

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

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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 15 domestic nutrition assistance programs. Its mission is to increase food security and reduce hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and other low-income Americans access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition education.

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

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

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

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

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

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

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR): FDPIR provides USDA Foods to income-eligible households living on Indian reservations, and to American Indian households residing in approved areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. Many households participate in FDPIR as an alternative to SNAP because they do not have easy access to SNAP offices or authorized food stores. Dual participation in SNAP and FDPIR is not permitted. State agencies and Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) that operate the program are responsible for eligibility certification, nutrition education, local warehousing and transportation of food, and distribution of food to recipient households, and program integrity. The Federal Government pays 100 percent of the cost of USDA Foods distributed through the program and provides cash payments for administrative expenses to ITOs and State agencies operating the program.

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

In addition, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides access to fresh fruits and vegetables for students in low-income elementary schools across the nation. FFVP, authorized and funded under Section 19 of the

Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and expanded by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, operates in selected low-income elementary schools in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. States select schools to participate based on criteria in the law and participating students receive between \$50 and \$75 worth of fresh produce over the school year.

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. It provides participants monthly supplemental food packages targeted to their dietary needs, breastfeeding support to nursing mothers, nutrition education, and referrals to a range of health and social services – benefits that promote a healthy pregnancy for mothers and a healthy start for their children. Appropriated funds are provided to State agencies for food packages and nutrition services and administration for the program; State agencies operate the program pursuant to plans approved by FNS.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): This program supports the emergency feeding network by distributing USDA-purchased, 100 percent 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. TEFAP also provides administrative funds to defray State and local costs associated with the transportation, processing, storage, and distribution of USDA Foods. The allocation of both Federal food and administrative grants to States is based on a formula that considers the States' unemployment levels and the number of persons with income below the poverty level.

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

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP): This program provides coupons to low-income seniors that can be exchanged for fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs and honey at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs.

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

Pacific Island and Disaster Assistance: Pacific Island Assistance includes assistance to the nuclear-affected islands of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) in the form of cash-in-lieu of food and administrative funds through the Special Food Assistance Program and is authorized under the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-188). Disaster relief in the form of USDA Foods can be provided to the RMI and Federated States of Micronesia for use in Presidential Disaster Declaration.

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

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

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP): Through the work of CNPP, FNS serves as a Federal authority on evidence-based food guidance, nutrition and economic analyses, and consumer nutrition education. It is non-regulatory, with several initiatives that serve as the foundation for many Federal departments' and agencies' policies and programs. CNPP's work includes:

- *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, mandated under the 1990 National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act to provide dietary guidance for the general public, expanded to include guidance for infants and toddlers from birth to 24 months, and for pregnant women, per the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill). Designed for professional audiences, it forms the foundation for Federal nutrition policies and programs and is a

central source that nutrition programs across the Federal Government can implement “with one voice” as they tailor it for their specific program audiences;

- Healthy Eating Index (HEI), an analytic tool used to assess how well diets align with the Dietary Guidelines, used widely by Academic institutions, organizations, and Federal agencies including many agencies within the USDA, such as FNS, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the Economic Research Service;
- Nutrition Evidence Systematic Reviews (NESR), specializes in food and nutrition-related systematic reviews that answer important public health questions by evaluating the scientific evidence on topics relevant to Federal policy and programs to support evidence-based decision making;
- USDA Food Plans (Thrifty, Low Cost, Moderate Cost, and Liberal) that exemplify nutritious diets at four cost levels and can help Americans eat healthfully on a budget, and a reference source for other Federal needs such as the Thrifty Food Plan setting the maximum allotment for SNAP, by Congressional mandate (and mandated in the 2018 Farm Bill to be re-evaluated every 5 years), being used in bankruptcy courts to ensure people are left with enough money to buy food, and serving as the source (Moderate Cost and Liberal Food Plans) for the Department of Defense to determine the Basic Allowance for Subsistence (the food allowance) paid to U.S. service members, as well as the Basic Daily Food Allowance used for reimbursement rates for dining facilities on military bases; and
- MyPlate, which is the Federal nutrition symbol and serves as the foundation for Federally funded, consumer nutrition education initiatives.

