, this project represents the type of increased demand for FCAT's services and capabilities, of which there are others.

This proposal will right-size the Central Analytics Team to meet critical current and near-future data analytic demands of FNS.

Table FNS-77. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year
CNP Budget Auth.....	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$5,000
SNAP Budget Auth	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	5,000
Total Budget Auth	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	10,000
Outlays.....	750	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	9,750

2024 Budget Proposals

This section includes proposals originally submitted as part of the President’s 2025 Budget but not included in baseline under a full year continuing resolution.

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 increasing enrollment rates and reducing barriers or burden to program enrollment and re-enrollment; streamlining eligibility determinations to increase State capacity and speed benefit delivery time; and improving customer service and client experience. The evaluation process would focus on the client experience impact of this effort and improvements to client-focused delivery.

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

- a.) 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.
- b.) 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.
- c.) 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.
- d.) 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-78. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	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.....	75,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	975,000

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:

- a.) Enables the Agency to pay for infrastructure as services are consumed, rather than requiring ongoing investment, maintenance, and replacement of capital infrastructure;
- b.) Ensures effective compliance with content security policies through resource availability, data redundancy, and disaster recovery;
- c.) Allows data processing, systems integration, and security to be managed effectively by the USDA’s cloud service provider;
- d.) Reduces technology constraints to ensure that program policy requirements and related protocols drive systems;
- e.) Reduces the cost of enhancements and improves implementation timeframes when changes to program requirements occur;
- f.) Reduces the cycle time for deploying security patches and software updates;
- g.) Creates rich user interfaces that can be more readily accessed via multiple device and browser types; and
- h.) 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-79. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority.....	\$6,600	\$6,500	\$1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$14,100
Outlays.....	4,950	6,525	2,375	\$250	-	-	-	-	-	-	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:

- a.) Break down silos and build transparency by improving communication about managing risk across the enterprise;
- b.) Use root cause analysis to systematically and thoughtfully build risk management into work processes;
- c.) Proactively identify and monitor risk to quickly and efficiently address issues with high impact and/or visibility to the program;
- d.) 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;
- e.) Increase efficiency by identifying clear focus areas for leaders, managers, and staff, especially when facing multiple demands; and

- f.) 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-80. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	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.....	1,500	2,000	1,250	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	11,750

Current Law

Support EBT Modernization and EBT Benefit Theft Fraud Prevention

SNAP benefit theft, including through card skimming, card cloning, and other fraudulent methods is a significant new threat to the program. 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, using industry standards and considering feasibility. In addition to issuing these regulations, FNS needs to build out the EBT team to equip the agency to fight this new threat.

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-81. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority...	\$900	\$927	\$955	\$983	\$1,013	\$1,043	\$1,075	\$1,107	\$1,140	\$1,174	\$10,317
Outlays.....	675	920	948	976	1,006	1,036	1,067	1,099	1,132	1,166	10,024

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 resources 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 then 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-82. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	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.....	750	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	9,750

Current Law

Improve Integrity and Customer Service in TEFAP and FDPIR

This proposal would provide an additional \$1.5 million, adjusted annually for inflation, through the SNAP account to support additional federal staff and operational expenses for TEFAP and FDPIR. 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. Though the volume of USDA Foods purchases and additional resources provided to these programs has increased dramatically over the past few years, staff increases have not kept pace to support the additional oversight that these investments and initiatives require.

This funding will allow for increased staffing that will support these ongoing investments in equity and food sovereignty for Tribal Nations, including enhancing customer service and oversight of the expanded FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration Projects (638 contracts) and the Bison Purchase Pilot. Staff will be added to both the National and Regional Offices to facilitate increased FNS engagement with tribal communities, support tribal producers, and ensure program offerings continue to meet the needs of our tribal partners. In addition, staff will provide enhanced monitoring and stakeholder support in TEFAP for kosher, halal, and culturally relevant foods for program participants, the TEFAP Reach & Resiliency grants to provide oversight to ensure grant funds are used effectively and leverage best practices to better serve those in remote, rural, tribal and/or low-income areas that have been underserved by the program.

Table FNS-83. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	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.....	1,125	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	14,625

Current Law

SNAP Automation Innovation Emerging Technologies Grants

This proposal would fund a four-year competitive grant program for SNAP State agencies to develop, test, and implement automation 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 automation technology, Robotic Process Automation, otherwise known as RPA or “bots”, can be used to complete structured 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. Implemented poorly, however, bots can automate improper payments and poor service.

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 enable SNAP to evaluate the impact of emerging technologies on client access and program efficacy.

The proposal seeks an additional \$400,0000 per year for two staff in financial management to support the new grant program.

Table FNS-84. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2024	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$9,600
Outlays.....	1,800	2,400	2,400	2,400	\$600	-	-	-	-	-	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 the 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 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 FDPIR 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-85. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority.....	\$3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,000
Outlays.....	2,250	\$750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000

* Proposals originally submitted as part of the President's 2024 Budget but not included in baseline under a full year continuing resolution.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTEs*Table FNS-86. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

State/Territory/Country	2022 Actual	FTEs	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Estimated	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs
Alabama.....	\$814	5	\$733	4	\$1,075	6	\$748	6
Arkansas.....	174	-	349	-	230	-	356	-
Arizona.....	21	-	313	2	28	-	319	2
California.....	6,078	35	6,097	34	8,028	48	6,219	46
Colorado.....	3,067	18	4,112	23	4,051	24	4,195	31
Connecticut.....	424	2	420	2	560	3	429	3
District of Columbia.....	3,171	18	3,478	19	4,189	25	3,547	26
Delaware.....	174	1	259	1	230	1	264	2
Florida.....	2,267	13	1,886	11	2,995	18	1,924	14
Georgia.....	4,339	25	4,542	25	5,732	34	4,632	34
Hawaii.....	271	2	179	1	358	2	182	1
Iowa.....	153	1	161	1	202	1	164	1
Idaho.....	-	-	9	-	-	-	9	-
Illinois.....	3,247	19	4,184	23	4,290	26	4,268	32
Indiana.....	73-	4	590	3	965	6	602	4
Kentucky.....	348	2	125	1	459	3	128	1
Louisiana.....	-	-	241	1	-	-	246	2
Massachusetts.....	2,642	15	2,584	14	3,491	21	2,635	19
Maryland.....	4,659	27	5,212	29	6,155	37	5,316	39
Maine.....	195	1	223	1	257	2	228	2
Michigan.....	515	3	679	4	680	4	693	5
Minnesota.....	369	2	358	2	487	3	365	3
Missouri.....	522	3	1,225	7	689	4	1,249	9
North Carolina.....	709	4	1,028	6	937	6	1,049	8
New Hampshire.....	522	3	724	4	689	4	739	5
New Jersey.....	4,617	26	5,444	30	6,099	37	5,553	41
New Mexico.....	-	-	27	-	-	-	27	-
Nevada.....	21	-	447	-	28	-	456	-
New York.....	3,936	22	3,442	19	5,199	31	3,511	26
Ohio.....	702	4	626	3	928	6	638	5
Oklahoma.....	355	2	402	2	468	3	410	3
Oregon.....	841	5	939	5	1,111	7	957	7
Pennsylvania.....	2,858	16	3,531	20	3,775	23	3,602	27
Puerto Rico.....	70	-	170	1	92	1	173	1
Rhode Island.....	-	-	116	1	-	-	119	1
South Carolina.....	702	4	697	4	928	6	711	5
South Dakota.....	174	1	-	-	230	1	-	-
Tennessee.....	174	1	358	2	230	1	365	3
Texas.....	5,354	31	5,552	31	7,073	42	5,663	42
Utah.....	709	4	805	4	937	6	821	6
Virginia.....	189,565	70	254,237	147	193,420	97	254,732	196
Washington.....	702	4	921	5	928	6	939	7
Wisconsin.....	730	4	1,001	6	965	6	1,021	8
West Virginia.....	-	-	179	1	-	-	182	1
Wyoming.....	174	-	304	-	230	-	310	-
Total.....	247,095	397	318,909	499	269,418	551	320,697	674

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table FNS-87. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.....	\$20,250	\$24,294	\$27,871	\$34,604
	Personnel Compensation, Field	30,376	36,440	41,807	51,907
11	Total personnel compensation	50,626	60,734	69,678	86,511
12	Personal benefits	14,804	26,029	29,862	37,076
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	65,430	86,763	99,540	123,587
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	2,100	2,785	3,195	3,967
22.0	Transportation of things.....	200	265	304	378
23.3	Communications, utilities and misc. charges.....	250	332	380	472
24.0	Printing and reproductions	700	928	1,065	1,322
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	81,990	108,722	124,733	154,866
26.0	Supplies and materials	579,911	633,804	628,751	714,250
31.0	Equipment	1,000	1,326	1,521	1,889
41.0	Grants, subsidies and contributions	138,254,977	152,025,456	119,017,431	119,824,230
	Total, other objects	138,921,128	152,773,618	119,777,381	120,701,374
	Reimbursable obligations	93,273	118,225	150,000	150,000
99.9	Total, new obligations	139,079,831	152,978,606	120,026,921	120,974,961

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

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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 and farmers markets.

The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118-5, enacted in June 2023) revised the purpose statement of SNAP as follows: SNAP works to raise nutrition levels of low-income households by ensuring access to a healthful diet through nutrition assistance, nutrition education, and increasing earnings of SNAP households through employment.

Eligibility and allotment amounts are based on household size, income, expenses, assets, citizenship or legal immigration status, and other factors. Maximum allotment amounts 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).

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**Program Participation**

SNAP participation for 2023 averaged 42.14 million persons per month, representing approximately a 2.3 percent increase from the average monthly participation in 2022. The following table displays data on benefit costs and participation for s 2019 through 2023:

Table FNS-88. SNAP Benefit Costs and Participation

Item	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Avg. Participation (Millions)	35.70	39.85	41.55	41.21	42.14
Benefit Costs (Billions)	\$55.62	\$74.10	\$108.52	\$113.97	\$107.17
Average/Person/Month	\$129.83	\$154.94	\$217.65	\$230.48	\$211.59
Percent of Population Participating	10.7	12.0	12.5	12.3	12.6
Persons Unemployed (Millions)	6.2	11.7	9.6	6.2	6.0

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 monthly income of 81 percent of SNAP households was at or 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.

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-89. Characteristics of SNAP Recipients

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
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 data from other sources

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 from 2015 to 2017. Trafficking most typically occurs when SNAP benefits are traded for cash or are not used for their intended purpose. Despite holding trafficking to a low level, more work remains. In 2023, FNS again increased efforts to prevent and identify fraud, including emerging crimes such as EBT card skimming, 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 22,510 authorized stores and data to determine which warrant further investigation; imposed sanctions against 2,344 retailers determined to have committed violations against SNAP; and disqualified 999 retailers permanently from SNAP due to trafficking or falsifying an application.

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 \$3.0 million to support State agency efforts to improve and expand recipient fraud prevention, detection, and investigation efforts using the procedures, ideas and practices outlined in the SNAP Fraud Framework (Mississippi, Texas, Colorado, Michigan, Wisconsin). This assistance is a continuation of FNS's efforts surrounding the SNAP Fraud Framework, a collection of procedures, innovative ideas, and best practices that FNS issued to State agencies in May 2018. FNS also completed work on a project to gather information on emerging trends in recipient fraud. FNS plans to use the project's findings to inform future updates to the SNAP Fraud Framework.

National Accuracy Clearinghouse

In 2023, FNS continued development of the National Accuracy Clearinghouse (NAC) and continued working with State agencies to prepare for NAC implementation. This real-time data matching tool is intended to reduce improper payments by preventing duplicate participation across States.

The new NAC system builds on lessons learned from the NAC pilot. It also incorporates 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.

FNS is currently working with a subset of States who are preparing for NAC implementation in early 2024. NAC will be implemented nationwide by October 4, 2027, as required by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill).

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.

General Activities

Regulations Issued in 2023

During 2023, two SNAP rulemaking actions were published in the *Federal Register*:

- 1) April 18, 2023: Final rule: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Non-Discretionary Quality Control Provisions of Title IV of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018. Updates SNAP regulations to reflect numerous non-discretionary changes to the SNAP Quality Control System as required by the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018.
- 2) September 19, 2023: Proposed rule: Provisions to Improve the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's Quality Control System. The proposed changes are intended to strengthen and improve the integrity and accuracy of the SNAP QC system and to better align SNAP with requirements in the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA). These changes include a significant adjustment to the SNAP QC system that involves changes to Federal and State agency sampling processes, as well as shifting quality control reviews to focus only on cases with recent eligibility actions, which would result in more timely and proactive interventions when issues are identified.

Online Purchasing Pilots

The 2014 Farm Bill mandated a pilot to test the feasibility and implications of allowing SNAP authorized retailers 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.

As of September 2023, SNAP online purchasing is currently operational in all 50 States and the District of Columbia, throughout which, more than 260 retailer chains are live with SNAP online purchasing, representing thousands of actual stores. The expansion of SNAP online purchasing to independently owned and operated retail stores continue to be a priority for the Agency. SNAP is providing customer service and technical assistance to all interested parties.

In December 2022, FNS awarded a \$5 million grant, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to the National Grocers Association Foundation to help more retailers – especially smaller, independent stores – offer SNAP online purchasing. The National Grocers Association Foundation will create a technical assistance center to provide guidance and technical expertise to retailers, increasing client access to SNAP Online Purchasing. This will in turn 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 implement online purchasing in 2024.

Electronic Benefit Theft

In 2023, reports from State agencies of SNAP EBT benefit theft resulting from card skimming and cloning went from few and sporadic to a regular occurrence. While most States have not systematically collected skimming metrics, States reported that the call volume about this crime began to increase in scope and consistency during 2022. Card skimming can occur when thieves place physical devices on automatic teller machines (ATMs) and retail point of sale (POS) devices to obtain card number and PIN information. Information obtained from card skimming may be used to make fraudulent online transactions or may be used for card cloning, where thieves copy stolen card information onto blank cards.

These losses have a devastating effect on SNAP households. In many States, both cash (i.e., Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)) and SNAP benefits are loaded on the same EBT card, which means that all benefits are at risk once an EBT card has been compromised. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328), provides for the replacement of some stolen benefits with Federal funds and required FNS to issue guidance to State agencies and promulgate regulations to project and replace benefits. In January 2023, FNS issued guidance to State agencies outlining the requirements for replacement of stolen benefits plans. As of October 2023, FNS approved all 53 State agencies' plans to replace stolen benefits. State agencies varied the start dates for their replacement plans. Most States have implemented their plans and are replacing benefits.

To further address EBT card security, FNS has begun work on a proposed rule which is targeted for publication by October 2024 and engaged the Accredited Standards Committee X9 (ASC X9) to establish an Industry Forum concentrated on FNS's work to modernize the SNAP EBT Card from a magnetic stripe card to a chip-based card. ASC X9 is an independent third party that supports the financial services industry to create and maintain US and International standards that improve payments and securities transactions, protect data, and facilitate information exchange.

Grants to Improve Program Access and Eligibility Determination

FNS awarded Process and Technology Improvement Grants (PTIGs) to local and State SNAP agencies. 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 2023 PTIG awarded projects focused on modernizing SNAP customer service and client communication, improving administrative infrastructure and day-to-day SNAP operations, and investing in technology and systems to encourage cross collaboration and cross enrollment between SNAP and other Federal, State, and local assistance programs.

For 2023, FNS awarded six grants:

- District of Columbia Department of Human Services – \$904,859
- North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services – \$673,775
- County of Monterey Department of Social Services (CA) – \$858,348
- South Carolina Department of Social Services – \$1,006,468
- Ohio Department of Job and Family services – \$850,000
- Kansas Department for Children and Families - \$706,550

Longitudinal Data Project

FNS awarded \$4.2 million to two State agencies for the SNAP Longitudinal Data Project (LDP) grant. Section 17(n) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, enables research on SNAP program administration. The overarching goal of the SNAP (LDP) is to enable longitudinal research on participation in, and the operation of, SNAP over time and across State lines. Participating States transmit SNAP eligibility, benefit, and demographic information to a secure national-level database where it is made available for longitudinal research.

For 2023, FNS awarded two SNAP LDP grants:

- District of Columbia, Department of Human Services – \$1,974,400
- Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services – \$2,250,000

Earnings Verification System

In 2023, FNS awarded a five-year contract to two vendors, Equifax and Experian, for the SNAP Earnings Verification Service (EVS). The SNAP EVS provides State agencies with access to two commercial databases of employment and earnings records. State agencies administering SNAP can use the SNAP EVS to verify earned income sources and amounts for SNAP applicants and recipients. When a State SNAP agency queries each database, if the database contains earned income information for the SNAP applicant or recipient (a “match”), the State agency will receive that information instantaneously. If the match confirms the accuracy of the household-provided income information, the State agency can use it to satisfy the statutory requirement to verify earned income and additional verification is not required. FNS expects that SNAP EVS’s real-time access to current earned income information will contribute to both better payment accuracy and improved timeliness. In addition to verifying earned income sources and amounts, SNAP EVS may also help the State agency verify other SNAP eligibility factors, such as employment status and hours. Further, the State agency can use SNAP EVS, as necessary, to complete Quality Control reviews. State agencies using the SNAP EVS will receive unlimited matches through September 29, 2024, at no cost to the States. This is expected to provide a substantial return on investment, as many State agencies are currently facing increased application and recertification backlogs following the end of the public health emergency.

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 \$158 million in delinquent debt was collected through TOP in 2023. About \$3.4 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 2023, 47 State agencies had approved outreach plans.

SNAP Outreach Priorities Memo: In February 2023, FNS issued a memo outlining priority areas for Fiscal Year 2024 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, veterans, immigrant and mixed status households, older adults, and other underserved communities. 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.

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) Unwinding

In August 2022, FNS issued guidance to assist SNAP State agencies planning for the expiration of the Federal PHE. The guidance provided four administrative waivers to support State agencies as they addressed anticipated challenges in meeting SNAP Federal requirements due to the end of the PHE flexibilities and adjustments. The administrative waivers included simplified processes to streamline recertification procedures, waiving the certification interview, adjusting follow-up procedures for address changes, and alternative signature processes for capturing the telephonic signature. FNS continued to provide technical assistance to State SNAP agencies as they navigated staffing shortages and excessive workload during 2023, post PHE.

Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023

The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA) (Public Law 118-5, enacted in June 2023) gradually increased the age of those subject to the able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) time limit and added new groups of individuals excepted from the ABAWD time limit. In addition, it decreased States’ annual allotment of ABAWD

discretionary exemptions and limited States' ability to carry over unused discretionary exemptions. Finally, the FRA updated SNAP's purpose statement and required the Department to make State ABAWD waiver requests and agency approvals available to the public.

On June 9, 2023, FNS issued guidance to State agencies to support implementation of the FRA. In July and August 2023, SNAP issued two sets of questions and answers to provide additional guidance on the FRA provisions. FNS also monitored implementation readiness of SNAP State agencies and continues to provide technical assistance so that States can properly implement the provisions.

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.

To provide more proactive technical assistance on the front end of new system development, in 2023, USDA awarded another 5-year contract on system technical assistance. This new contract began in October 2023. Six States (Alabama, Hawaii, Nebraska, Mississippi, Missouri, and West Virginia,) and one FNS Regional Office (Northeast Region on behalf of projects in New York and Vermont) continue to receive technical assistance, with four additional technical assistance slots available. SNAP is working with regional offices and States interested in technical assistance to fill the remaining slots and plans to rotate other States into slots as each State completes their project. D-SNAP eligibility systems development will also be covered under this contract. The contractor focused on strengthening FNS's 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.

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 2023, SNAP-Ed funding was approximately \$506 million, up from \$464 million in 2022. 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 2024 SNAP-Ed Guidance, released in May 2023, provided updated information on FNS priorities and policies for SNAP-Ed. For example, FNS included detailed information and screen shots of the National Program Evaluation and Reporting Systems (N-PEARS) to assist State agencies in meeting SNAP-Ed reporting requirements. Additionally, the guidance clarified State Tribal Consultation requirements and encouraged the use of policy, systems, and environmental change interventions to support SNAP-Ed agencies in advancing food and nutrition security. In July 2023, FNS hosted webinars for SNAP-Ed State and implementing agencies to discuss the guidance updates and share best practices on Tribal Consultations.

SNAP-Ed Data Improvement: To address provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill, FNS worked with the Kansas State University Research Foundation to develop the National Program Evaluation and Reporting Systems (N-PEARS) for SNAP-Ed electronic data collection and reporting. In May 2023, FNS launched N-PEARS and made it available to all State agencies for the submission of their 2024 SNAP-Ed State Plans. In 2023, FNS provided States with modules for completing their 2023 Annual Reports in the system. N-PEARS will improve SNAP-Ed's ability to collect, manage, and aggregate data to measure program effectiveness and accountability at the national level.

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. In 2023, the SNAP-Ed Connection was redesigned to improve best practice and resource sharing; support State agency program development, implementation, and evaluation; and provide the public with access to SNAP-Ed data. The modernized site went live in May 2023, and features State profile pages that highlight success stories, reports, and State-created materials, including evidence-based interventions and curricula. FNS also added 21 success stories, 3 recorded webinars, the SNAP-Ed Needs Assessment Toolkit, recorded trainings and webpages celebrating cultural heritage months, with links to culturally relevant nutrition education resources. As of September 2023, the SNAP-Ed Connection email newsletter has a total of 213,605 subscribers, which is a 26 percent increase from 2022.

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. In 2023, FNS implemented a contract to support the integration of the SNAP-Ed Toolkit website with the SNAP-Ed Connection website, which is expected to be complete in 2024.

SNAP-Ed Recipes: The MyPlate Kitchen website provides recipes and resources to support building healthy and budget-friendly meals. The website currently includes 862 SNAP-Ed recipes that are maintained and updated by FNS. In 2023, FNS updated 419 of the existing Spanish recipes to ensure they align with the updated English versions. In September 2023, SNAP secured a new contract for translation services, which will support FNS in updating the remaining 444 Spanish recipes in 2024. FNS also plans to add new culturally diverse entries to MyPlate Kitchen in 2024.

SNAP-Ed Equity: In 2023, SNAP-Ed completed a review of program practices, and engaged key stakeholders, SNAP-Ed providers, and organizations representing historically underserved populations to identify strategies to increase equity in SNAP-Ed program notification, planning, and implementation. In December 2022, SNAP-Ed released the Needs Assessment Toolkit to help SNAP-Ed providers conduct comprehensive, equity-focused assessments to inform their program planning and funding distribution. The SNAP-Ed Management Evaluation Guide is also being updated in the fall of 2023 to include reviews of State agencies' Tribal consultation and other questions to evaluate equitable program access.

SNAP-Ed Collaborations: In 2023, SNAP-Ed developed and started to implement a strategic plan focused on improving collaboration with partner organizations. SNAP-Ed collaboration objectives include building trust and enhancing customer service, increasing purposeful interactions and innovations with existing partner organizations, expanding and creating new partnerships in the healthcare and food system sectors, and supporting FNS's State Nutrition Action Council initiative for cross-program coordination and multisector collaborations at the National, Tribal, regional, State, and local levels.