FNS Staff

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

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

Program operations are managed through FNS’ seven regional offices and 13 field offices/satellite locations. A regional administrator directs each regional office. These offices maintain direct contact with State agencies that administer the FNS programs and conduct on-site management reviews of State operations. The Retailer Operations Division monitors 254,350 stores and other outlets as of September 30, 2021 authorized to redeem SNAP benefits. As of September 2021, there were approximately 1,391 full-time permanent employees in the agency. There were 569 employees in the Washington headquarters office and 822 in the field. The chart below displays staff year utilization.

Staff Year Distribution

Table FNS-1. Staff Year Distribution (From All Sources of Funds)

FNS Projects and CNPP	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimate	Change	2023 President’s Budget
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	335	374	376	86	462
Child Nutrition Programs	257	261	293	62	355
Commodity Assistance Program	3	3	3	0	3
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children	39	41	44	26	70
Nutrition Programs Administration	717	688	799	108	907
Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion*	23	24	24	0	24
Total Available	1,374	1,391	1,539	282	1,821

* CNPP Staff Year Distribution includes four staff years funded by the Child Nutrition Programs.

IG and GAO Reports of National Significance**Table FNS-2. Completed OIG Reports**

Area	Number	Date	Title	Status
SNAP	27801-0003-22	8-2021	COVID-19: SNAP Online Purchasing in Response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019	Final action pending on open recommendations
FDD	27801-0001-21-1	8-2021	COVID-19: Oversight of the Emergency Food Assistance Program-Interim Inspection Report (Risk Objective)	Final action pending on open recommendations
FDD	27801-0001-21-2	10-2021	COVID-19: Oversight of the Emergency Food Assistance Program-Interim Inspection Report (Funding Objective)	Closed – no recommendations for FNS

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

Table FNS-3. Completed GAO Reports

Area	Number	Date	Title	Result
SNAP	GAO-21-45	11-2020	Federal Social Safety Net Programs: Millions of Full-Time Workers Rely on Federal Health Care and Food Assistance Programs	Closed – no recommendations for FNS
All Programs	GAO-21-191	11-2020	COVID-19: Urgent Actions Needed to Ensure and Effective Federal Response	Closed – no recommendations for FNS
All Programs	GAO-21-625	1-2021	COVID-19: Critical Vaccine Distribution, Supply Chain, Program Integrity, and Other Challenges Require Focused Federal Attention	Closed – no recommendations for FNS
All Programs	GAO-21-387	3-2021	COVID-19: Sustained Federal Action Is Crucial as Pandemic Enters Its Second Year	Closure pending on open recommendation
SNAP	GAO-21-183	3-2021	Federal Low-Income Programs: Use of Data to Verify Eligibility Varies Among Selected Programs and Opportunities Exist to Promote Additional Use	Closed – no recommendations for FNS
All Programs	GAO-21-551	7-2021	COVID-19: Continued Attention Needed to Enhance Federal Preparedness, Response, Service Delivery, and Program Integrity	Closed – no recommendations for FNS
OIT	GAO-21-582	9-2021	Selected Agencies Overcame Technology Challenges to Support Telework but Need to Fully Assess Security Controls	Closed – no recommendations for FNS
All Programs	GAO-20-105051	10-2021	COVID-19: Additional Actions Needed to Improve Accountability and Program Effectiveness of Federal Response	Closure pending on open recommendation
All Programs	GAO-20-105291	1-2022	COVID-19: Significant Improvements Are Needed for Overseeing Relief Funds and Leading Responses to Public Health Emergencies	Closure pending on open recommendation

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

Table FNS-4. In Process OIG Reports

Area	Number	Start Date	Title	Current Audit Stage
SNAP	27601-0006-41	10-2019	SNAP Waiver Process	Awaiting Draft Report
FDD	27801-0001-21	11-2020	COVID-19: Oversight of the Emergency Food Assistance Program (Remaining Objectives)	Fieldwork ongoing
P-EBT	27801-0001-23	4-2021	COVID-19: FNS Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)	Fieldwork ongoing

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

Table FNS-5. In Process GAO Reports

Area	Number	Start Date	Title	Current Audit Stage
SNAP, OPS	104740	3-2021	Veteran Food Insecurity	Draft Report
CNPP, SNAP, OPS	105540	11-2021	Thrifty Food Plan Update	Fieldwork
All Programs	105458	11-2021	Hunger and Homelessness	Fieldwork
All Programs	105697	3-2022	USDA Foods in Schools Programs	Planning

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

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND STAFF YEARS**Table FNS-6. Total Obligations and Full Time Equivalents (thousands of dollars, Full Time Equivalents (FTE))**

Item	2020 Actual	FTE	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Estimate	FTE	2023 Budget	FTE
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:								
SNAP	\$66,777,181	335	\$98,163,901	374	\$137,439,271	376	\$108,262,239	462
SNAP Other Supplement Funds	15,849,949	-	17,595,416	-	3,900,000	-	-	-
Pandemic EBT	12,647,000	-	31,228,649	-	25,000,000	-	-	-
Total, SNAP	95,274,130	335	146,987,966	374	166,339,271	376	108,262,239	462
Child Nutrition Programs:								
Appropriation	6,795,796	230	4,192,824	234	15,441,937	267	3,529,957	329
Transfer from Section 32	13,536,959	-	21,040,058	-	19,968,082	-	25,059,000	-
Permanent Appropriation	197,459	30	226,837	31	219,250	30	230,250	30
CARES Act Supp. Funding	7,038,590	-	1,760,698	-	-	-	-	-
Other Supplemental Funding	-	-	1,033,378	-	1,000,000	-	-	-
Total, Child Nutrition	23,349,826	260	29,253,795	265	36,629,269	297	35,850,662	359
WIC (including Supplemental funds)	5,963,712	39	6,502,029	41	6,099,000	44	6,099,000	70
CAP (including Supplemental funds)	980,951	3	1,169,162	3	467,880	3	488,582	3
Nutrition Programs Admin	154,820	737	147,774	708	154,805	819	236,760	927
Congressional Hunger Center	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-
Total, Food and Nutrition Service Funds	129,944,417	1,374	184,062,726	1,391	209,692,225	1,539	143,906,788	1,821
Obligations under other USDA Appropriations:								
Office of Hearing and Appeals	28	-	28	-	-	-	-	-
Office of the Chief Info. Officer	11	-	11	-	-	-	-	-
Office of the Secretary	-	-	35	-	-	-	-	-
Office of Cong Relations	180	-	24	-	-	-	-	-
Food Safety and Insp. Service	10	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Agricultural Marketing Service	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-
Farm Service Agency	53	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Rural Development	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Agriculture Appropriations	293	-	140	-	-	-	-	-
Obligations under other Federal Appropriations:								
Health and Human Services	-	-	1,043	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Food and Nutrition Service Funds	129,944,710	1,374	184,063,909	1,391	209,692,225	1,539	143,906,788	1,821

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

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

Item	2020 Actual			2021 Actual			2022 Budget			2023 Budget		
	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total
SES	10	15	25	9	8	17	10	9	19	12	10	22
GS-15	53	32	85	48	32	80	56	34	90	64	41	105
GS-14	126	89	215	120	83	203	137	90	227	157	109	266
GS-13	295	274	569	275	229	504	316	247	563	361	299	660
GS-12	51	427	478	64	392	456	74	422	496	84	512	596
GS-11	46	55	101	27	54	81	31	58	89	35	71	106
GS-9	10	34	44	11	8	19	12	9	21	14	11	25
GS-8	8	0	8	7	0	7	8	0	8	9	0	9
GS-7	3	13	16	2	10	12	2	11	13	3	13	16
GS-6	3	3	6	3	3	6	3	4	7	4	4	8
GS-5	1	3	4	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
GS-4	2	3	5	2	1	3	2	1	3	3	1	4
GS-3	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
GS-2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
Total Permanent	608	949	1,557	653	886	1,539	653	886	1,539	747	1,074	1,821
Unfilled, EOY	60	99	159	84	64	148	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Perm. FT EOY	548	850	1,398	569	822	1,391	653	886	1,539	747	1,074	1,821
Staff Year Estimate	558	816	1,374	569	822	1,391	653	886	1,539	747	1,074	1,821

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.

CHANGES TO MOTOR VEHICLE FLEET

FNCS' has no plans for increasing the number of assigned vehicles in FY 2023. Acquisition oversight has tightened in response to a centralized review of every vehicle request and the Department Cap on authorized vehicles. This ensures sound justification of the proposed acquisition and enables enforcement of fleet composition policy changes. For instance, the agency continues to move to smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles that run on alternative fuel, where appropriate.