Incentive Programs to Increase Healthy Food Purchases in SNAP

Encouraging SNAP families to purchase more healthy foods remains an important priority for FNS. In 2023, 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 participants. 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. 2023 awards were announced

in November 2023 totaling over \$52 million. FNS works collaboratively with NIFA and the GusNIP Technical Assistance Center to support GusNIP grant awardees.

Retailer Incentives

As defined in 7 U.S.C. 2018 (j), authorized SNAP retailers may incentivize the purchase of fruits, vegetables, fat-free or low-fat dairy, or whole grain products with SNAP benefits in accordance with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Incentives funded by retailers, non-profit organizations, or local/State governments, can follow a multitude of models. The most common models allow SNAP customers to either receive the incentive as: 1) an automatic dollar-for-dollar match up to a capped amount in the form of a paper or loyalty card coupon to use on a future purchase of additional healthy foods at the partnering store, 2) a percentage discount at the point of sale for the purchase of SNAP-eligible incentive foods, or 3) an automatic rebate back onto the SNAP customer’s EBT card for use on any SNAP-eligible purchase at any authorized retailer.

In 2023, 10 entities were approved to operate incentive projects to encourage the purchase of healthy foods among SNAP families.

Table FNS-90. 2023 SNAP Incentive Projects

Retailer/Non-Profit Funded	Local Government Funded	State Funded
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluff Country Co-Op- Winona, Minnesota • Menomonie Food Co-Op- Menomonie, Wisconsin • Meijer- 500+ stores across Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, and Wisconsin • American Heart Association/Southpoint Community Market- Dallas, Texas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment- Seattle, Washington • 4 Seattle grocery stores • Marion County Public Health Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5 independently owned Safeway’s ○ 1 local bodega 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California EBT Incentive Program • Massachusetts Healthy Incentive Program (HIP) • Washington Electronic Healthy Incentive Program (eHIP) • Rhode Island Healthy Incentive Program (HIP)

Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive Project

In the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress authorized up to \$20 million for Healthy Fluid Milk Incentives (HFMI) competitive grants. HFMI projects are intended 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. USDA received appropriations of \$3 million in 2022, and \$4 million in 2023.

The 2020 grantee, Baylor University, concluded the first HFMI pilot in April 2022. Baylor University was also the 2021 grantee. Baylor launched a one-year project at a chain store in Texas and at select stores in New Jersey. Baylor was subsequently approved to operate for an additional year at more store locations, and in two new States, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. The 2022 grantee, Auburn University’s Hunger Solutions Institute (Auburn,) launched the 2022 project at 39 stores across Alabama, Georgia, and South Dakota. Auburn expects to launch the project at 77 additional stores in California, early in Calendar Year 2024. Project operations at all store locations will continue through September 2025.

The 2023 grant was again awarded to Auburn who will expand the project to 575 stores across 15 States: Alabama, California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Washington. The 2023 project will operate through September 2026.

Electronic Healthy Incentives Pilot

Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, USDA authorized \$25 million to enter into cooperative agreements with State agencies on a competitive basis to carry out Electronic Healthy Incentive Projects (eHIP) under USDA’s Framework to Transform the Food System. eHIP is intended to streamline incentives and make it easier for SNAP households to access the healthy foods necessary for lifelong health and well-being.

In June 2023, FNS announced that Colorado, Louisiana, and Washington were selected to receive grants as well as federal support to establish and operate eHIP. Each of the pilot States will upgrade its SNAP system so incentive dollars can be loaded directly onto participants' EBT cards. The eHIP pilots aim to test incentive models that reduce administrative costs, allowing more incentive dollars to reach SNAP participants.

- Colorado's project will target a variety of small and independent stores, farmers markets, retail chains and locally grown foods. SNAP participants who purchase qualifying fruits and vegetables using their SNAP benefits will receive 100 percent of the dollars spent on the qualifying purchase back on their EBT card to be subsequently redeemed on the purchase of any SNAP eligible food, up to \$60 per month, per household.
- Louisiana's project targets marginalized, high food insecurity, tribal, rural, persistent poverty, low-income and low-access communities where residents suffer from diet-related diseases. SNAP participants will receive \$0.30 for every dollar of SNAP benefits spent on fruits and vegetables back onto their EBT card to be redeemed during a subsequent purchase for any SNAP eligible food, up to \$25 per month.
- Washington's project targets communities with low-income/low access, rural, tribal, persistent poverty counties, high SNAP caseload, aging, young, and culturally diverse populations. SNAP participants who purchase a qualifying fruit or vegetable using SNAP benefits will receive 100 percent of the qualifying purchase back onto their EBT card which can be redeemed for a subsequent purchase of any SNAP eligible food, up to \$50 per month.

All three projects are expected to launch in 2024.

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 2023, FNS continued operation of three demonstration project types (Combined Application Projects, Elderly Simplified Application Projects, and Standard Medical Deductions) to improve access to SNAP for 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 2023, 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 2023, Illinois, Rhode Island, District of Columbia, and Louisiana implemented new ESAPs. In addition, 18 other States continued to operate ESAPs: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

Standard Medical Deductions (SMDs) are demonstration projects that ease verification requirements for senior and disabled households with out-of-pocket medical expenses over \$35 per month. In 2023, 24 States operated Standard Medical Deduction projects: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, and Wyoming.

Payment Accuracy

The SNAP payment error rate is a measure of how accurately states determine eligibility and benefit amounts. In June 2023, FNS issued the national and State SNAP payment error rates for the first time in two years, following the suspension of quality control per statute during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The national overpayment error rate for 2022 was 9.84 percent and the underpayment error rate was 1.7 percent. States are assigned a financial liability if they have high payment error rates for two consecutive fiscal years. FNS did not assess a financial liability for any State for 2022 since FNS did not announce SNAP payment error rates in 2021. However, 12 States

were in a first-year potential liability status (Alaska, District of Columbia, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Tennessee) due to their 2022 payment error rates.

Importantly, because of the temporary policy circumstances in place during the pandemic, the 2022 overpayment rates do not directly equate to a loss to the government. The 2022 payment error rates reflect payment accuracy of the regular SNAP benefit—but in that year, 45 states were providing emergency allotments. The overpayment rate does not account for the fact that, while some households received an overpayment of their basic SNAP benefit, the combined total of regular SNAP plus their emergency allotment payment did not exceed the capped amount allowed by law.

FNS is committed to supporting states in improving payment accuracy in SNAP to ensure the program effectively and efficiently serves those who need it and promotes good stewardship of taxpayer dollars. To that end, FNS has been working with State agencies throughout the fiscal year to support their efforts. For example, FNS provided States with targeted technical assistance, a pilot program for income verification, improved data analysis tools, and additional training. FNS plans to continue these efforts in 2024, by providing additional tools and resources for State agencies to analyze their root causes of error and target corrective action plans to address identified causes. FNS plans on providing this technical assistance through various means, including one-on-one technical assistance and virtual and in-person trainings. For example, 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.

Also in 2023, FNS published a proposed rule focused on updating SNAP Quality Control to improve system integrity and accuracy and modernize how SNAP measures improper payments following from a directive included in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.

Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP)

FNS's 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 2023:

Table FNS-91. 2023 SNAP Disaster Assistance

State	Time	Disaster	Total Households (New cases and ongoing HHs)	Total Issuance (D-SNAP benefits and supplements)
Florida.....	Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan	Hurricane Ian	738,100	\$313,516,782
California	Feb, Mar, Apr	Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, Mudslides	1,470	1,067,836
Mississippi	Apr	Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes	15,526	7,166,025
Arkansas.....	Apr, May	Tornadoes	4,962	2,867,868
California	Apr, May, Jun, Jul	Severe Winter Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides	1,500	896,085
Oklahoma	May	Tornadoes	654	428,004
Tennessee	May	Tornadoes-Severe Storms	31	13,331
Guam	Jun	Typhoon Mawar	43,487	33,743,375
California	Jun	Severe Storms, Mudslides	55	33,255
Hawaii.....	Sepr	Wildfires	4,330	4,420,729
Florida.....	Sep, Oct	Hurricane Idalia	42,990	16,992,069
Total			853,105	\$381,145,359

Employment and Training (E&T)

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 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 to receive benefits for more than 3 months in a 36-month period.

FNS is currently analyzing data on SNAP participants subject to SNAP work requirements in 2023. An update on the number of individuals subject to these work requirements and registered for work, as reported to FNS on the FNS-583, will be available at a later date. Most 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 2023, States served an estimated 315,203 participants through their E&T programs.

SNAP E&T is funded under four funding streams:

Table FNS-92. SNAP E&T Funding Streams

Budget Item	Description	2023 Enacted (in 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	\$103,900
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	451,553
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	74,382
Total		\$649,835

In 2023, FNS awarded E&T Data and Technical Assistance Grants (DATA) to five State SNAP agencies and community partners. SNAP E&T Data and Technical Assistance grants will support improved, data-driven SNAP E&T programs in the District of Columbia, Oregon, Ohio, Michigan, and Connecticut. Grantees received between \$750,000 and \$1.5 million to strengthen program data collection. The purpose of these grants is to support the development of State SNAP E&T data collection and reporting systems. This year's RFA specifically sought

proposals that: 1) advance State use of data to address equity issues in SNAP E&T programs, or 2) help States improve the validity and reliability of their SNAP E&T data. The total amount awarded was approximately \$5 million.

In 2023, FNS awarded approximately \$5 million in three-year SNAP E&T National Partnership Grants to four grantees: the Goodwill Industries International, National Community Action Partnership, National Governors Association, and Roberts Enterprise Development Fund (REDF). Grantees are national non-profit organizations with broad member or affiliate networks that provide direct workforce development services to low-income and low-skilled individuals, including SNAP participants. Grant funds will be used to increase organizational capacity to provide technical assistance to network members or affiliates to become third-party SNAP E&T providers, ultimately increasing States' ability to provide high-quality E&T services to SNAP participants.

Since 2015, FNS has operated the SNAP to Skills Project (S2S), a technical assistance (TA) 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 2023, S2S used two approaches to TA. First, S2S offered States the ongoing option to request "rapid response" 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, New York, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Ohio. Additionally, S2S operated the two-day SNAP to Skills State Institute for 20 States in Alexandria, Virginia in September 2023. The State Institute included speakers, breakout sessions and dedicated worktime designed to help States take their SNAP E&T vision to action. These technical assistance initiatives are central to FNS's efforts to improve the quality of State SNAP E&T programs and to help SNAP recipients move towards economic self-sufficiency.

In addition to 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 2024, FNS anticipates releasing new SNAP to Skills resources focused on helping States and SNAP E&T providers better understand and implement SNAP E&T operations and financial management best practices.

Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems

Eligible SNAP households are issued a plastic benefit card, like 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 2023, FNS approved five RFPs, nine contracts, and reviewed and approved 57 EBT contract amendments. The number of contract amendments remained significantly higher in 2023 than the historical average of about 10 per year. As in 2022, this high number of contract amendments was still due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, and the fact that many States continued to execute various amendments, change orders, or updates to carry out Pandemic EBT benefits. In addition, there were many amendments by States supporting changes to help mitigate and reduce EBT fraud.

Retailer File System (RFS): This system is built using multi-tier application architecture on a single platform, providing users with the ability to 1) safeguard the integrity, content, and original image of retailers' documents, 2) reduce paper retention, 3) eliminate the need for creating and tracking physical folders, 4) mitigate security risk of transfer of physical files, and 5) reduce costs associated with storing and transferring files. The system allows users to upload documents using a scanning application and via the Store Tracking and Redemption System (STARS). Additionally, RFS is now integrated with the Store Visit Contract (SVC) Webservice which enables uploading of retailer store visit deliverables directly into RFS. This integration helps reduce storage and on-going maintenance costs for approximately 8TB worth of retailer store visit data. While in the RFS system, users can perform document quality control tasks, view electronic records, and download files as needed.

Anti-fraud Locator using EBT Retailer Transactions (ALERT): During 2023, 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.

Store Tracking and Redemption System (STARS): Four releases of STARS were completed in 2023. STARS is the system used by FNS to manage retailer participation in SNAP. Several system enhancements were made in 2023 to ensure the system remains aligned with the needs of end-users and supports financial reconciliation activities. Work on a new, modern STARS also began in 2023; work to transition to this modern system will continue through 2024.

Studies and Evaluations

FNS published four major reports related to SNAP during 2023. The reports are available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/research-analysis>. These include:

- **Evaluation of Technology Modernization for SNAP Benefit Redemption Through Online Transactions:** This study evaluated the implications of online SNAP benefit redemption on program integrity using redemption data from five retailers in six States.
- **Analysis of Robotic Process Automation in SNAP: Three Case Studies:** This study examines the use of robotic process automation (RPA) technologies by three State agencies—Georgia, New Mexico, and Connecticut—to administer SNAP. RPA is software that integrates with other programs to automatically complete repetitive processes that normally are performed by humans. To issue benefits to new and recertifying households, SNAP State agencies must verify certain household information to determine eligibility, which requires staff to complete various administrative tasks. Many tasks involve routine data entry subject to error, so some States use RPA technology to automate these repetitive tasks to improve customer service, increase productivity, and reduce errors. This study estimates RPA impacts on time needed to certify SNAP applications, costs of RPA, and State staff perception of RPA.
- **Modernizing Channels of Communication with SNAP Participants:** The primary purpose of this study was to better understand the current landscape of Mobile communication strategies (MCS) technology, and highlight best practices and lessons learned from various MCS programs implemented by SNAP State agencies.
- **Survey of SNAP E&T's Program Case Management:** With the passage of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (known as the 2018 Farm Bill), States are now required to provide case management to all SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program participants. Although some States have provided case management as part of their SNAP E&T programs for many years, others are now implementing it for the first time or enhancing their services in response to this requirement. States' case management and assessment practices have not been well documented. The purpose of this study is to help FNS better understand how States are implementing the SNAP E&T case management requirement.

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 and each fiscal year thereafter. This grant program is administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Farmers' Markets and Direct-Marketing Farmers

In 2023, FNS continued work through a grant to a non-profit organization to increase the participation of farmers and markets in SNAP, thereby improving access to fresh fruits and vegetables by SNAP recipients. This grant was awarded in 2019 and again in 2023, with approximately \$4 million provided to the grantee over 4 years each time. FNS's goal is to continue to move farmers to a cost-efficient mobile payment application-based solution that enables processing via smart phones owned by a farmer.

In 2021, FNS awarded a multi-year grant to a non-profit organization to support the participation of farmers in the online purchasing program. In 2022, an ecommerce platform was developed and tested for use by farmers to accept SNAP benefits online. In 2023, farmers began using this ecommerce platform to accept SNAP payments online. This grant will continue to provide a subsidized ecommerce platform to assist SNAP authorized farmers in their ability to accept online SNAP payments.

The number of SNAP-authorized farmers markets and direct marketing farmers totaled 6,038 in 2022. While the number of SNAP-authorized farmers markets for 2023 has not yet been determined, the value of SNAP benefits redeemed at farmers markets and direct marketing farmers in 2023 totaled \$72 million.

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.

Facts in Brief

- On average, an estimated 1.42 million people were served monthly during 2023.
- In 2023, total benefit costs were about \$2.65 billion for the Regular NAP.
- Puerto Rico spent an estimated \$39 million of Federal funds on administrative activities in 2023, which are matched by an equivalent amount of State funds.
- In 2023, Puerto Rico received funding for both benefit issuance and administration of the P-EBT program. The total value of benefits distributed in 2023 was \$36,325,000. The total funding distributed for administration of P-EBT was \$307,000. Based on the FNS approved State P-EBT plan, benefits were distributed to approximately 291,746 children during Summer 2023.

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 s 2020 through 2023 are as follows:

Table FNS-93. Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico Summary of Funding (\$ in Thousands)

Item	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual
Benefits Costs	\$1,906,371	\$1,985,094	\$2,467,446	\$2,645,666
Administrative Costs.....	28,760	31,373	30,813	28,102
Nutrition Education Program.....	35	35	41	39
Total Federal Funds.....	1,935,166	2,016,502	2,498,300	2,673,807
State Administrative Costs.....	28,760	31,373	30,813	28,102
Total Program Costs.....	1,963,926	2,047,875	2,529,113	2,701,909

Table FNS-94. NAP 2021-2023 Supplemental Relief (\$ in Thousands)

Item	20/21	2021	2021	2021 NAP	2022 NAP	2023 NAP
	FFCRA/ CARES	ARPA	2021 COVID	PEBT	PEBT	PEBT
Benefits Costs	\$294,051	\$250,459	\$596,449	\$725,245	\$283,961	\$36,235
Administrative Costs.....	2,743	50	1,150	1,777	554	307
Total Federal Funds.....	296,794	250,509	597,599	727,022	284,515	36,542
Total Program Costs.....	296,794	250,509	597,599	727,022	284,515	36,542

Participation

From its inception, the NAP in Puerto Rico has served a much higher proportion of Puerto Rico’s total population compared to the SNAP program in the United States as a whole. This is due, in part, to persistent challenging economic conditions which have kept average income levels in Puerto Rico lower than those in the rest of the

United States. This continues to be the case under the block grant program. An average of 1.429 million persons were served monthly or about 46 percent of Puerto Rico's total estimated population of 3.2 million participated in the program in 2023. Average monthly participation for s 2012 through 2022 actual and 2023 estimate is as follows:

Table FNS-95. Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico Summary of Participation

Item	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual
Average # of Persons (millions).....	1.43	1.53	1.48	1.42
Average # of Households	758,367	858,345	784,168	804,660
Average Household Size (persons)	1.88	1.79	1.89	1.76
Average Benefit per Household	\$29	\$292	\$262	\$282

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.

Facts in Brief

- A monthly average of 4,515 persons, or about 9 percent of American Samoa's total estimated population of 49,710 (based on 2020 Census) was served and issued ASNAP benefits during 2023.
- In 2023, average monthly benefits cost \$737,901 or \$163.43 per person. American Samoa spent \$1,582,436 for administrative activities for 2023. The block granting provides for 100 percent of administrative and benefit costs.
- The program serves the low-income elderly, blind, and disabled population.
- American Samoa utilizes printed food coupons.
- In 2023, American Samoa received funding for both benefit issuance and administration of the P-EBT program. The total value of benefits distributed in 2023 was \$8,400,000. The total funding distributed for administration of P-EBT was \$283,533. Based on the FNS approved State P-EBT plan, benefits were distributed to approximately 14,000 students.
- For 2023 American Samoa's block grant increased to \$11,308,000 due to the estimated increase in the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP). \$9,041,438 of the budget consisted of funding for benefits.

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 authorized 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 increased the income eligibility limits, increased the allotment benefits for each of the islands, implemented a new eligibility system with Electronic Benefit Transfer interface capabilities, and adjusted resources (staffing and administrative costs.)

Facts in Brief

- In 2023, CNMI's annual NAP block grant was increased from \$30 million to \$34 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 operate based on a 24-months performance period contingent the funds are expended consistently 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. A total of \$5,657,829 was carried over from 2022 to 2023.
- In 2023, CNMI was approved to use \$22,500,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) for benefits (\$16,236,258) and administrative cost (\$212,168).
- For 2023, CNMI was operating on a total budget of \$56,500,000 to implement NAP.
- In the NAP Program, an average of 5,030 households were served per month during 2023 for an average of \$3,590,136 per month or \$628.05 per household.
- CNMI NAP is allowed to set the eligibility standards within the capped block grant.
- CNMI NAP utilizes food coupons.
- CNMI NAP has a signed contract with Fidelity National Information Services (FIS) for the implementation of the EBT system. Conversion from the paper coupons to the EBT is scheduled to begin in 2024.
- In 2023, CNMI received funding for both benefit issuance and administration of the P-EBT program. The total value of benefits distributed in 2023 was \$14,000,000. The total funding distributed for administration of P-EBT was \$498,183. Based on the FNS approved State P-EBT plan, benefits were distributed to approximately 10,255 students.

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.

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 130 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 unsweetened juices
- Frozen and canned beef, chicken, pork, fish, and traditional proteins such as bison, walleye, catfish, and wild salmon
- 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 milk, 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-96. FDPIR Participation and Costs

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023
Average Participation (in thousands)	74.9	47.9	45.2	49.6
Per Person Per Month Cost (Entitlement)	\$73.63	\$77.37	\$87.02	\$86.90
Total FNS Food Cost (\$ in millions)	\$68.14	\$30.44	\$47.20	\$51.80

Note: Total Per Person Food Costs differ from Table FNS-78 (commodity procurement obligations) due to inventory level changes.

Self-Determination Demonstration Project

During 2023, FNS continued to implement the FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration Project authorized under the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334). The demonstration project allows for FNS to enter into self-determination contracts with Tribes to purchase food for distribution to their FDPIR participants, in lieu of USDA purchasing the food. To date, FNS has received a total of \$12 million in combined appropriations to carry out this demonstration project (\$3 million in each of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023).

During 2023, appropriations were applied to a demonstration project expansion which increased the number of participating Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) from a previous eight to 16. All contracts awarded through the demonstration project are three years in duration, with newly awarded contracts running through 2026. FNS continued to work closely with the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), to support and manage the contract execution of the demonstration project, with BIA drafting, negotiating, and executing each of the new awards. In 2023, FNS also worked to secure a third-party evaluation of all demonstration projects. Evaluation activities are scheduled to begin in early 2024. Additionally, FNS engaged in three Tribal consultation meetings with Tribal leaders in 2023 to receive input and feedback on project criteria and expansion. For additional information about the project, please visit: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fdpi/self-determination>. The Self-Determination Demonstration Project supports the inclusion of preferred traditional foods, adds flexibility in delivery schedules and storage, and supports Tribal choice of food procurement. The contracts awarded through the Demonstration Project also support Tribal producers through agricultural, husbandry, and fishing operations. Feedback from participating Tribes is overall positive, with many highlighting the benefits to Tribal economies and appreciation from FDPIR participants.

USDA DoD Fresh Innovation

In 2023, FNS and the Department of Defense (DoD) Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) worked together to enable ITOs administering FDPIR 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 deliveries of a wide variety of fresh produce to ITOs as well as school cafeterias, central kitchens, SFSP sponsors, and State agencies. In response to feedback from Tribal leaders, FNS and DoD have jointly developed and implemented a series of program innovations to improve product quality, customer service, and program oversight. These innovations include increased vendor oversight and inspections conducted by DLA and USDA to ensure contract compliance; enhanced data collection and analysis to identify trends in vendor noncompliance and provide greater transparency to FDPIR operators; revised Inter Agency Agreement (IAA) provisions that focus on the needs of Tribal and school customers; and new vendor contract provisions to be used in future contracts that address the unique needs and challenges associated with Tribal locations. These innovations will benefit all FNS programs that utilize USDA DoD Fresh, including schools.