IMPEDIMENTS TO MANAGING THE MOTOR VEHICLE FLEET

One impediment to managing the motor vehicle fleet in the most cost-effective manner is the availability of FLEX fuel stations that are accessible in the National Capital Region and rural areas.

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

Fiscal Year	Sedans and Station Wagons	Lt. Trucks, SUVs, and Vans (4x2)	Lt. Trucks, SUVs, and Vans (4x4)	Medium Duty Vehicles	Heavy Duty Vehicles	Total Vehicles	Annual Operating Costs ^b
2020	17	10	2	3	-	32	\$157,698
Change	-7	-1	-1	0	-	-9	
2021	10	9	1	3	-	23	\$113,274
Change	+2	-2	0	0	-	0	
2022	12	7	1	3	-	23	\$118,937
Change	0	0	0	0	-	0	
2023	12	7	1	3	-	23	\$124,884

^a Vehicle count are all GSA leased vehicles.

^b These numbers revise data in the FAST System.

STATEMENT OF PROPOSED PURCHASE OF PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLES (Sedans & Station Wagons)

Table FNS-9. Proposed Purchase of Passenger Vehicles

Fiscal Year	Net Active Fleet, SOY	Disposals	Replacements	Acquisitions		Net Active Fleet, EOY
				Additions to Fleet	Total	
FY 2020	17	7	-	-	0	10
FY 2021	10	1	1	-	0	10
FY 2022	12	1	1	-	0	12
FY 2023	12	2	2	-	0	12

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

<i>Item</i>	<i>2020 Actual</i>	<i>2021 Actual</i>	<i>2022 Enacted</i>	<i>2023 Budget</i>
Working Capital Fund:				
Administration:				
Material Management Service Center	\$71	\$83	\$95	\$92
Mail and Reproduction Services	20	24	163	165
Integrated Procurement Systems	281	246	227	225
Procurement Operations Division	23	73	65	161
HR Enterprise System Management	13	18	23	24
Subtotal	408	444	573	667
Communications:				
Creative Media and Broadcast Center	379	1,884	315	473
Finance and Management:				
National Finance Center	1,322	1,533	752	765
Internal Control Support Services	191	156	158	163
Financial Shared Services	534	1,410	1,141	1,184
Subtotal	2,047	3,099	2,051	2,112
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center	1,692	9,382	7,859	8,300
Dept. Admin. Information Technology Office	893	1,653	1,419	1,476
Digital Infrastructure Services Center	3,498	4,804	4,789	4,983
Enterprise Network Services	1,100	1,111	1,040	882
Subtotal	7,183	16,950	15,107	15,641
Office of the Executive Secretariat	184	209	264	264
Total, Working Capital Fund	10,201	22,586	18,310	19,157
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Advisory Committee Liaison Services	4	3	5	5
Agency Partnership Outreach	118	105	113	113
Human Resources Self-Service Dashboard	9	0	0	0
National Capital Region Interpreting Services	0	0	149	187
Office of Customer Experience	88	146	134	134
Personnel and Document Security	42	51	52	52
Physical Security	90	65	65	66
Security Detail	71	70	70	70
Security Operations	90	98	94	94
TARGET Center	17	18	20	20
USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Services	125	82	68	68
Total, Departmental Shared Cost Programs	654	638	770	809
E-Gov:				
Budget Formulation and Execution LOB	12	12	14	14
Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan	32	32	13	13
HR Assessment Tool	-	-	3	3
E-Rulemaking	153	224	204	213
Financial Management LOB	1	1	1	1
Geospatial LOB	13	13	13	13
GovBenefits	128	125	103	97
Grants.gov	25	26	19	23
HR Management LOB	5	5	4	4
Integrated Acquisition Environment	0	0	65	65
Total, E-Gov	369	438	439	446
Agency Total	11,224	23,662	19,519	20,412

ACCOUNT 1: CHILD NUTRITION

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

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

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; [\$26,877,922,000] \$28,587,957,000, to remain available through September 30, [2023] 2024, 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, [\$20,004,000] \$20,162,000 shall be available to carry out section 19 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1788): *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, [\$15,607,000] \$21,005,000 shall be available to carry out studies and evaluations and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available[, \$6,000,000 shall be available to carry out section 23 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1793): *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, in addition to amounts otherwise provided, \$1,000,000 shall be available 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 of the total amount available, \$35,000,000 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, \$45,000,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out section 749(g) of the Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-80): *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 2022" and inserting "2010 through [2023] 2024": *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 2021" and inserting "For fiscal year [2022] 2023": *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 2021" and inserting "For fiscal year [2022] 2023": *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 [2022] 2023 shall not exceed \$500,000.

Change Description

The first change (line 9) removes funding for School Breakfast Expansion Grants.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table FNS-11. Child Nutrition Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2022	\$26,849,572,000
Change in Appropriation	+1,738,385,000
Budget Estimate, 2023	<u>28,587,957,000</u>
Budget Estimate, Current Law 2023	\$28,587,957,000
Net 2023 Request	<u>28,587,957,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENT**Table FNS-12. Project Statement Appropriated CN Funding (thousands of dollars, Full Time Equivalents)**

Item	2020		2021		2022		Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key	2023	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE			Budget	FTE
Discretionary Appropriations:										
Team Nutrition/HUSSC	\$18,004	25	\$18,004	26	\$18,004	27	+\$2,158	(1)	\$20,162	27
Summer Demonstration Projects	35,000		42,000		42,000		+3,000	(2)	45,000	
School Meal Equipment Grants	30,000		30,000		30,000		+5,000	(3)	35,000	
School Breakfast Expansion Grants	5,000		6,000		6,000		-6,000	(4)	0	
Subtotal, Discretionary Appropriations	88,004	25	96,004	26	96,004	27	4,158		100,162	27
Mandatory Appropriations:										
National School Lunch Program	12,507,478		13,539,797		14,665,855		+377,460	(5)	15,043,315	
School Breakfast Program	4,831,384		5,039,086		5,188,750		+856,142	(6)	6,044,892	
Child Adult Care Food Program	3,835,706		4,015,116		4,314,605		+216,607	(7)	4,531,212	
Summer Food Service Program	526,385	14	551,944	14	581,074	16	+23,913	(8)	604,987	16
Special Milk Program	7,064		7,309		6,250		+1,567	(9)	7,817	
State Administrative Expenses	314,922		317,044		332,000		+7,000	(10)	339,000	
Commodity Procurement	1,419,968	25	1,460,769	24	1,567,663	14	+220,726	(11)	1,788,389	14
Food Safety Education	2,929	5	2,988	6	2,988	6	+1,208	(12)	4,196	10
Coordinated Review	10,000	53	10,000	61	10,000	71	0		10,000	71
Computer Support	12,124		19,366		19,366	17	+8,872	(13)	28,238	17
Training Tech. Assistance	33,935	41	34,214	42	34,214	45	+11,782	(14)	45,996	93
CN Studies	14,999	9	15,299	9	15,299	10	+5,706	(15)	21,005	10
CN Payment Accuracy	11,203	52	11,427	51	11,427	49	+888	(16)	12,315	49
Farm to School Team	3,997		4,077		4,077	12	+2,356	(17)	6,433	22
Subtotal, Mandatory Appropriations	23,532,094	199	25,028,436	207	26,753,568	240	+1,734,227		28,487,795	302
Supplemental Appropriations:										
CARES Act Supp	8,800,000		0		0		0		0	
CNP Covid-19 #3 Emergency Costs	0		1,800,000		0		0		0	
School Food / CN Support for Local Procurement & Mgmt	0		1,000,000		0		0		0	
Subtotal, Supplemental Appropriations	8,800,000	0	2,800,000	0	0	0	0		0	0
Total Adjusted Appropriation	32,420,098	224	27,924,440	233	26,849,572	267	+1,738,385		28,587,957	329
Sequestration	-3,288		-3,520		-3,988		-496		-4,484	
Total Available	32,416,810	224	27,920,920	233	26,845,584	267	+1,737,889		28,583,473	329

PROJECT STATEMENT**Table FNS-13. Project Statement Permanent CN Funding (thousands of dollars, Full Time Equivalents)**