FDPIR Bison Pilot

In September 2023, USDA initiated a pilot aimed at offering more localized ground bison meat for tribal communities through FDPIR. The pilot will look at changes to how USDA purchases bison to better support buying the meat from local, small, and mid-sized bison herd managers and delivering it directly to their local tribal communities. These local purchases will reduce the time and distance the meat travels to the consumer, increase economic development market opportunities for tribal and local bison operations, and provide high quality,

nutritious foods for nutrition assistance programs. Four tribal and local producers were awarded contracts to provide bison to FDPIR programs in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Contracts were awarded to:

- Akicita Consulting (owned by the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe)
- Brownotter Buffalo Ranch (operating on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation)
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Buffalo Authority Corporation (owned by the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation)
- Dakota Pure Bison (operating on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation)

Deliveries through the pilot are expected between November 2023-April 2024.

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, Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) staff, is focusing on ways to better meet the nutritional needs and cultural 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 and bison stew meat, 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 vegetable stir fry blend, olive oil, and bison stew meat. As a result of the research, frozen strawberries and bison stew meat were made available in 2023 to program participants through the food package. Low sodium turkey deli meat, olive oil, and frozen vegetable stir fry blend are expected to be made available in 2024.

Nutrition Education Activities

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 an 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 cooperative agreement to OKTEP to conduct additional regional in-person trainings for FDPIR local agency staff each year until 2025. During 2023, OKTEP conducted five in-person trainings for 65 participants in the Western, Mountain Plains, Midwest, and Southwest regions, reaching 35 Tribes and 7 villages. Six trainings are scheduled for 2024.

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. Additionally in 2022, administrative funds for nutrition education increased to \$4 million to allow for more dedicated funds to be disseminated to ITOs and State agencies administering FDPIR for nutrition education activities. 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. ITOs can request additional funding above 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.

In 2023, FNS distributed \$3,977,040 in administrative funds for nutrition education to 85 ITOs to support nutrition security in Tribal communities. In response to Tribal Leaders' requests for a non-competitive and simplified process to receive funding for nutrition education activities that support cultural practices, FNS discontinued the competitive

grant program, FDPNE, giving Tribes more flexibility for allowable expenses that promote culturally appropriate approaches to nutrition education.

To further support nutrition education efforts in tribal communities, FNS developed a series of culturally responsive nutrition education resources specific for FDPIR. In 2023, these resources were made available, free of charge, to FDPIR program operators across the country through the US Government Printing Office Distribution and Fulfillment Service. Over 30,000 resources were ordered, printed, and delivered to tribes.

FDPIR Automated Inventory System

In 2018, FNS began to replace the Automated Inventory System (AIS), an old, non-web-based system used by most ITOs to manage inventory and food issuance for FDPIR. In 2023, FNS continued work on the new Integrated Food Management System (IFMS), an updated food ordering, inventory management, and certification 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 109 ITOs out of 119 ITOs (or 92 percent) using the IFMS system or alternate system by the end of 2023.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Table FNS-97. Summary of Benefit Costs, Participation and State Administrative Funding 2023

State or Territory	Persons (1,000's)	Households (1000's)	Total Value of Benefits Issued (\$1,000's)	Average Monthly Benefits Per Person	State Administrative, Nutrition Education and Employment & Training Funding (\$1,000's)
Alabama.....	869	484	\$2,171,049	\$208.24	\$59,605
Alaska.....	55	27	269,570	406.54	9,072
Arizona.....	1,019	546	2,200,581	179.98	69,786
Arkansas.....	278	155	559,365	167.87	55,726
California.....	6,447	4,219	16,965,871	219.29	1,322,765
Colorado.....	636	368	1,671,703	219.06	91,031
Connecticut.....	455	274	1,262,314	231.36	79,616
Delaware.....	127	64	307,106	201.56	23,987
District of Columbia.....	145	88	395,401	226.67	29,644
Florida.....	3,432	1,970	7,867,918	191.06	88,307
Georgia.....	1,787	944	3,968,788	185.11	118,645
Hawaii.....	151	81	850,629	469.00	32,340
Idaho.....	129	65	271,627	175.62	9,083
Illinois.....	2,342	1,402	6,134,615	218.27	167,573
Indiana.....	686	341	1,451,319	176.33	80,104
Iowa.....	283	152	538,474	158.57	20,681
Kansas.....	208	106	574,551	230.62	29,595
Kentucky.....	677	269	1,173,409	144.50	100,187
Louisiana.....	1,062	607	2,563,387	201.13	84,576
Maine.....	189	115	486,819	214.93	16,394
Maryland.....	785	421	1,824,201	193.62	102,252
Massachusetts.....	1,151	716	3,178,831	230.08	95,439
Michigan.....	1,526	838	3,798,884	207.45	127,193
Minnesota.....	518	293	1,497,763	240.92	83,049
Mississippi.....	432	235	1,013,475	195.64	29,163
Missouri.....	712	373	1,718,555	201.13	76,285
Montana.....	88	45	182,028	173.10	12,611
Nebraska.....	194	102	409,701	175.76	26,132
Nevada.....	580	346	1,397,152	200.80	37,733
New Hampshire.....	81	44	212,943	218.76	9,788
New Jersey.....	876	475	2,264,896	215.54	183,522
New Mexico.....	633	318	1,394,046	183.63	31,946
New York.....	3,291	2,048	10,197,421	258.21	398,826
North Carolina.....	1,785	957	4,294,201	200.48	144,286
North Dakota.....	48	24	102,722	180.14	13,436
Ohio.....	1,660	973	3,716,183	186.51	146,722
Oklahoma.....	936	598	1,940,027	172.76	60,313
Oregon.....	803	492	2,076,549	215.42	177,412
Pennsylvania.....	2,193	1,291	5,451,816	207.19	218,056
Rhode Island.....	146	90	411,147	234.59	23,627
South Carolina.....	670	354	1,642,370	204.35	36,772
South Dakota.....	71	35	164,656	191.99	11,378
Tennessee.....	817	450	1,893,216	193.03	115,872
Texas.....	3,680	1,804	10,105,769	228.85	172,295
Utah.....	187	92	419,488	187.10	22,213
Vermont.....	81	48	210,959	218.10	12,582
Virginia.....	1,116	543	2,345,263	175.18	185,189
Washington.....	981	597	2,456,893	208.79	131,637
West Virginia.....	326	180	783,150	200.00	20,015
Wisconsin.....	711	373	1,710,380	200.37	81,114
Wyoming.....	37	20	92,304	207.65	10,540
Guam.....	48	18	183,204	315.70	2,864
Virgin Islands.....	23	12	84,383	300.07	4,435
Anticipated Adjustment.....	6,021	5,194	-1,715,103	77.00	832,608
TOTAL.....	54,18448,161	32,676	\$119,143,970	\$211.59	\$6,126,022

NOTE: These data are based in part on preliminary data submitted by State and Local agencies subject to change as revised reports are received. Total 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.

Table FNS-98. Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Participation and Funding 2023

State or Territory	Average Monthly Participation	Food Costs ^{1/}	Admin Funding ^{2/}	Total
Alaska	278	\$290,602	\$293,069	\$583,671
Arizona.....	4,765	5,213,078	1,876,701	7,089,779
California	2,232	2,216,340	3,469,611	5,685,951
Colorado.....	180	169,763	218,605	388,368
Idaho	814	836,933	779,084	1,616,017
Kansas.....	414	390,965	120,694	511,659
Maine	18	13,092	324,392	337,484
Michigan	1,154	1,148,050	1,397,699	2,545,749
Minnesota.....	1,090	1,236,970	1,911,768	3,148,738
Mississippi	975	793,150	394,970	1,188,120
Montana	2,666	2,723,768	3,273,681	5,997,449
Nebraska	881	740,033	520,672	1,260,705
Nevada	713	600,127	813,559	1,413,686
New Mexico.....	1,223	1,106,678	1,766,328	2,873,006
New York	182	150,980	535,676	686,656
North Carolina	484	493,191	365,270	858,461
North Dakota.....	4,063	4,120,494	2,368,583	6,489,077
Oklahoma.....	16,449	18,048,373	10,832,487	28,880,860
Oregon.....	300	337,639	1,043,394	1,381,033
South Dakota.....	6,958	7,541,377	4,269,983	11,811,360
Texas	44	26,644	176,017	202,661
Utah.....	211	194,036	53,333	247,369
Washington.....	1,758	1,617,573	2,628,430	4,246,003
Wisconsin.....	1,271	1,228,850	1,836,700	3,065,550
Wyoming.....	516	544,579	200,468	745,047
AMS / WEBSCM / Computer Support.....	-	776,147	-	776,147
Anticipated Adjustment	-	31,536,568	30,008,826	61,545,394
TOTAL.....	49,639	\$84,096,000	\$71,480,000	\$155,576,000

Source: FPRS FNS-152 data - Food distributed to participants in fiscal year 2023.

^{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.

Table FNS-99. Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Quantity and Value of Commodities 2023

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	Pounds	Value
Applesauce, Unsweetened, Cup.....	491,400	\$474,019
Apricots, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	218,700	308,837
Beans, Canned, Black, Low-Sodium.....	71,145	45,502
Beans, Canned, Green, Low-Sodium.....	606,825	437,575
Beans, Canned, Light Red Kidney, Low-Sodium.....	320,153	212,821
Beans, Canned, Pinto, Low-Sodium.....	249,008	166,051
Beans, Canned, Refried, Low-Sodium.....	257,040	288,023
Beans, Canned, Vegetarian, Low-Sodium.....	220,320	151,898
Beans, Dry, Pinto, No Salt Added.....	524,160	334,492
Beans, Dry, Great Northern, No Salt Added.....	201,600	138,012
Beef, Fine Ground, 85/15, Frozen.....	1,543,680	5,389,691
Beef, Round Roast, Frozen.....	680,000	3,560,640
Beef, Canned.....	216,000	918,227
Beef, Stew, Canned.....	828,000	1,840,680
Bison, Ground, Frozen.....	526,190	4,959,373
Bison, Stew Meat, Frozen.....	360,000	3,969,600
Blueberries, Wild, Frozen, Unsweetened.....	80,000	145,950
Butter, Salted.....	287,280	824,220
Carrots, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	328,050	271,220
Catfish, Fillets, Frozen.....	190,000	891,860
Cereal, Corn Flakes.....	204,120	344,263
Cereal, Corn.....	147,168	302,852
Cereal, Oat Circles.....	88,704	166,525
Cereal, Rice Crisps.....	56,700	110,937
Cereal, Bran Flakes.....	130,802	237,716
Cereal, Wheat Farina.....	191,250	308,394
Cereal, Wheat Shredded.....	110,700	161,866
Cheese, American.....	1,267,200	2,986,386
Cheese, American, Reduced Fat.....	396,000	771,598
Chicken, Boneless Breast, Frozen.....	975,000	2,837,744
Chicken, White Meat, Canned.....	101,250	289,454
Chicken, Whole, Frozen.....	316,800	442,288
Corn, Canned, Cream Style, Low-Sodium.....	255,150	210,956
Corn, Canned, No Salt Added.....	549,119	463,224
Cornmeal, Blue.....	114,048	182,477
Cornmeal, Yellow.....	514,080	234,780
Crackers, Unsalted.....	385,560	891,251
Cranberry Sauce, Canned.....	110,160	155,326
Egg Noodles.....	391,680	1,276,324
Egg Mix, Dried.....	180,000	2,329,430
Flour, 100% White Whole Wheat.....	160,000	60,244
Flour, All Purpose, Enriched.....	3,041,640	1,140,726
Flour, Bakery Mix, Low fat.....	421,200	808,785
Fruit And Nut Mix, Dried.....	139,776	351,752
Juice, Apple, Unsweetened.....	1,569,480	834,043
Juice, Cherry Apple, Unsweetened.....	927,420	728,955
Juice, Cranberry Apple, Unsweetened.....	367,975	460,369
Juice, Grape, Unsweetened.....	642,060	540,021
Juice, Orange, Unsweetened.....	1,498,140	1,300,633
Juice, Tomato, Low-Sodium.....	249,690	124,630
Macaroni And Cheese.....	278,027	285,403
Milk, Skim, Evaporated, Canned.....	483,327	477,661
Milk, Nonfat, Dry.....	149,760	557,233
Milk, 1%, Uht.....	5,882,400	2,380,792
Mixed Fruit, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	400,950	496,255
Mixed Vegetables, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	218,700	234,309
Oats.....	362,880	506,429
Oil, Vegetable.....	636,174	632,615
Pasta, Enriched.....	1,203,200	986,868
Pasta, Whole Grain-Rich.....	97,200	201,625
Peaches, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	556,200	783,802
Peanut Butter.....	380,160	595,261

2025 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	Pounds	Value
Peanuts, Roasted, No Salt Added.....	103,680	168,247
Pears, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	291,600	415,449
Peas, Canned.....	145,800	116,672
Plums, Dried, Unsweetened.....	36,000	93,848
Pork Chops, Frozen.....	570,000	1,563,890
Pork, Ham, Frozen.....	356,160	1,022,160
Potatoes, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	293,760	201,164
Potatoes, Dehydrated Flakes.....	120,000	234,300
Pumpkin, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	36,450	47,126
Raisins, Unsweetened.....	77,760	117,910
Rice, White.....	483,840	256,508
Rice, Wild.....	40,000	1,000,000
Salmon, Wild Fillets, Frozen.....	108,000	970,920
Soup, Tomato, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	70,950	71,324
Soup, Vegetable, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	35,475	36,608
Soup, Cream Of Chicken, Canned, Reduced Sodium.....	248,325	251,240
Soup, Cream Of Mushroom, Canned, Reduced Sodium.....	177,375	190,410
Spaghetti Sauce, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	377,595	359,960
Spinach, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	101,745	140,828
Strawberries, Frozen, Unsweetened.....	244,608	397,139
Tomatoes, Canned, No Salt Added.....	428,519	363,423
Tomato Sauce, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	420,975	359,493
Tortillas, Whole Grain-Rich.....	144,000	139,572
USDA DoD FRESH PRODUCE.....	7,908,133	9,265,864
Walleye, Fillets, Frozen.....	108,000	1,335,600
SUBTOTAL COMMODITY ENTITLEMENT.....	47,280,150	\$73,640,547
Anticipated Transportation and Storage.....	-	\$8,577,843
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expenses.....	-	776,147
Anticipated Adjustment.....	-	1,101,463
TOTAL COMMODITY ENTITLEMENT.....	47,280,150	\$84,096,000
GRAND TOTAL FDPPIR.....	47,280,150	\$84,096,000

Source: WBSCM -- Sales Order and contract information.

Table FNS-100. Firms Authorized to Receive & Redeem Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits 2023

State	Retailers	Drug and/or Alcohol Treatment Program	Shelter for Battered Women and Children	Communal Dining Facility	Group Living Arrangement	Homeless Meal Provider	Meal Delivery Service	Private Restaurant/Meal Delivery	Sr Citizens Center/Residential Building	Total Firms, All Types
Alabama	4,954	26	1	-	17	1	-	-	-	4,999
Alaska	540	11	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	553
Arizona	3,857	5	1	-	-	1	4	726	-	4,594
Arkansas	2,726	12	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	2,741
California	24,922	63	3	2	-	13	5	3,782	-	28,790
Colorado	3,128	4	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	3,137
Connecticut	2,473	14	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2,489
Delaware	831	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	834
District of Columbia	412	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	413
Florida	15,082	49	-	-	18	3	2	-	-	15,154
Georgia	9,762	5	-	2	3	-	-	-	1	9,773
Guam	248	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	248
Hawaii	930	10	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	943
Idaho	1,161	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,161
Illinois	9,335	4	-	9	9	2	10	8	16	9,393
Indiana	5,637	3	1	-	-	3	7	-	1	5,652
Iowa	3,038	8	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	3,050
Kansas	2,105	11	-	7	6	1	3	-	-	2,133
Kentucky	4,659	73	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4,733
Louisiana	4,408	5	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	4,419
Maine	1,452	5	-	7	3	-	1	-	-	1,468
Maryland	3,780	4	-	4	17	3	1	15	1	3,825
Massachusetts	5,427	12	1	2	93	3	-	3	3	5,544
Michigan	9,591	10	-	14	27	3	18	100	3	9,766
Minnesota	3,627	-	-	3	-	-	4	-	-	3,634
Mississippi	3,234	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,235
Missouri	5,039	9	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	5,052
Montana	792	3	-	9	9	-	-	-	2	815
Nebraska	1,402	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,414
Nevada	1,971	5	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1,980
New Hampshire	1,056	3	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	1,063
New Jersey	5,676	6	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	5,686
New Mexico	1,684	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,686
New York	16,982	90	-	16	177	6	25	-	5	17,301
North Carolina	9,281	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	9,286
North Dakota	570	1	-	17	1	-	2	-	-	591
Ohio	10,079	24	-	1	1	-	5	-	-	10,110
Oklahoma	3,820	13	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3,834
Oregon	3,429	27	-	3	27	5	1	-	1	3,493
Pennsylvania	10,358	15	1	1	17	16	11	-	-	10,419
Rhode Island	922	2	-	2	4	-	-	10	-	940
South Carolina	5,192	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	5,196
South Dakota	762	3	-	8	15	-	3	-	-	791
Tennessee	6,619	17	-	-	17	-	-	-	1	6,654
Texas	21,983	21	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	22,011
Utah	1,566	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1,572
Vermont	699	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	701
Virgin Islands	115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115
Virginia	6,357	8	-	-	2	1	3	9	-	6,380
Washington	4,974	17	1	2	6	2	4	-	-	5,006
West Virginia	2,157	13	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2,171
Wisconsin	4,403	-	-	17	-	2	9	-	-	4,431
Wyoming	387	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	391
Total	255,594	640	9	136	480	92	130	4,653	36	261,770

ACCOUNT 4: COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

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

Commodity Assistance Program

For necessary expenses to carry out disaster assistance and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program as authorized by section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note); the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983; special assistance for the nuclear affected islands, as authorized by section 103(f)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188); and the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, [~~\$517,070,000~~]\$536,070,000, to remain available through September 30, [~~2025~~]2026: *Provided*, That none of these funds shall be available to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for commodities donated to the program: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective with funds made available in fiscal year [~~2024~~]2025 to support the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, such funds shall remain available through September 30, [~~2025~~]2026: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under 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 associated with the distribution of commodities.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table FNS-101. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2024	\$457,710,000
Change in Appropriation	+ 78,360,000
Budget Estimate, 2025	<u>536,070,000</u>
Budget Estimate, Current Law 2025	\$536,070,000
Change Due to Proposed Legislation	+25,000,000
Net 2025 Request	<u><u>561,070,000</u></u>

PROJECT STATEMENT

Table FNS-102. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2022		2023		2024		2025		Inc/ Dec	FTE Inc./Dec	Chg. Key
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs			
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Commodity Supplemental Food Program.....	\$332,000	3	\$338,640	3	\$338,640	3	\$425,000	3	+\$86,360	-	(1)
Farmers' Market Nutrition Program	26,000	-	26,000	-	26,000	-	15,000	-	-11,000	-	(2)
The Emergency Food Assistance Program	81,000	-	92,000	-	92,000	-	95,000	-	+3,000	-	(3)
Nuclear Affected Islands	574	-	574	-	574	-	574	-	-	-	-
Disaster Assistance	496	-	496	-	496	-	496	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Regular Appropriations	440,070	3	457,710	3	457,710	3	536,070	3	+78,360	-	-
Direct (Farm Bill) Appropriations:											
TEFAP Farm Bill Projects (non-add).....	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	-
Sequestration	-228	-	-228	-	-228	-	-228	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Direct Appropriations.....	3,772	3	3,772	3	3,772	3	3,772	3	-	-	-
Total Adjusted Appropriations.....	443,842	3	461,482	3	461,482	3	539,842	3	+78,360	-	-
Transfers In:											
Nutrition Services Incentive Program ^{1/}	1,438	-	2,193	-	2,261	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program ^{2/} ...	20,600	-	20,600	-	20,600	-	20,600	-	-	-	-
Sequestration	-1,174	-	-1,174	-	-1,174	-	-1,174	-	-	-	-
Total Transfers In	20,864	3	21,619	3	21,687	3	19,426	3	-2,261	-	-
Total Adjusted Appropriations	464,706	-	483,101	-	483,169	-	559,268	-	+76,099	-	-
Less Transfers and Direct Appropriation:											
NSIP, SFMNP & TEFAP Farm Bill	-24,636	-	-25,391	-	-25,459	-	-23,198	-	+2,261	-	-
Total, CAP Appropriation.....	440,070	3	457,710	3	457,710	3	536,070	3	+78,360	-	-
Proposed Leg.: Improved TEFAP Infrastructure.	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	-	+25,000	-	-

^{1/} Section 311(d)(3) of the Older Americans Act (42 USC 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 2025 will be determined at a later date.

^{2/} 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.

Table FNS-103. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2022 Actual	FTEs	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Estimated	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	Inc./Dec.	FTE Inc. / Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
CSFP Food.....	\$259,632	3	\$312,051	3	\$267,664	3	\$354,024	3	+\$86,360	-
CSFP Admin.....	64,156	-	70,976	-	70,976	-	70,976	-	-	-
Farmer's Market Nutrition Program.....	40,410	-	41,313	-	26,000	-	15,000	-	-11,000	-
TEFAP Administrative.....	88,547	-	94,694	-	92,000	-	95,000	-	+3,000	-
Nuclear Affected Islands.....	574	-	574	-	574	-	574	-	-	-
Disaster Assistance.....	312	-	353	-	496	-	496	-	-	-
Subtotal Disc Obligations.....	453,631	3	519,961	3	457,710	3	536,070	3	+78,360	-
Mandatory Obligations:										
TEFAP Farm Bill Projects.....	7,544	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-
Sequestration.....	-228	-	-228	-	-228	-	-228	-	-	-
Subtotal Mand Obligations.....	7,316	-	3,772	-	3,772	-	3,772	-	-	-
Supplemental Obligations:										
FFCRA & CARES Act Supplementals.....	1,338	-	191	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEFAP COVID (Division N).....	1,874	-	243	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CSFP COVID (Division N).....	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CSFP ARP Supplemental.....	128	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Supplemental Obligations.....	3,363	-	434	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers In:										
Nutrition Services Incentive Program.....	1,061	-	2,259	-	2,261	-	-	-	-2,261	-
Senior Farmer's Market Program.....	24,866	-	24,710	-	20,600	-	20,600	-	-	-
Sequestration.....	-1,174	-	-1,174	-	-1,174	-	-1,174	-	-	-
Subtotal Transfers In.....	24,753	-	25,795	-	21,687	-	19,426	-	-2,261	-
Total Obligations.....	489,063	3	549,962	3	483,169	3	559,268	3	+76,099	-
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances.....	350	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, EOY:										
Commodity Supplemental Food Program.....	47,206	-	5,918	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farmer's Market Nutrition Program.....	-	-	2,983	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEFAP Administrative.....	3	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuclear Affected Islands.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disaster Assistance.....	496	-	496	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nutrition Services Incentive Program.....	401	-	330	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senior Farmer's Market Program.....	-	-	386	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FFCRA & CARES Act Supplementals.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEFAP COVID (Division N).....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY.....	48,108	3	5,118	3	-	3	-	3	-	-
Total Available.....	537,521	3	555,084	3	483,169	3	559,268	3	+76,099	-
Less:										
Total Transfers In.....	-22,038	-	-21,619	-	-21,687	-	-19,426	-	-	-
Sequestration.....	1,402	-	1,402	-	1,402	-	1,402	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other.....	-34,178	-	-29,049	-	-56	-	-5,174	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY.....	-42,637	-	-48,108	-	-5,118	-	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriation.....	440,070	3	457,710	3	457,710	3	536,070	3	+76,099	-

**JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES
Commodity Assistance Program**

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg.) Key column of the Project Statement:

- (1) An increase of \$86,360,000 in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (\$338,640,000 and 3 FTE's available in 2024).

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 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 40 percent by 2050. SNAP data shows that, of the proportion of the elderly population who are eligible, only about 47 percent currently receive SNAP benefits. This means that 53 percent of the low-income, elderly population eligible for SNAP must rely on other sources of food assistance through food banks and food pantries, and programs such as CSFP.

CSFP operators served an average of 695,900 seniors per month in 2023, utilizing over 90 percent of the total 760,547 caseload slots allocated to States for 2023. CSFP participation reached 723,000 in September 2023 and is expected to reach an average of 760,634 participants in 2025. The CSFP needs \$425 million in 2025 to support full participation under a caseload allocation of 760,634. It also will support operational expenses, defray increases in food costs, and help build up inventory levels needed to manage the program effectively.

- (2) A decrease of \$11,000,000 in the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (\$26,000,000 available in 2024).

This WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) provides a seasonal benefit to approximately 1.3 million WIC participants to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from 14,500 farmers, 2,600 farmers' markets and 2,400 roadside stands. The decreased request for FMNP funding reflects that all women and children participating in WIC now receive a monthly cash-value benefit (CVB) for the purchase of fruits and vegetables, which can be used in grocery stores or at farmers' markets. In contrast to a one-time seasonal FMNP benefit ranging from \$10 to \$30, the WIC CVB for 2024 is \$47 per month for pregnant and postpartum women, \$52 per month for partially and fully breastfeeding women, and \$26 per month for children.

- (3) An increase of \$3,000,000 for The Emergency Food Assistance Program - Administrative (\$92,000,000 available in 2024).

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 not reached this level. In 2023, TEFAP administrative funding appropriations were set at \$92 million. To fund the operational resources necessary to operate TEFAP, States divert resources from food funding and other programs. The additional \$3 million is needed in 2025 to keep up with the escalating demand on administrative resources to administer the program.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Bolster Investment in Remote, Rural, and Tribal areas, and the U.S. Territories with Improved TEFAP Infrastructure.

FNS proposes to create a source of permanent, mandatory funding to support TEFAP infrastructure, particularly in rural, remote, Tribal, and/or low-income communities that are currently underserved by TEFAP, such as rural Alaska or the U.S. Territories. The proposal would expand existing authority for TEFAP infrastructure grants in Section 209 of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7511a), which has not been funded in many years, and build off work started with \$100 million in American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funding for TEFAP Reach and Resiliency grants. While the Reach and Resiliency grant opportunities in 2022 and 2023 have initiated much-needed improvements, recent requests for funding demonstrate that there is still a great need for additional infrastructure investment. These needs cannot be met with one-time investments, nor with the limited amount of TEFAP administrative funding that is currently provided.

Remote, rural, and tribal areas, and the U.S. territories have unique food distribution infrastructure needs due to their relatively isolated locations. USDA Foods delivered to these areas often need to be stored for extended periods, which requires substantial cooling and freezing infrastructure that TEFAP partners in these areas do not currently have. Establishing a dedicated and permanent source of funding would help meet these infrastructure needs on an ongoing basis, ensuring residents in these communities have equitable access to nutrition assistance. Building upon lessons learned from the Reach and Resiliency grants, this proposal would provide formula grants to TEFAP State agencies, including the U.S. Territories, which would make funds available to eligible recipient agencies for a variety of infrastructure improvements. State agencies would be required to apply not less than 50 percent of the funds to efforts that strengthen and expand emergency food assistance in rural and otherwise underserved communities. Formula funding would ensure all State agencies have access to needed resources for critical cooling and freezing investments, storage needs, and equipment to support the distribution of TEFAP foods, including dairy and fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables. This is particularly important given that the demand for TEFAP foods has increased significantly in recent years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and, to date, has not subsided.

Table FNS-104. Change in Funding (thousands of dollars)

Item	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$250,000
Outlays	20,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	245,000

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTEs

Table FNS-105. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
California	-	-	\$155	1	-	-	\$158	1
Maryland	\$324	-	219	1	\$337	2	223	1
New York	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Ohio	-	-	-	-	-	-	95	-
Pennsylvania	-	-	97	-	-	-	98	-
Virginia	2,985	3	3,136	1	2,995	1	3,046	1
Total	3,309	3	3,607	3	3,335	3	3,620	3

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table FNS-106. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$166	\$153	\$159	\$162
	Personnel Compensation, Field.....	250	230	239	242
11	Total personnel compensation	416	383	398	404
12	Personal benefits.....	155	164	171	173
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	571	547	569	577
	Other Objects:				
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	330,047	347,935	302,432	389,961
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	158,445	201,480	180,168	168,730
99.9	Total, new obligations	489,063	549,962	483,169	559,268

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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 adults aged 60 and over. Prior to the 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 2023, the program was administered in parts of all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and through 8 Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) USDA purchases the foods provided 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, low-sodium canned beans and soup, dry beans and lentils, unsweetened juices, canned meats, poultry, and fish that are lower in sodium and fat, peanut butter, whole grain and enriched cereals, rice, 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 2023, 760,547 monthly caseload slots were allocated to participating States and ITOs (CSFP caseload is assigned by calendar year). The 2023 caseload allocation was provided in January 2023 under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328).

CSFP has experienced a rebound in participation since the COVID pandemic subsided. For 2023, total program participation averaged approximately 695,858 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. The base caseload cannot exceed the total caseload for the previous year. If resources are available to support a total caseload in excess of the base caseload, States may also be eligible to receive additional caseload, which is assigned based on State requests for such caseload increases and FNS’s determination of the number of slots that States can effectively use.

Table FNS-107. CSFP Average Monthly Participation

Average Monthly Participation	2020	2021	2022	2023
Women.....	-	-	-	-
Infants	-	-	-	-
Children under 6	1	-	-	-
Total WIC Type	1	-	-	-
Elderly	692,466	661,117	658,709	695,858
Total CSFP	692,467	661,117	658,709	695,858

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 annually for inflation. For 2023, \$93.19 was the legislatively mandated administrative grant per assigned caseload slot, up from \$84.47 in 2022. Allowable

administrative costs include nutrition education, warehousing, food delivery, participant certification, and other costs associated with State and local program administration.

Technical Assistance

FNS maintains 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. In addition, FNS holds quarterly calls with Regional Office nutritionists to provide nutrition-related technical assistance and create opportunities for sharing best practices across regions.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program

Program Mission

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) supplements the diets of people in need through donations of nutritious USDA Foods to States. States provide food to local agencies for distribution to households for home consumption and to organizations that prepare meals for people in need. Recipients of USDA Foods for household consumption must meet program eligibility criteria set by the States. USDA also provides TEFAP administrative funding to States to support storing and distributing 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 federal 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 food and administrative funds among such organizations, and establishing eligibility criteria. Many local TEFAP agencies depend significantly on volunteers and are faith-based organizations.

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. The 2023 appropriations also permitted each State to convert up to 20 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.

Entitlement Foods

A variety of healthful foods were purchased specifically for distribution in TEFAP in 2023 including fresh, frozen, and canned fruits and vegetables as well as dried fruit and unsweetened juice; lean protein items such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs, nuts, and beans; whole grains and enriched grains; and low-fat and non-fat 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 2021, provides additional fresh produce options to meet the needs of diverse communities. In 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 2022, FNS continued to work with the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in 2023 to identify additional opportunities to incorporate foods into TEFAP that are acceptable to kosher and halal communities. By working with key partners in the Jewish and Muslim communities, FNS identified three new TEFAP foods that may be acceptable to kosher observant participants without a certification (raw almonds, raw walnuts, yellow cornmeal) and seven new TEFAP foods that may be acceptable to halal observant participants without a certification (raw

almond, raw walnuts, yellow cornmeal, Atlantic haddock, Atlantic Ocean perch, Atlantic pollock, frozen strawberries). All these foods were added to the TEFAP Foods Available List in 2023.

Bonus Food

In 2023, USDA purchased additional food items under its market support authorities and provided them for distribution through TEFAP. The total amount of bonus products purchased in 2023 for distribution through TEFAP outlets was \$959 million. Bonus USDA Foods included: fresh grapefruit, oranges, mandarins, peaches, nectarines, and plums; hazelnuts, walnuts, pistachios and almonds; apple products, apricot products, and cherry products; prunes, raisins, and dates; frozen strawberries, peaches, and blueberries; fresh sweet potatoes; asparagus products; dry peas, lentil, and chickpea products; shrimp, rockfish, whiting, sockeye salmon, and catfish; lamb and pork products.

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 in 2022 to expand TEFAP's reach into remote, rural, tribal, and 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 1 grants to 38 TEFAP state agencies for projects they began carrying out in 2022 and continued to carry out throughout 2023. Activities with TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Round 1 grant funds included: 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.

In 2023, FNS awarded another \$58.5 million in TEFAP Reach and Resiliency – Round 2 grants to 40 TEFAP state agencies. Round 2 funds provided TEFAP state agencies additional resources to work with new and/or current partner organizations to expand TEFAP's reach into underserved areas. Project activities in Round 2 look similar to those in Round 1, and many projects build off Round 1 work that has been completed or is in progress. Among other activities, state agencies and their partners are using Round 2 funding to further expand mobile distribution and home delivery efforts, bolster cooling and freezing infrastructure, and build new partnerships in remote, rural, tribal, and low-income areas. Round 2 projects will continue throughout 2024 and into 2025.

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 2023, FNS allocated \$3.77 million among 28 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.

2023 TEFAP Spending

In 2023, \$92 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 2023 appropriation for TEFAP entitlement food, provided in the SNAP account, was \$445.5 million, which included the funding authorized by Section 27(a)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 as amended by Section 4018 of the 2018 Farm Bill.

2023 CCC Spending

In 2023, \$943 million in additional food and administrative resources announced in September 2022 were provided to emergency feeding organizations under the statutory authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). Of the \$943 million, FNS provided \$32.2 million in funding to support the storage and distribution of the additional CCC foods; the remaining \$901.5 million was used for CCC food purchases.

Technical Assistance

In 2023, FNS hosted two webinars to provide state agencies and food banks with information about how TEFAP can support cultural and religious practices around food, particularly those serving kosher and halal observant

communities. Additionally, two fact sheets were developed to help State agencies and food banks better serve kosher and halal observant communities. Each factsheet contains information about kosher and halal dietary laws and identifies the TEFAP foods that are certified kosher or halal and the foods that are inherently kosher or halal that do not require a certification. The webinars and fact sheets for Kosher Foods in TEFAP and Halal Foods in TEFAP are available on the FNS public websites at Kosher Foods in TEFAP | Food and Nutrition Service (usda.gov) and Halal Foods in TEFAP respectively. Halal Foods in TEFAP respectively.

Table FNS-108. TEFAP Summary (Including Other Funds for Emergency Food Providers, in millions)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023
State Administrative Expenses	137.3	158.4	136.2	156.3
CCC Administrative Expenses	-	-	-	32.8
Bonus Foods ^{1/}	716.2	701.0	517.0	954.8
Entitlement Foods ^{2/}	92.2	319.9	465.4	405.1
Trade Mitigation Foods.....	1,093.3	-	-	-
CCC Foods ^{3/}	-	-	-	901.5
Total	\$2,138.9	\$1,179.3	\$1,118.6	\$2,450.5
Supplemental Funding via FFCRA (Food & Admin)...	214.3	-	-	-
Supplemental Funding via CARES Act (Food & Admin)	392.2	-	500.0	-
COVID Division N Funding (Food & Admin funds) ...	-	397.3	-	-
Total, Including Disaster Funding.....	\$2,745.4	\$1,576.6	\$1,618.6	\$2,450.5

Note: Funding includes new authority and prior year resources.

^{1/} Includes barter foods

^{2/} From SNAP Account

^{3/} CCC Foods were procured through the TEFAP network, to support emergency feeding organizations under the statutory authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation

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 2023, of the \$89 million eligible for conversion, States chose to convert \$61.9 million into administrative funds.

The entitlement foods line also includes administrative funds that States chose to use instead to increase their food entitlements. In 2023, \$305,000 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 four 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 2023, the FMNP was operated by 51 State agencies, including U.S. Territories and federally recognized ITOs.

In 2022, the most recent year for which participation data is available, the FMNP provided benefits to 1,330,746 WIC participants. The participants redeemed their benefits at 5,015 authorized farmers' markets and roadside stands, providing revenue to 14,582 farmers.

Table FNS-109. WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023
Funding (\$ in thousands)	\$22,597	\$29,829	\$40,409	\$41,313
WIC Recipients	1,181,314	1,197,470	1,330,746	*
Farmer's Markets**	4,612	4,928	5,015	*
Farmers	15,110	14,956	14,582	*

Note: Funding includes new authority and prior year resources.

* 2023 Data not yet available, anticipated in Spring 2024

** Farmer's Market 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 2023, the SFMNP was operated by 57 State agencies, including U.S. Territories and ITOs. In 2022, the last year for which data are available, the SFMNP provided benefits to 757,751 low-income older Americans. The participants redeemed their benefits at 5,048 authorized farmers' markets, roadside stands and CSAs providing revenue to 15,089 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-110. SFMNP Summary

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023
Funding (\$ in thousands)	\$21,083	\$23,718	\$24,358	\$22,960
SFMNP Recipients	725,687	780,012	757,751	*
Farmers	14,767	15,568	15,089	*
Farmers' Markets	2,401	2,860	2,816	*
Roadside Stands	2,316	2,438	2,212	*
Community Supported Ag Programs ...	71	69	20	*

Note: Funding includes new authority and prior year resources.

* 2023 Data not yet available, anticipated in Spring 2024

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, Delegation of Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Functions. 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.

In 2023, FNS supported disaster household distribution in December 2022 for three Indian Tribal Organizations in South Dakota due to a severe winter storm. In May 2023, USDA Foods were used to support congregate feeding in Crooked Creek, Alaska due to flooding. Due to severe flooding in Vermont, in August 2023, a request to use USDA Foods for disaster household distribution was approved.

Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)

NSIP provides cash and USDA Foods to States and ITOs 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 seniors participate in social and rehabilitative activities. The program promotes good health through nutrition assistance and by reducing the isolation experienced by older adults.

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, including ITOs, could still choose to receive all or part of their NSIP allotments as 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.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Table FNS-111. CSFP Projects, Participation and Food Costs

State or Territory	Projects	Elderly	Food Costs in Dollars ^{1/}	Administrative Costs in Dollars ^{2/}
Alabama	4	8,481	\$3,599,863	\$846,511
Alaska	2	2,361	993,482	164,871
Arizona.....	2	23,763	9,933,115	2,331,114
Arkansas.....	7	9,321	3,859,085	919,898
California	10	103,435	41,571,295	9,992,627
California, Shingle Spring Band	1	390	151,340	55,912
Colorado.....	6	13,572	5,608,654	1,290,676
Connecticut	1	2,613	1,042,955	265,497
Delaware	1	1,287	568,899	136,453
District of Columbia	1	5,515	2,393,821	515,000
Florida	7	9,556	4,215,367	918,663
Georgia.....	2	6,338	2,805,890	594,643
Hawaii.....	4	3,116	1,195,894	327,283
Idaho	1	2,199	879,650	205,017
Illinois	3	8,758	3,677,509	1,160,011
Indiana.....	6	5,089	2,147,821	97,330
Iowa.....	1	2,742	1,164,014	305,476
Kansas	4	4,459	1,844,005	500,583
Kentucky	6	30,867	12,426,062	3,285,772
Louisiana.....	1	37,475	16,141,922	4,172,331
Maine	5	5,244	2,059,978	687,763
Maryland.....	5	3,425	1,462,949	254,433
Massachusetts	1	2,235	900,317	251,612
Michigan	22	65,080	27,335,528	6,983,955
Minnesota.....	6	8,499	3,471,716	838,838
Minnesota, Red Lake	1	84	28,615	7,828
Mississippi	1	13,018	5,899,904	1,213,002
Mississippi, Choctaw Tribe	1	103	35,329	6,367
Missouri	5	20,195	8,416,352	1,849,590
Montana	12	4,307	1,683,172	501,127
Nebraska	9	5,386	2,295,135	602,330
Nebraska, Winnebago Tribe	-	25	9,531	-
Nevada	3	4,548	1,933,483	516,992
New Hampshire	1	2,454	1,012,011	300,039
New Jersey.....	4	5,122	2,206,439	545,946
New Mexico.....	5	9,987	4,197,094	1,233,668
New York.....	3	35,078	14,705,462	3,349,700
North Carolina	7	14,588	6,288,995	1,378,880
North Dakota.....	5	1,641	696,931	177,433
North Dakota, Spirit Lake Tribe	1	197	73,050	28,866
Ohio.....	13	29,019	12,508,850	2,879,279
Oklahoma.....	2	4,527	1,838,044	415,090
Oklahoma, Seminole Nation.....	1	215	76,124	-
Oklahoma, Wichita Tribe.....	1	158	63,325	23,297
Oregon.....	1	2,119	875,318	209,024
Pennsylvania	17	37,860	15,656,817	3,655,199
Puerto Rico.....	1	4,145	1,724,947	398,521
Rhode Island	1	1,862	790,644	208,785
South Carolina	4	8,256	3,445,786	770,026
South Dakota.....	2	2,472	1,016,100	333,712
South Dakota, Oglala Sioux.....	1	425	147,275	42,913
Tennessee.....	4	8,026	3,816,260	899,745
Texas	12	71,936	30,268,001	6,693,574
Utah.....	1	2,811	1,245,511	301,748
Vermont	1	1,648	654,613	198,820
Virginia	6	10,165	4,247,036	1,010,083

2025 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

State or Territory	Projects	Elderly	Food Costs in Dollars ^{1/}	Administrative Costs in Dollars ^{2/}
Washington	13	5,170	2,058,466	573,489
West Virginia.....	2	9,906	4,187,977	931,896
Wisconsin.....	4	12,378	5,149,937	260,350
Wyoming.....	1	209	101,183	23,274
AMS/WBSCM Admin. Exp	-	-	3,035,019	-
Anticipated Adjustment	-	-	18,211,233	2,332,807
^{3/} Total	255	695,858	\$312,051,101	\$70,975,669

Source: FPRS FNS-153 data; Food distributed to participants in 2023.

^{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 to FNS by State and local agencies and are subject to change as revisions are received.

Table FNS-112. CSFP Quantity and Value of Commodities 2023

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
Applesauce, Canned, Unsweetened	4,882,095	\$4,177,704
Apricots, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	2,351,025	3,576,093
Beans, Canned, Black, Low-Sodium	3,128,474	2,064,744
Beans, Canned, Green, Low-Sodium.....	10,373,423	7,537,618
Beans, Canned, Red Kidney, Low-Sodium	5,790,087	3,994,681
Beans, Canned, Pinto, Low-Sodium.....	3,183,576	2,072,532
Beans, Canned, Vegetarian, Low-Sodium.....	2,405,160	1,638,332
Beans, Dry, Baby Lima, No Salt Added.....	322,560	454,656
Beans, Dry, Great Northern, No Salt Added	1,693,440	1,201,334
Beans, Dry, Light Red Kidney, No Salt Added.....	1,532,160	1,216,528
Beans, Dry, Pinto, No Salt Added	2,217,600	1,500,732
Beef, Canned.....	4,053,600	17,191,958
Beef, Canned, Chili With Beans	2,717,280	4,103,217
Beef, Canned, Stew.....	3,287,520	6,176,630
Carrots, Canned, Low-Sodium	4,101,300	3,432,478
Cereal, Corn Flakes.....	1,812,780	3,033,126
Cereal, Corn.....	1,090,656	2,268,655
Cereal, Corn And Wheat.....	2,165,130	4,182,091
Cereal, Oat Circles.....	2,505,600	4,814,755
Cereal, Rice Crisps.....	317,520	620,230
Cereal, Bran Flakes.....	1,242,563	2,357,490
Cereal, Wheat Farina	2,583,563	4,123,245
Cereal, Wheat Shredded.....	5,151,600	7,932,874
Cheese, American, Reduced Fat	17,942,088	34,806,537
Chicken, White Meat, Canned/Pouched	5,264,239	13,740,020
Corn, Canned, No Salt Added.....	6,325,324	5,543,871
Grits.....	794,760	550,337
Juice, Apple, Unsweetened	16,569,150	8,550,829
Juice, Cherry Apple, Unsweetened.....	856,080	685,612
Juice, Cranberry Apple, Unsweetened.....	3,219,835	3,535,514
Juice, Grape, Unsweetened.....	10,496,898	8,521,813
Juice, Orange, Unsweetened.....	7,793,878	7,116,306
Juice, Tomato, Low-Sodium.....	2,318,550	1,133,753
Lentils, Dry	1,128,960	761,241
Milk, 1%, UHT	27,315,621	11,566,416
Milk, Nonfat, Dry	3,714,048	13,685,284
Mixed Fruit, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	3,363,368	4,216,420
Mixed Vegetables, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	5,387,310	5,712,446
Oats, Rolled.....	3,871,665	5,190,176
Pasta, Enriched.....	10,782,200	9,016,895
Pasta, Whole Grain-Rich	664,200	1,517,276
Peaches, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	3,270,600	4,404,100
Peanut Butter.....	6,064,020	9,164,524
Pears, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	2,555,033	3,661,052
Peas, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	1,249,875	1,022,303
Plums, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	109,350	95,531
Potatoes, Dehydrated Flakes.....	761,844	1,569,525
Potatoes, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	4,039,776	2,746,899
Raisins, Unsweetened	1,332,360	2,039,280
Rice, White	3,507,840	1,876,126
Salmon, Pink, Canned.....	3,107,744	8,700,254
Soup, Canned, Vegetable, Low-Sodium.....	6,826,035	7,360,330
Spaghetti Sauce, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	5,340,893	4,814,691
Spinach, Canned, Low-Sodium	3,382,974	4,611,981
Sweet Potatoes, Canned, Light Syrup.....	2,478,600	3,179,294

2025 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
Tomatoes, Canned, No Salt Added.....	3,682,058	3,181,022
Subtotal Commodity Entitlement.....	244,425,884	\$283,949,361
Anticipated Transportation and Storage	-	23,169,197
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expenses.....	-	3,035,019
Anticipated Adjustment	-	1,897,524
Total Commodity Entitlement	244,425,884	\$312,051,101
CCC Commodities		
Rice, White	2,016,000	1,078,088
Apricots, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	182,250	306,050
Chicken, White Meat, Canned/Pouched	607,500	1,805,041
Mixed Fruit, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	1,404,810	1,728,570
Peaches, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	1,104,120	1,594,513
Pears, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	790,650	1,058,044
Total CCC Commodities	6,105,330	7,570,306
Bonus Commodities		
Raisins, Unsweetened	738,720	1,069,727
Total Bonus Commodities	738,720	1,069,727
Total - All Commodities	251,269,934	\$ 315,758,591
Grand Total CSFP	251,269,934	\$ 315,758,591

WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, Participation and Program Costs 2022 and 2023

Table FNS-113. CSFP Projects, Participation and Food Costs

State Or Territory	Women	Infants	Children	Total	2022 Grant	2023 Grant
Alabama ^{3/}	-	-	-	-	\$167,394	\$167,394
Alaska	1,266	683	2,920	4,869	273,783	304,403
Arizona	590	13	268	871	286,346	286,346
Arkansas	2,473	-	4,672	7,145	231,278	279,278
California	59,725	26,590	169,546	255,861	3,087,089	3,257,739
Colorado	2,824	-	8,503	11,327	532,181	717,475
Connecticut	9,214	2,392	27,111	38,717	441,926	441,926
Delaware	2,495	-	7,041	9,536	387,079	387,079
District of Columbia	2,944	1,373	7,342	11,659	418,136	428,606
Florida	6,066	-	9,986	16,052	588,253	588,253
Georgia	6,107	3,256	15,641	25,004	2,778,169	2,778,169
Illinois	4,550	1,761	7,809	14,120	537,072	537,072
Indiana	562	281	1,498	2,341	391,594	391,594
Iowa	5,918	3,049	18,230	27,197	691,461	691,461
Kentucky	1,710	342	4,787	6,839	273,755	273,755
Louisiana	497	188	739	1,424	52,714	105,428
Maine	4,636	538	11,790	16,964	259,991	354,322
Maryland	5,983	2,909	15,417	24,309	573,610	746,450
Massachusetts	5,230	2,865	14,427	22,522	1,014,002	1,164,605
Michigan	6,595	12	19,591	26,198	665,743	673,943
Minnesota	10,819	4,836	29,200	44,855	554,990	554,990
Mississippi ^{2/}	1,553	130	2,883	4,566	172,793	172,793
Missouri	7,394	1,000	3,000	11,394	298,730	373,730
Montana	572	323	1,938	2,833	113,707	120,707
Nebraska ^{4/}	1,145	-	2,895	4,040	114,039	-
Nevada	1,247	1,106	4,798	7,151	508,220	508,220
New Hampshire ^{3/}	-	-	-	-	136,768	136,768
New Jersey	94,893	-	139,883	234,776	1,560,993	1,560,993
New Mexico ^{2/}	2,713	1,085	6,241	10,039	393,696	393,696
New York	46,019	16,852	115,478	178,349	8,716,200	5,858,776
North Carolina	4,214	-	5,572	9,786	344,999	344,999
Ohio	7,195	3,060	17,478	27,733	700,831	700,831
Oklahoma Chickasaw	861	948	2,263	4,072	114,039	214,039
Oklahoma Osage Tribe	129	86	477	692	78,040	78,040
Oklahoma Choctaw Nation	987	1,036	3,477	5,500	114,039	314,039
Oklahoma Cherokee ^{5/}	-	-	-	-	-	458,528
Oregon	12,038	7,148	31,104	50,290	2,086,986	2,086,986
Pennsylvania	13,981	-	29,711	43,692	3,045,953	3,975,953
Puerto Rico	12,872	-	28,495	41,367	2,296,226	2,896,226
Rhode Island	2,591	14	5,601	8,206	185,772	185,772
South Carolina	1,294	-	3,161	4,455	187,415	187,415
Tennessee	1,038	-	2,406	3,444	184,608	184,608
Texas	2,971	5	8,305	11,281	1,557,583	1,557,583
Vermont	376	163	1,392	1,931	111,182	111,182
Virginia	995	586	2,508	4,089	110,914	180,714
Virgin Islands	562	-	1,122	1,684	114,886	114,886
Washington	8,967	-	26,206	35,173	1,220,344	1,220,344
West Virginia	445	223	863	1,531	113,987	532,307
Wisconsin	14,436	3,330	37,096	54,862	1,619,796	1,739,796
Anticipated Adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-\$26,855.00
Total	381,692	88,183	860,871	1,330,746	\$40,409,312	\$41,313,364

1/ Participation data reflects Fiscal Year 2022. Participation data for Fiscal Year 2023 is not due until Spring 2024.

2/ Includes Indian Tribal Organizations.

3/ Received funding but did not operate the program in 2022. All funds were recovered.

4/ Did not receive funding in 2023.

5/ New Program in 2023.

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**Table FNS-114. TEFAP Administrative Funding 2023**

State or Territory	TEFAP Administrative Funds	Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Administrative Funds	Total Administrative Funding
Alabama	\$2,503,055	\$452,344	\$2,955,399
Alaska	279,424	73,750	353,174
Arizona.....	3,718,441	754,599	4,473,040
Arkansas.....	1,713,474	311,706	2,025,180
California	22,823,946	4,029,375	26,853,321
Colorado.....	1,439,961	545,313	1,985,274
Connecticut	968,513	312,500	1,281,013
Delaware	282,128	188,491	470,619
District of Columbia	345,521	79,840	425,361
Florida	8,303,542	2,087,887	10,391,429
Georgia.....	4,309,192	1,042,152	5,351,344
Hawaii.....	370,502	35,000	405,502
Idaho	625,870	89,141	715,011
Illinois.....	4,965,485	1,231,890	6,197,375
Indiana.....	1,528,622	503,141	2,031,763
Iowa.....	1,025,375	262,934	1,288,309
Kansas	1,158,591	199,063	1,357,654
Kentucky.....	2,802,530	479,791	3,282,321
Louisiana.....	3,238,500	571,875	3,810,375
Maine	347,000	198,125	545,125
Maryland.....	3,215,871	312,164	3,528,035
Massachusetts	1,854,058	580,547	2,434,605
Michigan	5,791,865	1,308,066	7,099,931
Minnesota.....	1,513,383	365,313	1,878,696
Mississippi	1,042,541	328,125	1,370,666
Missouri	1,617,817	536,484	2,154,301
Montana	454,419	76,250	530,669
Nebraska.....	400,478	139,219	539,697
Nevada	1,031,920	374,770	1,406,690
New Hampshire	349,100	93,672	442,772
New Jersey.....	4,699,386	807,295	5,506,681
New Mexico.....	1,551,352	345,695	1,897,047
New York.....	11,858,719	1,906,095	13,764,814
North Carolina	5,628,241	942,203	6,570,444
North Dakota.....	342,841	54,297	397,138
Ohio.....	6,605,921	1,244,798	7,850,719
Oklahoma.....	1,098,825	356,252	1,455,077
Oregon.....	2,244,036	386,406	2,630,442
Pennsylvania	7,443,206	1,545,195	8,988,401
Rhode Island	280,164	98,750	378,914
South Carolina	1,448,031	514,609	1,962,640
South Dakota.....	330,269	94,655	424,924
Tennessee.....	3,653,644	634,297	4,287,941
Texas.....	12,084,377	3,543,758	15,628,135
Utah.....	1,121,864	195,859	1,317,723
Vermont	135,038	46,250	181,288
Virginia	3,664,212	559,015	4,223,227
Washington	3,784,540	690,039	4,474,579
West Virginia.....	1,092,448	224,531	1,316,979
Wisconsin.....	2,623,471	413,845	3,037,316
Wyoming.....	153,892	50,156	204,048
Northern Mariana Islands *	53,171	-	53,171
Guam.....	77,639	-	77,639
Puerto Rico.....	4,206,618	542,500	4,749,118
Virgin Islands.....	112,576	-	112,576
Anticipated Adjustment	300,251	-	300,251
Total	156,315,605	32,760,027	189,375,883

* Cash in-Lieu of commodities are provided to the Northern Mariana Islands.

** Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Resources were provided through emergency food provider networks in 2023, as a larger initiative under the USDA to provide support for American producers, School Meal Providers and Emergency Food Operations.

*** States with a zero indicates no food orders were purchased using the specified food dollars or the state declined the administrative funds.

Table FNS-115. TEFAP Commodity Funding 2023

State or Territory	Commodity Credit TEFAP Entitlement Corporation (CCC)		TEFAP Bonus Commodities	Total Food
	Commodities	Commodities ¹		
Alabama	\$6,089,903	\$12,925,998	\$15,462,373	\$34,478,274
Alaska	1,571,726	2,207,187	2,255,963	6,034,876
Arizona	7,047,562	19,703,980	24,809,203	51,560,745
Arkansas	3,320,879	8,696,911	9,666,879	21,684,669
California	49,510,573	109,309,022	112,384,098	271,203,693
Colorado	7,043,435	14,592,139	14,622,355	36,257,929
Connecticut	3,991,875	9,184,523	7,617,062	20,793,460
Delaware	1,408,161	5,310,669	5,416,863	12,135,693
District of Columbia	1,112,183	2,387,789	1,078,332	4,578,303
Florida	24,570,727	57,265,201	60,857,713	142,693,642
Georgia	11,539,440	27,732,305	28,055,406	67,327,151
Hawaii	1,892,967	3,345,156	3,183,122	8,421,245
Idaho	2,219,859	2,755,225	2,350,499	7,325,584
Illinois	15,989,048	34,108,036	35,772,971	85,870,055
Indiana	8,209,168	14,064,718	16,393,451	38,667,338
Iowa	3,303,774	7,048,632	8,606,720	18,959,126
Kansas	3,112,982	5,668,936	4,549,161	13,331,079
Kentucky	5,388,177	13,525,297	15,955,654	34,869,128
Louisiana	7,534,213	15,323,872	18,070,861	40,928,946
Maine	1,576,901	5,165,254	6,318,727	13,060,881
Maryland	6,447,090	9,296,523	4,767,819	20,511,433
Massachusetts	8,952,043	16,578,869	16,833,918	42,364,830
Michigan	9,949,755	32,715,828	38,292,593	80,958,176
Minnesota	4,984,346	10,844,103	11,285,057	27,113,507
Mississippi	6,522,497	9,196,413	11,136,462	26,855,371
Missouri	7,690,641	15,207,537	14,942,059	37,840,237
Montana	992,588	2,129,319	1,620,685	4,742,593
Nebraska	2,057,245	4,077,191	4,202,064	10,336,500
Nevada	6,048,468	9,908,265	11,364,916	27,321,649
New Hampshire	1,013,571	3,223,155	2,027,874	6,264,600
New Jersey	8,928,579	22,211,645	24,415,948	55,556,172
New Mexico	2,892,913	9,237,645	8,838,410	20,968,967
New York	23,330,002	53,014,442	63,282,565	139,627,008
North Carolina	11,063,399	26,061,460	28,565,648	65,690,507
North Dakota	736,429	1,475,223	1,764,245	3,975,897
Ohio	14,029,810	33,227,094	33,847,096	81,104,000
Oklahoma	5,415,330	10,125,236	12,216,984	27,757,549
Oregon	4,244,721	10,623,764	10,366,902	25,235,387
Pennsylvania	21,443,147	41,375,175	36,307,336	99,125,658
Rhode Island	1,734,092	3,308,640	1,668,364	6,711,096
South Carolina	7,763,462	14,257,445	15,109,405	37,130,313
South Dakota	804,978	2,435,457	2,811,105	6,051,540
Tennessee	8,535,290	17,709,018	19,488,584	45,732,893
Texas	40,132,034	92,671,699	107,520,423	240,324,156
Utah	2,316,287	5,788,861	6,069,009	14,174,157
Vermont	608,487	1,500,352	1,112,816	3,221,655
Virginia	7,372,706	16,338,603	14,533,638	38,244,946
Washington	8,075,280	19,451,603	19,462,789	46,989,671
West Virginia	2,045,832	6,210,057	7,175,600	15,431,489
Wisconsin	4,803,283	11,698,482	9,991,154	26,492,920
Wyoming	652,201	1,404,430	1,638,577	3,695,209
Northern Mariana Islands *	253,313	-	-	253,313
Guam	159,943	-	-	159,943
Puerto Rico	12,902,652	17,747,384	18,556,311	49,206,347
Virgin Islands	194,339	151,868	193,500	539,707
AMS/WBSCM Admin Exp	4,745,981	-	-	4,745,981
Anticipated Adjustment	-11,134,918	-	-	-11,134,918
Total	405,141,368	901,523,637	954,837,269	2,261,502,274

^{1/} CCC foods were provided through emergency food provider networks to support emergency feeding organizations under the statutory authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Table FNS-116. TEFAP Quality and Value of Commodities 2023

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
Alaska Pollock, Fillets, Frozen	228,000	\$701,442
Alaska Pollock, Breaded Sticks, Frozen	76,000	196,110
Apples, Fresh	4,456,158	2,433,145
Apples, Frozen, Unsweetened	79,200	133,452
Applesauce, Canned, Unsweetened	9,187,605	7,669,653
Applesauce, Cups, Unsweetened	1,814,400	1,484,467
Apricots, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	2,059,425	3,153,012
Beans, Canned, Black, Low-Sodium	6,440,529	4,290,585
Beans, Canned, Black-Eyed Peas, Low-Sodium	1,351,755	1,220,695
Beans, Canned, Garbanzo, Low-Sodium	1,031,603	658,527
Beans, Canned, Green, Low-Sodium	18,722,857	13,401,937
Beans, Canned, Light Red Kidney, Low-Sodium	4,205,786	2,743,400
Beans, Canned, Pinto, Low-Sodium	5,175,962	3,408,326
Beans, Canned, Refried, Low-Sodium	1,395,360	1,607,405
Beans, Canned, Vegetarian, Low-Sodium	2,662,200	1,791,867
Beans, Dry, Black-Eyed Peas, No Salt Added	322,560	382,754
Beans, Dry, Great Northern, No Salt Added	2,741,760	2,003,824
Beans, Dry, Light Red Kidney, No Salt Added	1,128,960	862,825
Beans, Dry, Baby Lima, No Salt Added	443,520	588,505
Beans, Dry, Pinto, No Salt Added	8,749,440	5,410,429
Beans, Dry, Split Pea, Green	1,532,160	884,587
Beans, Frozen, Green, No Salt Added	972,000	914,134
Beef, Canned	1,382,400	5,891,559
Beef, Canned, Stew	7,080,480	13,403,548
Beef, Fine Ground, 85/15, Frozen	5,536,320	20,202,185
Beef, Fine Ground, 85/15, Frozen, LFTB Optional	960,000	3,388,212
Blueberries, Highbush, Frozen, Unsweetened	435,600	648,371
Carrots, Canned, Low-Sodium	7,854,300	6,611,338
Carrots, Frozen, No Salt Added	1,166,400	822,992
Catfish, Fillets, Frozen	114,000	525,540
Cereal, Wheat Farina	858,938	1,384,921
Cheese, American, Reduced Fat	1,620,312	3,027,442
Cheese, Cheddar	705,600	1,779,030
Chicken, Split Breast, Frozen	2,262,000	7,724,016
Chicken, White Meat, Canned	5,504,261	13,549,499
Chicken, Whole, Frozen	13,741,200	19,240,845
Corn, Canned, Cream, Low-Sodium	2,478,600	2,132,739
Corn, Canned, No Salt Added	13,026,573	10,941,623
Corn, Frozen, No Salt Added	1,148,400	1,003,886
Crackers, Unsalted	612,360	1,392,931
Cranberries, Dried, Individual Portion	130,500	324,585
Egg Noodles	1,474,560	5,211,740
Eggs, Fresh	7,695,000	8,417,710
Egg Mix, Dried	144,000	1,890,965
Flour, 100% White Whole Wheat	1,200,000	464,384
Flour, All-Purpose, Enriched	6,725,880	2,641,206
Flour, Bakery Mix, Low-fat	280,800	540,831
Fruit And Nut Mix, Dried	768,768	1,921,892
Grits	2,564,472	1,812,323
Juice, Apple, Unsweetened	8,114,490	4,187,577
Juice, Cherry Apple, Unsweetened	2,996,280	2,383,633
Juice, Cranberry Apple, Unsweetened	835,270	976,404
Juice, Grape, Unsweetened	2,701,002	2,245,020
Juice, Grapefruit, Unsweetened	428,040	398,694
Juice, Orange, Unsweetened	3,406,502	3,263,500
Juice, Tomato, Low-Sodium	784,740	379,066
Lentils, Dry, No Salt Added	1,733,760	1,123,839
Macaroni And Cheese	7,767,981	7,464,155
Milk, 1%, Fresh	13,813,119	5,866,354
Milk, 1%, UHT	12,081,701	5,761,010
Milk, Skim, Fresh	2,834,955	1,228,329

2025 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
Mixed Produce, Fresh	5,404,509	3,951,983
Mixed Fruit, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	10,176,323	12,453,619
Mixed Vegetables, Canned, Low-Sodium	6,094,440	6,407,139
Oats, Rolled.....	3,144,015	4,448,278
Oil, Vegetable	8,607,058	8,821,041
Oranges, Fresh	1,123,470	548,541
Pasta, Enriched.....	17,148,040	14,862,559
Pasta, Whole Grain-Rich	1,162,200	2,671,919
Peaches, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	6,660,180	9,086,866
Peaches, Frozen.....	3,303,168	6,037,594
Peanut Butter.....	13,116,780	19,394,977
Peanut Butter, Individual Portion	311,850	560,410
Peanuts, Roasted, No Salt Added	259,200	425,730
Pears, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	1,903,118	2,570,149
Pears, Fresh	615,440	514,202
Peas, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	2,030,625	1,688,459
Peas, Frozen, No Salt Added	871,200	857,604
Plums, Dried, Unsweetened.....	180,000	485,493
Pork, Canned.....	1,620,000	3,660,088
Pork Chops, Frozen.....	2,242,000	6,303,546
Pork, Ham, Frozen	3,204,000	7,203,960
Potatoes, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	6,535,584	4,243,563
Potatoes, Dehydrated Flakes	918,156	1,894,551
Potatoes, Fresh	2,960,000	1,219,344
Pumpkin, Canned, No Salt Added	947,700	1,240,434
Raisins, Unsweetened	378,360	565,512
Raisins, Individual Portion, Unsweetened	782,496	1,458,347
Rice, Brown	378,000	368,747
Rice, White	19,614,000	10,276,678
Salmon, Pink, Canned.....	2,407,576	6,503,348
Soup, Cream Of Chicken, Reduced Sodium.....	2,447,775	2,611,981
Soup, Cream Of Mushroom, Reduced Sodium	1,489,950	1,592,668
Soup, Tomato, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	3,618,450	3,804,444
Soup, Vegetable, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	5,306,415	5,609,613
Spaghetti Sauce, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	13,600,013	12,363,016
Spinach, Canned, Low-Sodium	2,145,171	2,912,636
Strawberries, Frozen, Unsweetened.....	174,720	287,968
Sweet Potatoes, Fresh	418,000	204,910
Tomato Sauce, Canned, Low-Sodium	6,498,450	5,968,678
Tomatoes, Canned, Low-Sodium	6,741,804	5,690,213
Tortillas, Whole Grain-Rich	1,440,000	1,391,206
Subtotal Commodity Entitlement.....	387,727,037	411,276,992
Cash-In-Lieu Of Commodities – CNMI.....	-	253,313
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expenses.....	-	4,745,981
Anticipated Adjustment	-	-11,134,918
Total Commodity Entitlement	387,727,037	\$405,141,368
Bonus Commodities		
Almonds, Whole	29,789,760	74,685,266
Apples, Frozen, Unsweetened.....	2,376,000	3,765,507
Applesauce, Canned, Unsweetened	7,654,500	6,166,870
Applesauce, Cups, Unsweetened	10,810,800	8,812,888
Apricots, Cups, Frozen	3,769,920	6,442,086
Apricots, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	2,879,550	4,624,570
Asparagus, Canned	1,012,500	1,407,195
Asparagus, Frozen.....	504,000	1,287,897
Beans, Canned, Garbanzo, Low-Sodium.....	22,410,675	14,324,699
Beans, Dry, Garbanzo, No Salt Added	15,724,800	12,774,003
Beans, Dry, Split Pea, Green	26,611,200	16,411,204
Beans, Dry, Split Pea, Yellow	22,216,320	12,914,281
Blueberries, Highbush, Frozen, Unsweetened.....	17,463,600	24,119,759
Catfish, Fillets, Frozen.....	6,232,000	41,762,760
Cherries, Dried.....	4,395,600	4,802,239
Cherries, Frozen.....	29,097,183	24,157,791

2025 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
Dates, Dried	9,960,768	23,693,872
Grapefruit, Fresh	33,829,660	23,720,260
Hazelnuts.....	7,613,760	18,950,047
Juice, Apple, Unsweetened	3,674,010	1,842,417
Lamb, Frozen	910,632	7,951,279
Lentils, Dry	41,610,240	29,664,679
Mandarin, Tangerine, Fresh.....	15,840,000	14,051,493
Nectarines, Fresh.....	15,310,080	24,797,294
Oranges, Fresh	38,119,395	25,609,170
Pacific Rockfish, Fillets, Frozen.....	2,124,000	7,977,794
Pacific Whiting, Fillets, Frozen	2,016,000	6,735,384
Pacific Shrimp, Frozen.....	11,556,000	35,641,942
Peaches, Fresh.....	24,442,000	41,013,738
Peaches, Frozen.....	11,652,960	20,755,657
Pistachio, Roasted.....	12,840,000	59,919,616
Plums, Dried, Unsweetened.....	1,836,000	4,285,790
Plums, Fresh.....	16,831,360	24,987,873
Pork, Loin Roast, Frozen	19,246,720	48,838,172
Raisins, Unsweetened	33,048,000	48,589,464
Salmon, Fillets, Wild, Frozen	3,636,000	28,191,960
Salmon, Red, Canned.....	8,064,000	36,935,702
Shrimp, Salad, Frozen.....	4,140,000	23,646,300
Strawberries, Cups, Frozen.....	6,841,800	11,986,137
Strawberry, Frozen, Unsweetened	9,741,600	16,149,302
Sweet Potatoes, Fresh	42,724,654	21,963,270
Walnuts	56,794,176	88,479,642
Total Bonus Commodities	637,352,223	\$954,837,270
<i>Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Commodities ^{1/}</i>		
Alaska Pollock, Fillets, Frozen	11,400,000	33,523,296
Alaska Pollock, Breaded Sticks, Frozen.....	11,400,000	27,968,190
Apples, Fresh	3,528,000	2,158,268
Atlantic Pollock, Fillets, Frozen	2,412,000	15,445,000
Beans, Canned, Black, Low-Sodium	4,268,700	2,804,794
Beans, Canned, Dark Red Kidney, Low-Sodium	4,268,700	2,922,841
Beans, Canned, Green, Low-Sodium.....	14,114,260	10,449,246
Beans, Canned, Pinto, Low-Sodium.....	4,268,700	2,805,998
Beans, Dry, Great Northern, No Salt Added	4,838,400	3,781,321
Beans, Dry Navy, No Salt Added	4,838,400	3,289,620
Beans, Dry, Pinto, No Salt Added	4,838,400	3,396,431
Beef, Canned.....	11,160,000	48,092,904
Beef, Canned, Stew.....	12,960,000	25,319,952
Beef, Canned, Chili With Beans.....	13,219,200	22,151,413
Blueberries, Frozen, Unsweetened	17,043,840	24,328,362
Cheese, American, Reduced Fat	9,266,400	28,772,172
Cheese, Cheddar	32,771,400	95,853,743
Cheese, Mozzarella.....	7,056,000	15,422,400
Cherries, Dried.....	5,263,104	24,552,855
Cherries, Frozen.....	4,752,000	6,469,162
Chicken, Drumsticks, Frozen.....	15,200,000	11,774,819
Chicken, Leg Quarters, Frozen	14,668,000	9,965,034
Chicken, Whole, Frozen	26,928,000	40,265,236
Collards, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	12,315,990	17,006,366
Eggs, Fresh.....	5,062,500	11,250,000
Grapes, Fresh	51,536,550	59,813,111
Haddock, Fillets, Frozen.....	792,000	6,969,360
Milk, 1%, Fresh.....	5,713,767	2,383,727
Milk, 2%, Fresh.....	15,857,352	6,713,868
Mixed Produce, Fresh	13,557,280	8,255,098
Mixed Vegetables, Canned, Low-Sodium.....	17,968,492	22,315,096
Ocean Perch, Fillets, Frozen	1,404,000	9,511,600
Pears, Fresh	3,528,000	3,983,231
Pork, Canned.....	9,000,000	25,898,400
Pork Chops, Frozen.....	11,400,000	32,629,080

2025 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
Pork, Loin Roast, Frozen	9,760,000	25,350,234
Pork, Patties, Frozen	9,500,000	30,066,360
Pork, Pulled, Frozen.....	22,800,000	65,868,000
Pork, Taco Filling, Frozen	12,000,000	28,320,000
Raisins, Unsweetened	11,314,080	15,802,501
Salmon, Pink, Canned.....	16,781,370	45,699,682
Strawberries, Frozen, Unsweetened.....	11,919,600	18,612,751
Tomatoes, Canned, Low-Sodium	4,228,200	3,562,115
Total CCC Commodities	486,902,685	\$901,523,637
Total -- All Commodities		
Entitlement Commodities	387,727,037	\$405,141,368
Bonus Commodities.....	637,352,223	\$954,837,270
Commodity Credit Corporation Commodities	486,902,685	\$901,523,637
Grand Total - TEFAP.....	1,511,981,945	\$2,261,502,274

Source: WBSCM -- Sales Order and contract information.

^{1/}CCC foods were provided through emergency food provider networks to support emergency feeding organizations under the statutory authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Nutrition Services Incentive Program**Table FNS-117. NSIP Commodity Value 2023**

State or Territory	Entitlement Commodities
Delaware	\$343,653
Kansas	269,657
Massachusetts	1,139,549
Montana	235,009
Nevada	75,946
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expenses.....	174,940
Anticipated Adjustment	19,779
Total	\$2,258,533

Source: WBSCM -- Sales Order and contract information.

Table FNS-118. NSIP Commodity Value and Pounds 2023

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
Apples, Canned, Unsweetened	35,568	\$40,329
Applesauce, Canned, Unsweetened	36,252	18,751
Applesauce, Cups, Unsweetened	75,600	59,710
Apricots, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	36,936	43,338
Beans, Canned, Green, Low-Sodium.....	69,312	55,039
Beans, Canned, Pinto, Low-Sodium.....	69,984	36,504
Beans, Canned, Vegetarian, Low-Sodium.....	34,992	19,060
Beef, Fine Ground, 85/15, Frozen	159,000	522,940
Carrots, Canned, Low-Sodium	36,024	23,639
Chicken, Diced, Cooked, Frozen	80,000	205,760
Chicken, Unseasoned Strips, Cooked, Frozen	57,600	151,029
Corn, Canned, No Salt Added.....	36,252	35,276
Cranberries, Dried, Individual Portion.....	32,625	84,630
Fruit Mix, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	72,504	76,635
Peaches, Canned, Extra Light Syrup.....	36,252	40,757
Pork, Ham, Frozen	10,000	28,900
Pork, Pulled, Frozen.....	40,000	107,200
Raisins, Individual Portion, Unsweetened	35,568	64,941
Rice, Brown	10,512	10,711
Tomato Sauce, Canned/Pouch, Low-Sodium	72,504	48,664
Turkey, Roast, Frozen.....	120,000	390,000
Subtotal Entitlement Commodities	1,157,485	\$2,063,814
Anticipated Adjustment	-	19,779
Ams / WBSCM Admin Expenses.....	-	174,940
Grand Total NSIP	1,157,485	\$2,258,533

Disaster Assistance**Table FNS-119. Disaster Assistance 2023**

State or Territory	Disaster Name	Disaster Type	People Served	Pounds	Total Value
Arkansas.....	Tornadoes	Presidential Declared Disaster	4,738	10,294	\$57,206
Alaska	Flood Crooked Creek, AK	Situation of Distress	100	608	1,087
Vermont	Flood	Presidential Declared Disaster	5,778	17,165	33,205
Anticipated Adjustment			-	-	261,817
Grand Total			10,616	28,067	\$353,315

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ACCOUNT 5: NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

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

Nutrition Programs Administration

For necessary administrative expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service for carrying out any domestic nutrition assistance program, [~~\$221,193,000: Provided, That of the funds provided herein, \$2,000,000 shall be used for the purposes of section 4404 of Public Law 107-171, as amended by section 4401 of Public Law 110-246~~]\$205,000,000.

Change Description

This change (line 2 of paragraph 1) eliminates funding to the Congressional Hunger Center.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table FNS-120. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2024	\$189,348,000
Change in Appropriation	<u>+ 15,652,000</u>
Budget Estimate, 2025	<u><u>205,000,000</u></u>

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table FNS-121. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2022		2023		2024		2025		Inc./Dec.	FTE Inc./Dec.	Chg. Key
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs			
Discretionary Appropriations:											
FNS Salaries and Expenses.....	\$149,245	751	\$166,693	807	\$166,693	872	\$185,929	872	+\$19,236	-	(1)
Ensuring Scientific Integrity of Dietary Guidelines & Food Plans.....	4,000	-	7,000	-	7,000	-	5,000	-	-2,000	-	(2)
Congressional Hunger Center...	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-2,000	-	(3)
Decentralized GSA Rent & DHS Security Payments.....	14,888	-	13,655	-	13,655	-	14,071	-	+416	-	(4)
Subtotal.....	<u>170,133</u>	<u>751</u>	<u>189,348</u>	<u>807</u>	<u>189,348</u>	<u>872</u>	<u>205,000</u>	<u>872</u>	<u>+15,652</u>	<u>-</u>	
Total Appropriation	170,133	751	189,348	807	189,348	872	205,000	872	+15,652	-	

Table FNS-122. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2022		2023		2024		2025		Inc./Dec.	FTE Inc./Dec.
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs		
Discretionary Obligations:										
FNS Salaries and Expenses	\$142,915	751	\$157,823	807	\$166,693	872	\$185,929	872	+\$19,236	-
Ensuring Scientific Integrity of Dietary Guidelines & Food Plans.....	4,000	-	7,000	-	7,000	-	5,000	-	-2,000	-
Congressional Hunger Center ...	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-2,000	-
Decentralized GSA Rent & DHS Security Payments.....	13,315	-	13,140	-	13,655	-	14,071	-	+416	-
Subtotal Disc Obligations	162,230	751	179,963	807	189,348	872	205,000	872	+15,652	-
Transfers In:										
Misc. Reimbursements	-301	-	-913	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Transfers In.....	-301	751	-913	807	-	872	-	872	-	-
Total, Discretionary Funding	161,929	751	179,050	807	189,348	872	205,000	872	+15,652	-
Obligations from Prior Years:										
X Year Funds.....	-	-	73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rescission of X Year Funds (non-add).....	-	-	-	-	-	-	(-8,000)	-	-	-
Subtotal, Carryover Obligations.....	-	-	73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers Out (Working Capital Fund Cont.)										
Capital Fund Cont.)	1,768	-	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Lapsing	6,436	-	8,225	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available.....	170,133	751	189,348	807	189,348	872	205,000	872	+15,652	-

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

Nutrition Programs Administration

The Nutrition Programs Administration (NPA) funds operating expenses for administering the nutrition assistance programs of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). Funds support the Agency’s rent, working capital fund charges, shared cost charges, audit, human resources systems, and approximately half of the Agency’s staff. Funds also support the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP), which 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. 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.

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

- (1) An increase of \$19,236,000 (\$166,693,000 and 872 FTE available in 2024).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$4,556,000 for 2025 pay costs.

This funding will support the salaries and benefits of current FTEs with the annualization of a 5.2 percent Cost of Living pay increase in 2024 and a 2.0 percent Cost of Living pay increase for 2025.

- B) An increase of \$11,520,145 to fully fund staffing costs and benefits at the 872 FTE level in 2025.

This increase is a result of the assumed full year continuing resolution in 2024.

- C) An increase of \$3,159,855 for general operating expenses.

General operating expenses continue to increase yearly as a result of inflation.

- (2) A decrease of \$2,000,000 for Ensuring Scientific Integrity of Dietary Guidelines and Food Plans (\$7,000,000 available in 2024).

This level of funding will continue to support the execution of core Administration priorities in the nutrition and nutrition assistance arenas, including executing the Secretary’s priorities on addressing nutrition security and

conducting expansive communications and implementation of the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA).

- (3) A decrease of \$2,000,000 for the Congressional Hunger Center (\$2,000,000 available in 2024).

The Congressional Hunger Center (CHC) was established in 1993 with the purpose of combating hunger and poverty at the community, national, and international levels. CHC is a 501(c) (3) foundation that receives donations from a variety of individuals and corporate sponsors. Funding is not being requested in the 2025 President's Budget.

- (4) An increase of \$416,000 for Decentralized GSA Rent & DHS Security Payments (\$13,655,000 available in 2024).

Funding will ensure that FNS is able to fully fund rent and security expenditures.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTEs

Table FNS-123. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Alabama.....	\$284	2	\$594	4	\$340	2	\$628	4
Arizona.....	469	3	348	2	561	3	369	2
California.....	9,437	57	8,028	50	11,279	67	8,493	54
Colorado.....	10,709	65	9,125	57	12,800	76	9,653	62
Connecticut.....	161	1	155	1	192	1	164	1
Delaware.....	148	1	142	1	177	1	150	1
District of Columbia.....	3,496	21	3,240	20	4,178	25	3,427	22
Florida.....	618	4	826	5	738	4	874	6
Georgia.....	8,362	51	6,600	42	9,995	59	7,045	45
Idaho.....	161	1	90	1	192	1	96	1
Illinois.....	6,509	40	6,260	39	7,780	46	6,622	42
Indiana.....	1,322	8	1,575	10	1,580	9	1,666	11
Iowa.....	74	-	116	1	89	1	123	1
Kansas.....	12	-	155	1	15	-	164	1
Louisiana.....	198	1	452	3	236	1	478	3
Maine.....	49	-	103	1	59	-	109	1
Maryland.....	14,970	91	12,856	80	17,894	106	13,599	87
Massachusetts.....	6,139	37	6,144	38	7,338	43	6,499	42
Michigan.....	1,000	6	994	6	1,196	7	1,051	7
Minnesota.....	543	3	568	4	650	4	601	4
Mississippi.....	284	2	310	2	340	2	328	2
Missouri.....	371	2	271	2	443	3	287	2
Montana.....	12	-	310	2	15	-	328	2
Nebraska.....	-	-	155	1	-	-	164	1
Nevada.....	159	1	65	-	192	1	68	-
New Hampshire.....	630	4	568	4	753	4	601	4
New Jersey.....	6,250	38	4,982	31	7,470	44	5,270	34
New Mexico.....	161	1	103	1	192	1	109	1
New York.....	198	1	155	1	236	1	164	1
North Carolina.....	1,075	7	1,200	8	1,284	8	1,270	8
Ohio.....	12	-	348	2	15	-	369	2
Oklahoma.....	49	-	194	1	59	-	205	1
Oregon.....	395	2	336	2	472	3	355	2
Pennsylvania.....	2,223	14	2,065	13	2,657	16	2,185	14
Puerto Rico.....	741	5	478	3	886	5	505	3
Rhode Island.....	667	4	723	5	797	5	765	5
South Carolina.....	395	2	736	5	472	3	778	5
Tennessee.....	198	1	310	2	236	1	328	2
Texas.....	10,709	65	9,616	60	12,800	76	10,172	65
Utah.....	642	4	555	3	768	5	587	4
Vermont.....	25	-	103	6	30	-	109	6
Virginia.....	70,775	198	96,288	282	80,392	230	117,410	306
Washington.....	346	2	168	1	413	2	177	1
West Virginia.....	210	1	284	2	251	1	300	2
Wisconsin.....	741	5	356	2	886	5	355	2
Total.....	161,929	751	179,050	807	189,348	872	205,000	872

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table FNS-124. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.	\$35,466	\$36,982	\$41,214	\$41,832
	Personnel Compensation, Field.....	53,199	55,472	61,821	62,748
11	Total personnel compensation.....	88,665	92,454	103,035	104,580
12	Personal benefits.....	33,361	36,615	44,138	44,800
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	79	4	20	20
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	122,105	129,073	147,193	149,400
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	446	2,090	2,060	2,060
22.0	Transportation of things.....	-	147	147	147
23.1	Rental payments to GSA.....	12,130	12,040	12,040	12,040
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	2	5	5	5
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	195	56	56	56
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	224	386	386	386
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	15,590	28,328	20,575	34,020
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	8,079	3,476	3,510	3,510
25.6	Medical Care.....	1	-	-	-
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	6	429	429	429
	Subsistence and support of persons.....				
25.8	321	228	528	528
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	501	585	200	200
31.0	Equipment.....	63	100	112	112
32.0	Land and structures.....	-	-	-	-
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities.....	266	107	107	107
	Total, Other Objects.....	39,824	49,977	42,155	55,600
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	161,929	179,050	189,348	205,000
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$191,314	\$195,140	\$202,751	\$205,792
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$118,292	\$113,724	\$118,159	\$119,932
	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 partner 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, provides technical assistance, and conducts oversight and evaluation to maximize programs' effectiveness and value to clients and taxpayers, and ensures they are managed and operated in a way consistent with the law.

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. While substantial funding is also provided to States to operate these programs, strong Federal policy and oversight are fundamental to ensuring effective levels of program accountability. For example, ongoing efforts to improve integrity in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and funds management in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) are critical to the Agency's mission and require Federal intensive staff focus and travel funding.

Although information technology improvements have resulted in large productivity gains in the past decade, many of FNS's mission-critical functions are inherently labor-intensive and require ongoing attention. Since the NPA appropriation funds most of FNS's administrative expenses, it is integral to effectively using other program appropriations. FNS staff levels grew to 1,738 by the end of 2023 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 two-tenths of one percent of the total investment in nutrition assistance.

The most significant accomplishments under this NPA appropriation during 2023 are 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 program's administration, 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 the 261,770 retail and wholesale firms (as of September 30, 2023) approved to accept SNAP benefits and maintains fiscal accountability for SNAP benefits.

FNS Oversight of State Program Operations

FNS's oversight of State SNAP operations is among its fundamental roles and is critical to program integrity and access. Each year, FNS's 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 2023, due to the ongoing disruptive impacts and unprecedented challenges, FNS continued to leverage technology to conduct many of its ME Reviews virtually or using a hybrid approach of both virtual and in-person methods to review program operations. 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 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 and Technical Assistance

In August 2022, FNS issued guidance to assist SNAP State agencies planning for the end of the Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), which expired on May 11, 2023. The guidance provided four administrative waivers State agencies could request to help address anticipated challenges in meeting SNAP Federal requirements due to the end of the PHE flexibilities and adjustments. The administrative waivers included simplified processes to streamline recertification procedures, waiving the certification interview, adjusting follow-up procedures for address changes, and alternative signature processes for capturing the telephonic signature.

FNS encouraged States to consider ways to increase efficiencies and the effectiveness of their program administration and operations. FNS continued to provide State exchange funds to facilitate State and local agency travel to observe innovative practices that may be transferable. FNS also worked with an increasing number of State agencies that are contemplating large-scale changes to their business models for delivering social services.

FNS provided technical assistance and performed 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.

Payment Accuracy

The SNAP payment error rate measures how accurately states determine eligibility and benefit amounts. On June 2023, FNS issued national and State SNAP payment error rates for FY 2022. This is the first publication of the payment error rates since quality control was paused per statute during the COVID-19 PHE. The national overpayment error rate for 2022 was 9.84 percent and the underpayment error rate was 1.7 percent. States are assigned a financial liability if they have high payment error rates for two consecutive fiscal years. FNS did not assess a financial liability for any State in 2022 since FNS did not announce SNAP payment error rates in 2021. However, 12 States were in a first-year potential liability status (Alaska, District of Columbia, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Tennessee) due to their 2022 payment error rates.

Importantly, because of the temporary policy circumstances in place during the pandemic, the 2022 overpayment rates do not directly equate to a loss to the government. The 2022 payment error rates reflect the payment accuracy of the regular SNAP benefit—but in that year, 45 states were providing emergency allotments. The overpayment rate does not account for the fact that, while some households received an overpayment of their basic SNAP benefit, the combined total of regular SNAP plus their emergency allotment payment did not exceed the capped amount allowed by law.

FNS is committed to supporting states in improving payment accuracy in SNAP to ensure the program effectively and efficiently serves those who need it and promotes good stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Throughout the year, FNS worked with State agencies to support their efforts to improve payment accuracy. For example, FNS provided States with targeted technical assistance, a pilot program for income verification, improved data analysis tools, and additional training. FNS plans to continue these efforts in 2024, by providing additional tools and resources for State agencies to analyze their root causes of error and target corrective action plans to address identified causes. FNS plans on providing this technical assistance through various means, including one-on-one technical assistance and virtual and in-person training.

Recipient Claims

In 2023, State agencies collected approximately \$358 million in recipient claims. FNS continued to monitor corrective actions performed by States to address previously identified deficiencies in recipient claims systems.

Retailer Oversight and Integrity

In 2023, FNS staff authorized or reauthorized 57,084 retailers to participate in SNAP. FNS utilized contractor store visits to verify the initial or continued eligibility of 45,015 stores participating in SNAP. In this same period, 20,432 firms were withdrawn from participation because of changes in ownership, business closings, or nonconformance with authorization criteria. At the end of 2023, a total of 261,770 stores were authorized to participate in SNAP, an increase of 3,181 stores from 2022.

During 2023, FNS conducted undercover investigations of 12,691 stores nationwide. Overall, FNS compliance analysts and investigators reviewed 28,387 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 and contract approvals, as well as oversight of States' conversions from one EBT vendor's system to a new vendor's system. In 2023, FNS approved five RFPs, nine contracts, and 57 EBT contract amendments. The number of contract amendments remained significantly higher in 2023 than the historical average of about 10 per year due to COVID-19 PHE and the fact that many States continued to execute various amendments, change orders, or updates to carry out Pandemic EBT benefits. In addition, there were many amendments by States supporting changes to help mitigate and reduce EBT fraud.

Food Distribution Program On Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

The NPA appropriation funds most of the administrative expenses of the federal staff necessary to administer FDPIR. Through FDPIR, FNS acquires and distributes 100% domestic, nutritious USDA Foods to participating Indian Tribal Organizations 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 Indian Tribal Organizations and State agencies to support the program's administrative cost and nutrition education efforts. FNS sets participant and provider eligibility standards and provides training and other assistance to program partners as needed.

In 2023, FNS held three consultations with the FDPIR Tribal Leaders Consultation Work Group to discuss FDPIR and SNAP with the Tribal community. FNS also continued to implement a program-specific demonstration project authorized by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334, the 2018 Farm Bill). Through the project, FNS is overseeing \$10 million in self-determination contract funds awarded to 16 participating FDPIR Indian Tribal Organizations between 2021 and 2023. These contracts honor Tribal sovereignty by giving participating Tribes more control over selecting and purchasing foods in their FDPIR food packages.

FNS also continued the transition of FDPIR's current food inventory management system, Automated Inventory System (AIS), to the cloud based Integrated Food Management System (IFMS) and developed a process for Tribes to acquire an alternate system to the IFMS to meet the specific needs of program operators.

Further, the FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group, consisting of National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (NAFDPIR)-appointed representatives, nutritionists, staff from FNS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, implemented enhancements to the FDPIR food package by adding new foods and increasing the amount of food made available to program recipients each month. In addition, FDPIR received \$4.0 million in administrative funds for nutrition education. FNS provided these funds to FDPIR administering agencies to support the development and delivery of culturally appropriate nutrition education and promotion activities. For more information about FDPIR activities during 2023, 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 WIC. 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 2023 accomplishments supported by the NPA appropriation and related to WIC include:

Proposed Revisions to the WIC Food Packages

To align the WIC food packages with the latest nutrition science in support of nutrition security, FNS published proposed changes to the WIC food packages in November 2022. These proposed changes were based on recommendations in the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's 2017 scientific report entitled Review of WIC Food Packages: Improving Balance and Choice: Final Report, as well as the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020 – 2025. The rule proposed changes that are strongly rooted in current nutrition science and best positioned to improve nutrition security, while also considering cultural preferences, special dietary

needs, and WIC State agency operational and implementation considerations. FNS received and analyzed approximately 17,000 public comments in response to the proposed rule and is using the feedback to develop the final rule, which will publish in 2024.

Infant Formula Access and Market Resiliency

In 2023, FNS implemented its plan to unwind WIC infant formula waiver flexibilities. The transition plan included three phases, which FNS first described in a letter to WIC State agencies on December 19, 2022, and followed up via formal policy memorandum on February 1, 2023. FNS notified and provided technical assistance to State agencies during the return to normal operations, as all active WIC infant formula waivers expired on June 30, 2023.

Beginning in February 2022, FNS granted flexibilities under section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) in response to Abbott Nutrition's February 17, 2022, voluntarily recall of certain powder formulas that resulted in widespread shortages throughout the infant formula industry. Throughout the response, FNS issued close to 500 waivers to address the unique circumstances of each State, which allowed WIC families to purchase any formula on the store shelf regardless of brand or size including formula imported to the United States with special permission from the FDA. In addition, funding flexibilities provided further support to WIC State agencies. These actions were instrumental in ensuring millions of WIC babies had reliable access to safe infant formula.

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 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 secondly, it 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 allowing WIC State agencies to authorize infant formula being imported under FDA's enforcement discretion during the nationwide shortage. FNS later transferred waivers originally approved under the Stafford Act to approval under ABFA. FNS published an implementation memorandum 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. FNS published the rulemaking in 2024.

In 2023, FNS created a dedicated webpage for State bid solicitations for infant formula, to ensure all manufacturers have the information they need to compete for State contracts and to support any new qualified companies in the market. The webpage is routinely updated and includes any current open solicitations for manufacturers to bid on.

WIC Works Resource System

In 2023 FNS expanded content on the WIC Works Resource System, an education and training center for WIC staff, adding to the series "What do I do with..." that features foods or food groups from the WIC food offerings and highlights nutritional information, key messages, recipes, and related resources for staff. FNS also added a new series of nutrient infographics, interactive quizzes, and resources for creating accessible digital content. Additionally, FNS published new content for WIC staff that provided an overview of the WIC food package proposed rule as well as how to submit public comments in response to the rule.

In 2023, FNS successfully migrated WIC Learning Online (WLOL) – a catalogue of free trainings for staff - to a new learning management system platform that provides users with a more intuitive experience and better support as well as flexibility for FNS to post custom educational content. FNS also added three new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) courses, bringing the total DEI courses to six. WLOL overall saw a 46 percent increase in the total number of course completions in 2023 (total of 12,364) as compared to 2022 (total of 8,440).

WIC Breastfeeding Support

FNS hosted a webinar series on the WIC Breastfeeding Support Campaign implementation grants to coincide with National Breastfeeding Month celebrations in August. The webinar featured seven WIC State agencies plus the University of Nevada, Reno, sharing lessons learned and research findings from their grant evaluation. FNS issued a Secretarial Proclamation for National WIC Breastfeeding Week; added new social media content including toolkits,

videos, and messages to the WIC Breastfeeding Support website; and translated over 60 breastfeeding web articles into Spanish.

Additionally, FNS disseminated research findings from the WIC Breastfeeding Support campaign grants at the National Child and Adult Care Program Conference, the Federal Interagency Breastfeeding Working Group Meeting, and the United States Breastfeeding Coalition meeting.

WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence

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 2023, FNS awarded one Elite, 13 Premiere, and 111 Gold awards to WIC local agencies that demonstrated excellence in breastfeeding promotion and support. FNS also implemented a new online application process for the WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence, which allowed FNS to send notifications to users to assist in their complete and timely application submission.

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 more closely aligning nutrition risk determination with WIC nutrition interventions. In 2021, VENA training videos were developed and made available to WIC State agencies. In 2022, additional targeted VENA trainings were initiated based on input from Regional Offices and State Agencies. In 2023, an independent online learning course and a VENA training toolkit were developed. These trainings will be released to WIC State agencies in the first part of 2024.

Commodity Assistance Program

The NPA appropriation funds the staff administrative expenses of the Commodity Assistance Program (CAP). In addition to providing domestic 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 survivors of Presidentially declared disasters and situations of distress.

More information about the CAP programs during 2023 is described under “Acquisition and Distribution of USDA Foods” in the Child Nutrition Programs section.

Special USDA Foods Initiatives

In 2023, FNS continued 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’s 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. The most recent report, submitted on October 12, 2022, highlights key discussion topics and coordination activities to improve USDA Foods programs, such as implementation of supplemental funding sources (e.g. Commodity Credit Corporation) and progress made on system and process improvements, such as the development of the USDA Foods Database providing nutrition, allergen, and ingredient information for USDA Foods in child nutrition programs.

USDA Foods Nutrition Initiative

FNS and AMS work collaboratively to continually review USDA Foods to improve and enhance the nutrition profile of 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 program-specific meal pattern requirements.

In 2023, FNS leveraged existing partnerships to take steps toward addressing the need for culturally appropriate foods in TEFAP. FNS published factsheets and webpages that provide an overview of kosher and halal diets and identify the foods that are certified kosher or halal as well as those that may be acceptable to observant communities without certification. In conjunction with these resources, FNS hosted two webinars geared toward providing program operators with additional information on serving, storing, and supporting kosher and halal observant TEFAP participants. During 2023, six new foods that may be acceptable to some or all of these communities without certification were added to the list of foods made available for TEFAP – raw walnuts, raw almonds, yellow cornmeal, and three types of fish (pollock, haddock and ocean perch).

USDA Foods Rulemaking

In 2023, FNS published a proposed rulemaking to make access and parity improvements across USDA Foods programs, including CSFP, TEFAP, FDPIR, and USDA Foods disaster response. The main objectives of the rulemaking were to: (1) improve access to the programs so that eligible individuals can more easily obtain necessary resources, and program operators are able to easily provide those resources; (2) increase parity between FDPIR and SNAP; (3) modernize program operations and policies to reflect current program operations and build in flexibility for future, necessary changes; and (4) incorporate lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic into program regulations. FNS sought public comment on the proposed rule in 2023 and will use these comments to inform a final rulemaking expected to publish in 2024.

Civil Rights Division

The FNS Civil Rights Division (CRD) utilizes mainly NPA appropriation funds to perform various essential functions in support of the Agency's critically important mission of administering its 16 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 2023, CRD processed 144,934 pieces of correspondence and accepted and adjudicated 180 program complaints of prohibited discrimination involving State and local agencies, nonprofits, and institutions (often schools) that receive Federal financial assistance either directly or indirectly. CRD processed complaints in an average of 122 days and took appropriate actions to mitigate any issues 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. In 2023, 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 eight 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 their civil rights responsibilities in the operation of FNS programs. In 2023, FNS conducted 95 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, separations, and award practices, and providing training to FNS staff to ensure FNS is a model EEO agency. In 2023, CRD conducted 13 EEO supplemental training sessions for staff to ensure they are aware of their EEO rights and responsibilities and to help to correct EEO deficiencies and remove barriers. As a result, CRD reports that 26 EEO counseling's were conducted, which resulted in the filing of 18 formal complaints for the year. Additionally, CRD's MD-715 working group reviewed, analyzed and identified

areas of under and over representation for underserved and differently abled individuals on a quarterly basis, to help FNS become a model EEO Agency.

Financial Management Initiatives

Debt Collection Activity in 2023

For federally managed Federal debt, FNS continued its vigorous pursuit of debt owed to the Agency by billing \$445 million in new receivables in 2023. Year-end outstanding debts for the fiscal year increased from the previous year by \$193 million. The overall debt resolution rate achieved was about 189 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-125. 2020–2023 (millions of dollars; preliminary results)

Claims Activity	2020	2021	2022	2023
Claims Established.....	\$477	\$490	\$494	\$401
Claims Collected.....	364	389	431	318
Ending Balance	3,161	3,092	3,780	3,624

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 National Office staff conduct of the regional offices, the regions also conduct FMRs of participating State agencies and Indian Tribal Organizations 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 Indian Tribal Organizations who pose the greatest financial management risk.

Financial Statements Audit

FNS' audit opinion will be issued in mid-January 2024.

Administrative Management Initiatives

Project and Program Management Implementation Initiative

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 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 2023, FNS leveraged the existing Agency's Annual Priorities Planning and Operational Plans tools to facilitate and integrate additional project and program management concepts, continue developing FNS project and program managers, and re-enforce project and program management related activities and accountability across the

enterprise. FNS provided staff with a toolkit of project management templates and facilitated access to training and knowledge libraries.

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 and the USDA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Director. A total of 93 procurement requirements across all FNS program areas were identified and shared with 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.

In 2023, 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.

FNCS Central Analytics Team

In 2023, the FNCS Central Analytics Team (FCAT) focused on the implementation of USDA's Data Strategy, a collaboration with OCIO, FCAT and key FNCS offices and divisions. The data strategy covers opportunities, challenges, and potential actions over three fiscal years, 2024–2026, related to data governance and stewardship, workforce enablement, data collection and open data.

As part of USDA Data Strategy's (2021-2023) Goal 3, "to develop and leverage technology, infrastructure, and analytics tools to enable shared access and use of data to achieve our mission and drive innovation," FCAT in collaboration with FNCS programmatic and operational partners developed internal and external dashboards and data engineering projects to enhance performance, customer service, and accountability, which include projects for both internal and external audiences.

Internal-facing tools include:

- An Employee Exit Survey to inform FNCS employee retention strategies. The Exit Survey Dashboard visualizes responses to the FNCS Exit Survey that is circulated to staff that have been separated from FNCS. The dashboard explores the topics of work-life balance, primary reason for leaving, accessibility, work environment, support, opportunities for growth, and compensation. Additionally, the dashboard provides characteristics of respondents including, demographics, tenure, and grade level. This dashboard can be used as a tool to gain insight into key areas that may be driving separation. Since launch, ORHM asked to utilize this dashboard for a USDA-wide dashboard.
- A SNAP "Health of States Report" was developed for internal FNCS use to analyze data from multiple SNAP data systems (e.g., National Data Bank and SNAP Quality Control System) to identify opportunities to support State transition from the PHE. The report examined State participation trends and customer service, pre- and post-pandemic. This report was originally built in R-Markdown programming language but is now in the process of being transitioned to a fully-fledged dashboard using Tableau data analytics software in early 2024.
- Regional offices are using the new, automated Bluesheets to facilitate the creation of this executive report. The Bluesheet is a State- or territory-specific executive report compiled for FNCS Leadership on an as-needed basis that contains key metrics related to all FNCS programs. Historically, this report had to be manually compiled in Excel that required a time-consuming exercise of copying and pasting reports to generate the final Bluesheet. Over the past three months, the FCAT, in partnership with ROS, developed an automated process for the development of the Bluesheets. FCAT data engineers developed a Python script that populates a standard report for all State agencies and places it in a designated SharePoint folder, all in roughly five minutes. The script saves FNCS staff a significant amount of time and effort and ensures that the reports are accurate and consistent. These reports are currently under user acceptance testing through November 2023.
- The SNAP Quality Control Ad-Hoc Query Tool was released on the authenticated FNCS Open Data Platform and is averaging at least 1,000 views per month since the latest tool update in July. The tool is

accessible by SNAP Quality Control State Agency staff, forming a user group of over 1000 people. The tool allows both State Agency and National Office staff, in a version hosted on the Mission Data Platform, to query and extract the latest quality control data available for their respective, State, region, or nationwide. This data is updated daily and contains over 350 fields for download and filtering.

External-facing tools include:

- The Nutrition Education and Local Food Access Dashboard was FNCS's first public dashboard and provides national to county-level map display of public data related to nutritious foods, the food environment, and individual health. This dashboard has been viewed over 5,500 times since launching in late June 2023. The Nutrition Education and Local Food Access Dashboard provides State- and county-level insights into nutrition assistance programs and their relationships with other measures related to hunger and nutritional health. By bringing together USDA's Food Environment Atlas with farm to school intensity measures in one robust tool, the dashboard allows State and local governments, tribal leaders, policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and other audiences to inform cross-program nutrition technical assistance and support States' nutrition action planning.
- The SNAP Community Characteristics: Congressional District Explorer dashboard was released on FNCS's Open Data Platform in late June 2023, and has been viewed over 5,000 times. This exploratory tool was built to share information about Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation, income, and household demographics within each congressional district. Users may select their own district, along with any other district of interest, and can compare two districts at once within a given State.
- The SNAP Retailer Year End Summaries Report is a dashboard that was released on FNCS's Open Data Platform in late June 2023, and has been viewed over 3,100 times. The dashboard was created to share information about Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) retailer participation during fiscal year 2022. The goal of the dashboard is to provide an annual State-level visualization of SNAP retailer management, including metrics related to authorizations, redemptions, and compliance. Users may select specific measures to compare across States or specific retailer types for key metrics. This dashboard can be used by the public to gain insight on SNAP through retailer activity.

As part of the USDA Data Strategy's (2021-2023) goal to "create a strong, data-driven culture by recruiting, retaining, restructuring, and retraining the workforce to acquire the needed data and analytics skillsets," FCAT administered trainings across three different, interrelated areas to drive decision making, including data governance, data science, and data visualization. FCAT hosted meetings on 20 different data science topics and techniques. Each session focused on open-sourced programming languages and FNCS data to upskill our workforce to be more data-driven and create a culture that prioritizes data. Sessions offered breakouts for programming languages R-Markdown and Python, totaling 40 separate training sessions by topic and coding language. FCAT also hosted eight FNCS "Data Viz" Hours, providing FNCS employees with the knowledge and skills to interpret, create, and critique data visualizations using a range of software solutions.

FCAT also hosted 12 monthly meetings and trainings with members of the newly established FNCS Data Analytics Sub-Committee. Meetings included topics on enterprise data management, data cataloging processes and standards, metadata collection, data lake overviews, artificial intelligence, and corresponding federal and departmental policies and best practices. As part of this effort, FCAT partnered with OIT, as well as the sub-committee, to complete the first phase of the cataloging project. Based on the information collected, the team developed a user-friendly tool that FNCS staff can use to learn about the 60+ major data systems owned or used by FNCS. The dashboard is available to all staff to search and find relevant data sources, identify data stewards, and learn over approximately 60 other major data systems owned or used by our teams.

The team ended the year accepting an invitation to speak at the 2023 International Chief Data Officer and Information Quality (CDOIQ) Symposium. They presented on FCAT's work in the last three years to mature FNCS's data fluency, visualization, and analytics capabilities. Presenting at this symposium allowed for greater engagement with other government CDOs and analysts, and allowed FCAT to share and learn strategies to building a skilled and data informed workforce that can most effectively serve FNCS's mission.

Acquisition Strategies

FNS's 2023 procurement strategy has been a continuation of the Agency's commitment to increase contracting opportunities for small businesses 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 2023, FNS completed more than 375 contract actions, totaling more than \$191 million in support of program operations. Of those, 34 percent of the total value of the actions were awarded to small and disadvantaged businesses.

Table FNS-126. Business Categories

Category	Goal	Actual
Small Business	55.0%	34.80%
Small Disadvantaged Business	22.40%	26.56%
8 (a)	30%	0.80%
Women-Owned Small Business.....	5.0%	8.85%
Hub Zones.....	3.0%	4.86%
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business.....	3.0%	1.25%
Veteran-Owned Small Business.....	3.0%	1.25%

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 figures.

Employee Engagement

The Agency is committed to fostering 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 all employees to empower them 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 2023, the Agency continued to commit to significant investments into enhancing its culture of learning for the collective growth of its workforce. These investments were evident through the development, implementation and assessment of comprehensive learning experiences, including the Path to Success program, Leadership Institute, and the Executive Candidate Development Readiness Program. The three highlighted programs identify the intentionality of the Agency to engage members of its workforce through individually delivered meaningful learning experiences over at least a six-month period. The objectives and hybrid delivery format assist in a faithful articulation of the Agency’s culture and represent a commitment to investing in the future of the Agency through a consistent leadership model and communication of expectations which contribute to sustaining a low attrition rate in an increasingly competitive talent environment across the Federal government.

In early 2023, in support of USDA’s health and wellness initiative and as a core component of Agency priorities under the Future of Work Initiative (FOW), FNS established the Employee Health and Wellness Council (EHWC). The EHWC membership is represented by senior leader appointments representing each area of the Agency as well as bargaining unit employees represented by the National Treasury Employees Union and American Federation of Government Employees. The EHWC created several efforts specifically tailored to the betterment of FNS employees’ health and wellness while simultaneously encouraging FNS staff to engage in initiatives promoting their own well-being in the workplace. The goal of the EHWC is to engage employees and to promote an environment that supports overall staff well-being, thereby better enabling our employees to contribute to the Agency’s goals and objectives. The EHWC developed a charter, mission statement, and engaged over 1700 employees in a logo-design competition and pilot program in conjunction with Public Service Recognition Week. The EHWC implemented its first-ever FNS Wellness Week that included daily engagement activities focusing individual and team physical health, nutrition, and mental wellness, and emotional health. Over 700 employees actively participated (41 percent of the workforce) and employee feedback was overwhelmingly positive about the event. The EHWC also developed a comprehensive 2024 Employee Health and Wellness Plan (EHWP) that was presented and approved by Agency senior executives in September 2023. The EHWP includes an agency-wide wellness assessment that is based on the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Worker Well-Being Questionnaire and will contribute to the holistic shaping of the Agency’s efforts in implementing its plan.

Performance Management

FNS entered into an updated Collective Bargaining Agreement with its labor partners in the latter part of 2022 which facilitated the successful transition of all remaining bargaining unit employees within the Agency to a two-

tier performance rating system in 2023. In support of the human capital management strategies and in accordance with OMB M-17-22, the Agency continued to provide performance management training and resources to employees and supervisors through group workshops and individual counseling sessions, which served to increase organizational effectiveness and efficiency by enhancing performance, customer service, and accountability.

Human Capital

In 2023, FNS continued improving the hiring process by implementing data-informed human capital management strategies and a full expansion of the talent acquisition flexibilities in accordance with Departmental and the Office of Personnel Management guidance and Federal regulations. In 2023, more than 300 hiring actions were completed with an average time to hire of 80 days, while completing full implementation of the Agency hybrid work environment. A series of strategies were employed to ensure efficiency, including tracking time to hire on a pay period to pay-period basis and auditing at least three hiring action case files per month. Implementing an enhanced service delivery model through establishing business partners across functional portfolios enabled improved effectiveness in the timely completion of all personnel actions.

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 of FNS staff. HR Helps provided dedicated support to address all HR customers that address current employee needs, applicant inquiries, and new hire questions (onboarding). During 2023, over 2,100 inquiries were received with more than 95% resolved in less than one day. The HR Helps customer center was able to resolve 94% of inquiries without escalating to subject matter experts, which enabled Agency HR experts to dedicate more of their time to accomplishing complicated human resources goals, objectives, and priorities supporting the Agency's mission.

Diversity and Inclusion (D&I)

FNS continued to recruit from diverse sources to ensure the workforce reflects the demographics of the people it serves. 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, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, veteran organizations, and affiliates for disabled people. In 2023, the agency continued to promote the use of non-competitive hiring authorities among hiring managers and supervisors, which increased workforce diversity.

As a continuation of the initial success acquired in the previous fiscal year, in 2023 the Agency continued to enhance its outreach efforts by investing in opportunities to establish partnership relationships with colleges, universities, and associations specifically representing underrepresented groups. The establishment of partnerships also included veteran-servicing organizations supporting their efforts to assist veterans in acquiring meaningful and long-term employment. Agency senior executives received increased access to critical diversity and inclusion data by establishing the Exit Survey Dashboard. The Dashboard equips the executives with data to support informed discussions within their management teams to ensure that talent acquisition plans leverage partnerships as well as non-competitive and competitive authorities to continue our commitment to a fully representative workforce within the Agency.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Engagement and Accessibility (EDIEA)

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) remained focused on cultivating a workforce that is diverse in experience, talent, and equity through an atmosphere that is inclusive and accessible to facilitate all employees' flourishing. The agency utilized the findings and recommendations from the environmental scan in 2022 to review and enhance EDIEA policies and practices. This focus has informed the unwavering understanding that our employees are the driving force we rely on to produce high quality work that is critical to sustained mission success.

In 2023, FNS engaged in the completion of a barrier analysis which resulted in the development of a comprehensive responsible, accountable, consulted, and informed (RACI) Matrix which provided detailed organizational program responsibilities. Additionally, agency senior executives engaged in a comprehensive series of planned discussions which included the identification of achievable actions throughout the FNS Employee Lifecycle to further enhance our EDIEA efforts. As a result of the collaborative and consistent efforts of the FNS leadership, EDIEA was deeply

rooted into the organizational culture to produce a harvest of employment engagement opportunities for every employee to serve as stewards in the continued thriving of our workforce into the future.

Operations and Facilities (OFD)

FNS is working toward an agency-wide space utilization plan which will balance the needs of a hybrid workforce with the opportunities it presents to secure significant savings for the taxpayer through the thoughtful reduction of our rental footprint. In 2023, FNS completed nine projects, which resulted in the closure of nine retail management centers and the termination of their leases. This effort resulted in an annual savings of \$450,000. Looking forward, FNS is coordinating across all eight of its primary locations to identify opportunities to reduce our footprint while ensuring adequate facilities are available for regular, meaningful, in-person collaboration among staff and partners. Within the National Office facility in Alexandria, Virginia, the Agency is evaluating options for creating low-cost meeting and collaboration spaces to facilitate a range of meeting sizes in support the FNS community nationwide. This effort will potentially assist others in the USDA community for whom low or no-cost Federal meeting space is in short supply. This effort seeks to not only promote frequent, in-person collaboration for FNS staff and partners but also to reduce Agency expenditures on short-term meeting and conference space rentals.

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; translating science into actionable food and nutrition guidance for all Americans; and leading 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 USDA's goal to improve food and nutrition security for all Americans. FNS is committed to continuous quality advancement by incorporating best practices into all initiatives to ensure efficiency while maintaining integrity and quality across its initiatives.

CNPP makes key contributions to USDA's priority of ensuring that America's children and 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. CNPP's mission, vision, goals, priorities, and values exemplify its commitment to performance that meet the needs of the American public - driving greater integration and collaboration for greater impact. CNPP 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/or benefit levels for participants ages 2 years and older.

During 2023, CNPP worked jointly with HHS to promote the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025 and continued the process to develop the next edition, Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030 to be released by the end of 2025.

CNPP, with its 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 5 million page views at [DietaryGuidelines.gov](https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov). The site has been accessed by users in 240 countries/territories, including all 50 States and DC. In 2023, CNPP continued to promote resources designed to support professionals in implementing the Dietary

Guidelines through presentations, targeted emails, and social media. Staff from CNPP's Nutrition Guidance Branch delivered six professional presentations focused on the Dietary Guidelines at national conferences, workshops, and webinars. Seven email campaigns providing tailored information on how nutrition and health professionals can use Dietary Guidelines resources in a variety of practice settings to meet the needs of diverse populations and life stages reached an average of over 280,000 participants each. Dietary Guidelines resources were also featured in eight @USDANutrition posts on X (formerly known as Twitter), with an average of nearly 1,000 views each. There was widespread utilization of Dietary Guidelines resources in 2023, including about 490,000 total views/downloads of print materials, presentation slides, figures, and infographics on DietaryGuidelines.gov (90 percent in English and 10 percent in Spanish) and 219,000 downloads of the PDF version of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025, making up about 45 percent of total downloads.

USDA and HHS jointly announced the appointment of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee on January 19, 2023. The 20-person committee of scientific experts, who were nominated by the public, is tasked with reviewing the current body of science on key nutrition topics and developing a scientific report that includes its independent assessment of the evidence and recommendations for HHS and USDA as they develop the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The Committee's review, public comments, and input from other federal nutrition experts will help inform HHS and USDA as the Departments develop the 10th edition of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The Committee is tasked with examining the relationship between diet and health across all life stages, answering scientific questions that the Departments posted for public comment in 2022, and using a health equity lens throughout its evidence review to ensure factors such as socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, and culture are described and considered to the greatest extent possible based on the information provided in the scientific literature and data.

Concurrent with the announcement of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee appointment, the Departments opened a public comment period that will remain open throughout the duration of the Committee's work. On an ongoing basis, HHS and USDA have encouraged the public to participate in the process by attending the Committee meetings and submitting public comments. As of December 2023, more than 800 comments have been submitted by the public, all of which are available for the public to view via a link at DietaryGuidelines.gov.

In 2023, the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee held three meetings – February, May, and September – all of which were livestreamed for the public, with Committee slides and video recordings posted to DietaryGuidelines.gov for public access after the meetings. An average of nearly 1,000 individuals attended each Committee meetings via livestream and each meeting's videocast recording received an average of nearly 1,300 views. During the meetings, the Committee discussed its work to date and deliberated on the work of the subcommittees, including protocol development and draft conclusion statements that the public was encouraged to review and provide comments on at DietaryGuidelines.gov. The Committee's third meeting included the opportunity for the public to provide oral comments to the Committee. Confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis, a total of 82 individuals, representing a broad range of organizations and interests, provided comments.

In November 2022, the National Academies of Sciences released its study to compare the process used to develop the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030 to recommendations included in its first report, Redesigning the Process for Establishing the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. FNS is using the findings from this study to help inform future cycles.

In 2023, CNPP commissioned a study to explore ways that systems approaches could be applied to the process of developing the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which was a recommendation from the first NASEM report.

In 2023, CNPP contracted with the National Academies of Sciences to conduct a series of systematic reviews on alcoholic beverages and health, per the 2023 Appropriations Act. The Academies' systematic reviews will help inform work of HHS's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, which is leading the effort to develop recommendations for adults on alcohol beverages and health due to its in-depth subject matter expertise on the topic. SAMHSA will provide its recommendations in a report published and available to the public in 2025, which will allow for the topic of alcoholic beverages and health to be included in the next edition of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review (NESR)

Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review (NESR) is a team of scientists from FNS's 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 2023, 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 2023, NESR's major review projects included:

Continuous evidence monitoring on high priority topics and questions likely to be addressed by the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. Continuous Evidence Monitoring is an evidence-gathering process in which established systematic review protocols are used to periodically search for, screen, and prepare evidence for future systematic reviews.

A rapid review project was completed at the request of FNS's Office of Policy Support to summarize evidence on racial and ethnic disparities in human milk feeding and factors that are associated with those relationships. A rapid review is an evidence synthesis project that answers a nutrition question of public health importance using streamlined systematic review methods. Methods used to search for, evaluate, synthesize, or assess the evidence may be tailored to conserve resources and produce a timelier product when full systematic review methods are not needed or feasible. The report was published in November 2023 on NESR's website (<https://nesr.usda.gov/human-milk-feeding-disparities-rapid-review-project>) and circulated to key Federal and non-Federal stakeholders.

Supporting the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee in conducting approximately 35 systematic reviews, systematic reviews with meta-analysis, and evidence scans. The results of these will be described in the Committee's Scientific Report and integrated together with results from Food Pattern Modeling and Data Analyses, to inform their recommendations to USDA and HHS for the next edition of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The Committee's systematic reviews and evidence scans will be posted on NESR's website when their scientific report is released, tentatively in November-December 2024.

Continuous Quality Advancement, which is a NESR initiative that ensures that its process and tools remain state of the art. NESR keeps abreast of the latest science and technology by leveraging the expertise of and collaborating with methodologists from other leading systematic review organizations. In 2023, NESR Continuous Quality Advancement addressed the following:

- 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, training and orientation materials for the Committee and public meetings, and development and finalization of templates to use in facilitating work with the Committee.
- Synthesis, with and without meta-analysis, including hosting a roundtable of experts in meta-analysis to support development of NESR methods for conducting meta-analysis
- Using existing non-NESR reviews
- Updating NESR reviews
- Risk of bias
- Grading the strength of evidence
- Inclusion and exclusion criteria
- Ensuring that equity considerations are integrated throughout the process of conducting evidence synthesis projects
- Outreach using a variety of strategies to disseminate information about NESR and its work to a range of audiences. In 2023, NESR's major outreach activities included:
 - Measuring and expanding the uptake of the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee reviews
 - Development of two peer-review publications (one published, one submitted)
 - Participation in approximately 10 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 is using to conduct their rigorous review of the evidence to inform the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030. Food pattern modeling is a methodology used to illustrate how changes to the amounts or types of foods and beverages in a dietary pattern might affect meeting nutrient needs. It is used to develop quantitative dietary patterns that reflect health-promoting patterns identified in systematic reviews and meet energy and nutrient needs. This approach allows the Committee to make recommendations to inform the development of dietary patterns for the U.S. population. The existing USDA Dietary Patterns were developed to help individuals carry out Dietary Guidelines recommendations and 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.

Work of the Federal Food Pattern Modeling Team in 2023 transitioned from the foundational work of the interagency Food Pattern Modeling working group to enhance the food pattern modeling methods and proposed scientific questions, to work supporting the 2025 Committee. The 2025 Committee is using food pattern modeling to answer the following overarching scientific question, which was developed after a public comment period in 2022:

Considering each life stage, should changes be made to the USDA Dietary Patterns (Healthy U.S.-Style, Healthy Mediterranean-Style, and/or Healthy Vegetarian), and should additional Dietary Patterns be developed/proposed based on:

- Findings from systematic reviews, data analysis, and/or food pattern modeling analyses; and/or
- Population norms (e.g., starchy vegetables are often consumed interchangeably with grains), preferences (e.g., emphasis on one staple grain versus another), or needs (e.g., lactose intolerance) of the diverse communities and cultural foodways within the U.S. population?

Changes to Dietary Patterns may include increases or decreases in amounts of food groups/subgroups and/or recategorization of food groups/subgroups, as well as subsequent changes to calories available for other uses, including for added sugars.

This overarching question was informed by goals for the Committee's food pattern modeling analyses to use enhanced food pattern modeling methodology to better reflect intake variability and the range of possible healthful diets based on our diverse populations. The Committee has prioritized 11 protocols that detail analyses to address the overarching question. For the first time, the food pattern modeling methodology will include simulations of diets to test the feasibility of achieving the proposed dietary patterns and associated nutritional goals while accounting for variation of dietary intakes.

The Food Pattern Modeling Team supports the work of the Committee by conducting specific food pattern modeling analyses identified by the Committee. The interagency team includes nutrition scientists and data analysts from USDA and HHS with doctoral (PhD, DrPH, ScD, and MD) or master's degrees (MS, MPH) in nutrition science, public health, economics, or related fields and expertise in food pattern modeling methodology. Some are registered dietitians (RD) or registered dietitian nutritionists (RDN).

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-sex groups.

In 2023, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) undertook significant steps in support of the upcoming reevaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan. The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334, the 2018 Farm Bill) established a new requirement for USDA to reevaluate the Thrifty Food Plan by 2022 and every 5 years thereafter. Because the last reevaluation was conducted in 2021, the next reevaluation is anticipated in 2026. The reevaluation must be based on food prices, food composition data, consumption patterns, and dietary guidance that are current at the time of the reevaluation. Federal law specifies that the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan in June serves

as the basis for setting maximum SNAP benefit allotments in the following fiscal year. In May 2023, CNPP released The Thrifty Food Plan 2026 Initial Study Plan, which outlines the overall scope of the analysis, including the population, type of analysis, and data sources identified to conduct the reevaluation. It also includes a description of ongoing research, quality assurance commitments such as external peer reviews, plans for project management, and the definitions of key terms. In addition, CNPP has initiated a contract to explore alternatives to the current Thrifty Food Plan optimization model and has started a food waste systematic review project.

In July 2023, CNPP published the Thrifty Food Plan Cost Estimates for Alaska and Hawaii report, which evaluates existing price indexes and food price data sources, identifies the most appropriate data source, and details CNPP's approach for using this data source to calculate June 2022 Thrifty Food Plan cost estimates for Alaska and Hawaii. The development and release of this report reflects a multi-year effort to improve documentation and quality advancement in all work related to the Thrifty Food Plan.

Each year, as required by Congress, the Department of Defense uses the year-over-year increase in the value of the Liberal Food Plan to determine the increase in Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS), a component of servicemember compensation that is meant to offset the cost of food. In 2023, CNPP supported nutrition security among servicemembers by calculating an updated value of the Liberal Food Plan to account for food price inflation, resulting in an 11.2 percent increase in the BAS.

Healthy Eating Index Tracks the Quality of the U.S. Diet

The Healthy Eating Index (HEI) is a measure of diet quality used to assess how well a set of foods aligns with key recommendations and dietary patterns published in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) and is updated as a collaboration between CNPP and the HHS National Cancer Institute. CNPP uses the Healthy Eating Index to monitor the diet quality of the American population and subpopulations of interest. For the first time, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025 included specific guidance and dietary patterns for children ages 12 through 23 months. In response, in addition to a review of HEI across the lifespan for ages 2 and older, CNPP and National Cancer Institute released a new Healthy Eating Index-Toddlers-2020 (HEI-Toddlers-2020).

In 2023, staff from CNPP and the National Cancer Institute collaborated on a series of four peer reviewed manuscripts:

- Healthy Eating Index-2020: Review and Update Process to Reflect the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025
- Development of the Healthy Eating Index-Toddlers-2020
- Evaluation of the Healthy Eating Index-Toddlers-2020
- Continuity, Considerations, and Future Directions for the Healthy Eating Index-Toddlers-2020

In addition to these publications, the authors presented a public webinar on the HEI-2020 and the HEI-Toddlers-2020 that was hosted by the National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR).

The CNPP website was updated to reflect the release of the Healthy Eating Index (HEI)-2020 and the HEI-Toddlers-2020 as well as general updates to reflect the process to develop the next edition of the Dietary Guidelines.

MyPlate: Meeting Consumers Where They Are to Help Them Eat Healthy on a Budget

MyPlate is the symbol and guide used in Federal nutrition education and promotion to translate the latest edition of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans into consumer-friendly recommendations. Established in 2011, MyPlate replaced the Food Pyramid and marked a transformational change in the way USDA aims to make evidence-based nutrition information more accessible to consumers.

For more than 12 years, CNPP has promoted MyPlate while also leveraging technology to link scientific research to the nutritional and budgetary needs of consumers through tools such as the Start Simple with MyPlate App, MyPlate on Alexa, and Shop Simple with MyPlate. In addition, CNPP has been increasingly working to meet diverse communities' needs through resources that are developed with cultural norms and foodways in mind.

In 2023, CNPP efforts for MyPlate centered on expanding the reach of healthy, budget-conscious, nutrition information with the goal of impacting food and nutrition 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 five most visited among all USDA websites. MyPlate.gov had a total of nearly 6.5 million visitors and over 50 million page views in 2023. In 2023, the MyPlate.gov homepage was redesigned and updated for increased consumer engagement by using action-focused wording for all of the featured MyPlate resources. An interactive MyPlate logo was also added, as well as a new "Explore MyPlate" button that drives users to an expanded "What is MyPlate" page for better orientation to the website. Click tracking on the homepage shows that 27 percent of users are clicking on the Explore MyPlate button, with an additional 57 percent interacting with the clickable MyPlate icon. In 2023, the MiPlato en español page (USDA MyPlate in Spanish -- MiPlato en español) received nearly 60,000 page views.

Shop Simple with MyPlate

CNPP developed Shop Simple with MyPlate, a web tool to help consumers save money while shopping for healthy food choices, which launched in 2022. The tool provides actionable information, and integrates assets from various USDA nutrition assistance programs, putting key resources in one place for the public. 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; rather, 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.

In 2023, CNPP updated Shop Simple with MyPlate to add foods and associated content that represent traditional foods offered in FNS's Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (frozen catfish, frozen walleye, frozen salmon, wild rice, blue cornmeal, canned hominy, frozen blueberries). In 2023, Shop Simple with MyPlate received more than 775,000 pageviews and nearly 128,000 total users.

MyPlate Social and Digital Media

Social media is an integral component of MyPlate's overall communications strategy. As part of the strategy, MyPlate's social outreach 2023 objectives included:

- Increase awareness of MyPlate resources among consumers and stakeholders, encouraging them to see and engage with MyPlate content online.
- Promote simple, cultural, and customizable solutions that create healthy eating routines with budget-friendly nutritious foods, food preparation, and digital tools.
- Drive traffic to MyPlate tools and resources for meaningful content experiences to encourage repeat use.

In September 2023, CNPP expanded MyPlate's social presence beyond Facebook and X (formerly known as Twitter) by adding a MyPlate Instagram account. As a highly visual platform, Instagram offers a way to reach consumers with educational and inspirational content about MyPlate and healthy eating. MyPlate can now reach new audiences to raise awareness of MyPlate with compelling short-form videos and static content that are authentic to Instagram and MyPlate. All of MyPlate's social media channels continued to serve as one of the primary promotion vehicles for MyPlate tools and resources in 2023. X and Facebook continue to contribute to MyPlate's main social outreach with the current total number of followers over 99,300 and over 172,000 (respectively). Introduced in mid-September 2023, MyPlate's Instagram account gained over 1,500 followers in its first two weeks.

MyPlate Quiz

The MyPlate Quiz is an interactive online tool that consumers can use to receive personalized results and resources based on their eating behaviors. In 2023, the MyPlate Quiz was completed nearly 475,000 times in English and Spanish. Consumers answer 20 multiple choice questions about their eating habits, interests, and the MyPlate food groups and then are assigned a MyPlate level and food group recommendations and offered a variety of free resources. The resources include tip sheets, a unique code to sync their quiz results with the Start Simple with MyPlate app (over 30,000 codes were synced in 2023), recipes from MyPlate Kitchen (see below), and Healthy Eating on a Budget information.

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 app challenges. In 2023, CNPP developed 20 new badges designed to encourage active engagement and reward long-term use of the app. Badges emphasize accomplishments in areas including personal performance, participation, meeting goal milestones, and anniversary recognition. Since its launch through the end of 2023, there were more than 661,000 net installations of the app from the Apple App Store and Android Google Play.

MyPlate Kitchen

CNPP continues to lead the MyPlate Kitchen section of the MyPlate website in collaboration with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) staff. In 2023, MyPlate Kitchen received 3.8 million pageviews. CNPP collaborated with Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Program (SNAS) on the addition of 12 new recipes (with Spanish translations) featuring traditional foods offered in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). CNPP will continue to partner with SNAS to add recipes that include traditional foods and cooking methods wherever possible. The MyPlate Kitchen Team has also improved Google search results for recipe pages and uploaded several new recipe images for missing recipes. The team has been working on integrating a new food data backend to enable updated nutrition, food groups, 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 smartphones. MyPlate on Alexa provides MyPlate nutrition information and healthy eating tips for all ages, from 4 months old to older adulthood via an Amazon Alexa smart speaker or on a phone or tablet via the free Amazon Alexa app. Metrics analysis shows that in 2023, there were more than 2,700 sessions and over 4,000 tips read.

MyPlate Partnerships

The public-private MyPlate Nutrition Communicators Network's National Strategic Partnership (NSP), comprised of organizations with national reach, ended 2023 with a total membership of 140 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. To expand reach of the communication network, opportunities with grocery retail partnerships were identified. This resulted in the addition of two new grocery retail Partners that are leveraging MyPlate tools and resources at the community and national levels. Additionally, a fact sheet entitled, "Promoting Nutrition Equity Through SNAP Healthy Incentives" was created through a collaboration between CNPP and the SNAP Retail Incentive Branch. The fact sheet walks Partners step-by-step through the process of applying to offer incentives through the SNAP Healthy Incentive Program, outlines benefits of participating, and provides background information on Shop Simple with MyPlate. The fact sheet is available as a webpage and a PDF on MyPlate.gov.

During 2022, 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 continue to share nutrition education resources, images, and videos that align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Notably, during 2023, a group of four Partners across various sectors, worked together to develop and launch the MiPlato tool kit. This toolkit includes sample and customizable meal plans; meal tips and recipes to create healthier versions of cultural favorites; and a guide for health professionals. All materials are downloadable in English and Spanish. The toolkit demonstrates how MyPlate can be the foundation for healthy, budget-conscious eating that incorporates cultural foodways that serve historically underserved communities. Other resources developed under the MOU are available on the Partner Resource page on MyPlate.gov.

In April 2023, the MyPlate Life Stages Subgroups were announced to further facilitate cross promotional work among the Partners. The subgroups identified were: Maternal and Infants; Kids and Teens; Adults and Families; and

Older Adults. Subgroups meet every month, to work on projects that fit the special needs of the life stage and address the MyPlate themes. Collaborating Partners identify resource gaps and can create resources aligned to the established MOU criteria.

In September 2023, CNPP launched the MyPlate National Strategic Partnership Recognition Program to celebrate Partners who are engaged in partnership activities and promote MyPlate to their audiences. The Partner recognition criteria provides specific benchmarks that Partners can achieve, and Partners can determine their level of participation within the recognition framework. There are three recognition levels: MyPlate Promoter (Bronze), MyPlate Leader (Silver), and MyPlate Champion (Gold).

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AGENCY-WIDE PERFORMANCE

Introduction

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

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

FNS Key Performance Indicators:

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 Food and Nutrition Service's contributions to the Departmental Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and introduces new KPIs for 2025 in support of Strategic Objective 4.1.

Table FNS-127. Key Performance Indicators & Strategic Targets

Strategic Objective 4.1	Item	CY 2022	CY 2023	CY 2024	CY 2025
Access to Food	Results	87.2%	-	-	-
Percentage of American households with consistent, dependable access to food	Target	89.3%	89.4%	89.5%	89.6%
State Participation in the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Program ^{1/}	Results	-	-	-	-
Number of States participating in the Summer EBT Program	Target	-	-	27	40
Indian Tribal Organization Participation in Summer EBT ^{1/}	Results	-	-	-	-
Number ITOs participating in the Summer EBT Program	Target	-	-	2	4
Monthly Summer Meals Served¹	Results	-	-	-	-
Number of Congregate and Non-Congregate Meals Served in Each State's Peak Summer Month as a Percentage of Free and Reduced Price Meals Served During an Average Month During the Target Year	Target	-	-	-	20%

^{1/}New KPIs for 2025 as a result of changes to the Summer Food Service Program and the establishment of the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children Program (Summer EBT). Data will first be collected in 2025.

Table FNS-128. Key Performance Indicators & Strategic Targets

Strategic Objective 4.1	Item	2022	2023	2024	2025
SNAP Participation Rate ^{1/}	Results	TBD	TBD	-	-
Annual Average Monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation Rate	Target	82.1%	82.2%	82.3%	82.3%

^{1/}SNAP participation rate data for 2022 available in 2024, for 2023 available in 2025.

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: In 2025, FNS will continue implementing the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program, expand non-congregate summer meals in rural areas under certain circumstances, and lower the Community Eligibility Provision threshold, which is expected to reduce food insecurity. In addition, FNS will continue to support efforts to update and promote the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) for 2025-2030. The DGAs are updated every five years. FNS will also conduct research to support the next reevaluation of the TFP, which is scheduled to be released in 2026. The TFP represents a healthy, practical, and cost-conscious diet for low-income households living in today's food environment, and is based on current food prices, consumption data, the nutrients in food, and the latest dietary guidance. The cost of the TFP serves as the basis for the maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit allotment.

State Participation in the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Program: FNS has made significant efforts to support State participation in Summer EBT including educating States about Summer EBT, providing technical assistance through a variety of venues, issuing early guidance, holding numerous listening sessions, attending industry conferences, and facilitating sharing among States. As part of this, FNS is in the process of developing a prototype application and is working with external stakeholders who are producing technical assistance materials and/or have funding available to support State Summer EBT programs. To encourage States that are not already operating the program to administer Summer EBT in 2025, FNS will need to continue the activities noted above. FNS may also need to facilitate cooperation between States, help identify funds to cover State administrative expenses and identify other resources and strategic partnerships to support State implementation.

State and Indian Tribal Organization (ITO) Participation in Summer EBT: To date, FNS has made significant efforts to support ITO participation in Summer EBT including educating ITOs about Summer EBT, providing technical assistance through a variety of venues, issuing early guidance, holding numerous listening sessions, attending industry conferences, and facilitating sharing among ITOs. As part of this, FNS is in the process of developing a prototype application and is working with external stakeholders who are producing technical assistance materials and/or have funding available to support ITO Summer EBT programs. To encourage ITOs that are not already operating the program to administer Summer EBT in 2025, FNS will need to continue the activities noted above. FNS may also need to facilitate cooperation between States and ITOs, help identify funds to cover ITO administrative expenses and identify other resources and strategic partnerships to support ITO implementation.

Summer Meals Served. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328) established a rural non-congregate meal option in the Summer Food Service Program and the SSO. FNS will continue to support State and local agency implementation of the interim final rule, which was published in 2024. As part of this, FNS will provide States with technical assistance to capture and increase each State's peak summer month as a percentage of free and reduced-price meals served during an average month during School Year 2024-2025. In 2025, two provisions from the interim final rule will become effective – the requirement for all State agencies to contribute site information to the Summer Site Finder, as well as the development and publication of a Coordinated Services Plan, whose intent is to coordinate and mutually strengthen the statewide availability of services offered through the Summer Meal Programs and the Summer EBT Program.

SNAP Participation Rate: In 2025, FNS will continue to work with state agencies to ensure access and reduce barriers to SNAP benefits for eligible people while also providing technical assistance to implement provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. FNS will implement a research study to evaluate the impact of EBT modernization on a range of indicators such as program performance, access, equity, and cost. FNS will also initiate a study with the aim to create a comprehensive inventory of SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) providers and their locations to help participants find services and for FNS and States to identify gaps in coverage. FNS will also publish a proposed rule to modernize SNAP benefit issuance and increase program integrity.

Table FNS-129. Key Performance Indicators & Strategic Targets

Strategic Objective 4.2	Item	2022	2023	2024	2025
WIC Participation	Results	6.3 million	6.6 million ^{1/}	-	-
Annual average monthly participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children	Target	6.3 million	6.4 million	6.8 million	7.0 million
School Lunch Participation Rate	Results	57%	57%	-	-
Annual percentage of eligible children participating in the National School Lunch Program	Target	59%	59%	59%	59%
School Breakfast Participation Rate	Results	30%	29%	-	-
Annual percentage of eligible children participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP)	Target	31%	31%	31%	31%

^{1/} This number is based on publicly posted preliminary data; actuals for 2023 will be available, at the earliest, in April 2024.

Expected Performance Progress Towards the Achievement of Strategic Objectives:

Strategic Objective 4.2: Encourage Healthy Dietary Choices through Data-Driven, Flexible, Customer-Focused Approaches

WIC Participation Rate: In 2025, FNS will continue several efforts aimed at increasing participation and retention in WIC. FNS previously awarded grants to modernize and create innovative outreach strategies aimed at increasing participation and ensuring that WIC meets the needs of participants. FNS will monitor the implementation of these efforts and evaluate their impact on key indicators including participation, retention, and the redemption of WIC benefits. In addition, FNS will finalize rulemaking to address key regulatory barriers to online shopping in the WIC program. FNS will also publish a proposed rule with the aim to modernize food delivery and customer service through updated regulatory requirements that consider the changing retail marketplace.

School Lunch and School Breakfast Participation Rate: In 2025, FNS will continue to encourage school meal participation including promoting CEP elections and providing technical assistance to support the final CEP regulation. The intention of this rulemaking is to expand access to CEP and provide greater flexibility to states and schools that want to contribute additional state and local funds to provide no-cost meals to students. FNS will also provide implementation support for the final meal nutrition standards rule through guidance, webinars, and toolkits. In addition, FNS will continue to provide support and guidance for the Healthy Meals Incentive initiatives. The Healthy Meals Incentives initiative gives local schools the resources to craft meals that are both healthy and appetizing to children, raising the bar in school meal quality.