Item	2020		2021		2022		Inc. or Dec.	2023		
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE		Budget	FTE	
Mandatory Appropriations:										
Information Clearinghouse	\$250		\$250		\$250		0	\$250		
Institute of Child Nutrition	5,000		6,000		6,000		0	6,000		
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	179,000	5	183,000	2	187,000	5	+11,000	198,000	5	
Technical Assistance Program Integrity	4,000	20	4,000	17	4,000	20	0	4,000	20	
Administrative Review	4,000	4	4,000	1	4,000	4	0	4,000	4	
Prof. Standards - Foodservice	1,000	1	1,000		1,000	1	0	1,000	1	
Farm to School Grants	9,000		17,000	11	17,000		0	17,000		
Subtotal, Mandatory Appropriations	202,250	30	215,250	31	219,250	30	+11,000	230,250	30	
Total Adjusted Appropriation	202,250	30	215,250	31	219,250	30	+11,000	230,250	30	

PROJECT STATEMENT**Table FNS-14. Project Statement Appropriated CN Funding (thousands of dollars, Full Time Equivalents)**

Item	2020		2021		2022		Inc. or Dec.	2023	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE		Budget	FTE
Discretionary Obligations:									
Team Nutrition/HUSSC	\$12,000	25	\$18,261	26	\$18,004	27	+\$2,158	\$20,162	27
Summer Demonstration Projects	3,000		16,314		42,000		+3,000	45,000	
School Meal Equipment Grants	30,000		28,081		30,000		+5,000	35,000	
School Breakfast Expansion Grants	0		8,197		6,000		-6,000	0	
Subtotal, Discretionary Obligations	45,000	25	70,854	26	96,004	27	+4,158	100,162	27
Mandatory Obligations:									
National School Lunch Program	8,431,000		5,845,801		22,104,452		-7,061,137	15,043,315	
School Breakfast Program	3,356,000		2,520,393		6,370,341		-325,449	6,044,892	
Child Adult Care Food Program	2,764,000		3,990,124		4,350,868		+180,344	4,531,212	
Summer Food Service Program	4,165,000	14	10,925,354	14	581,074	16	+23,913	604,987	16
Special Milk Program	4,000		2,780		6,250		+1,567	7,817	
State Administrative Expenses	308,000		327,791		332,000		+7,000	339,000	
Commodity Procurement	1,240,000	25	1,517,864	24	1,567,663	14	+220,726	1,788,389	14
Food Safety Education	2,000	5	2,692	6	2,988	6	+1,208	4,196	10
Coordinated Review	8,443	53	9,672	61	10,000	71	0	10,000	71
Computer Support	11,522		18,399		19,366	17	+8,872	28,238	17
Training Tech. Assistance	8,166	41	45,258	41	34,214	45	+11,782	45,996	93
CN Studies	22,000	9	13,763	8	15,299	10	+5,706	21,005	10
CN Payment Accuracy	10,040	52	9,871	50	11,427	49	+888	12,315	49
Farm to School Team	2,584		3,121		4,077	12	+2,356	6,433	22
Subtotal, Mandatory Obligations	20,332,755	199	25,232,882	204	35,410,019	240	-6,922,224	28,487,795	302
Supplemental Obligations:									
CARES Act Supp	7,038,590		2,316,587		0		0	0	
CNP Covid-19 #3 Emergency Costs	0		1,477,489		0		0	0	
School Food / CN Support for Local Procurement & Mgmt	0		0		1,000,000		-1,000,000	0	
Subtotal, Supplemental Obligations	7,038,590	0	3,794,076	0	1,000,000	0	-1,000,000	0	0
Total Obligations	27,416,345	224	29,097,812	230	36,506,023	267	-7,918,066	28,587,957	329
Sequestration	-2,714		-3,520		-3,988		-496	-4,484	
Recoveries	-1,914,287		-1,654,514		-105,920		+105,920	0	
Bal. Available, SOY	-2,081,960		-9,000,000		-9,000,000		+8,660,570	-339,430	
Lapsing Balances	0		0		0		0	0	
Bal. Available, EOY	9,000,000		9,000,000		339,430		-339,430	0	
Total Obligations	32,417,384	224	27,439,778	230	27,735,545	267	508,498	28,244,043	329

PROJECT STATEMENT**Table FNS-15. Project Statement Permanent CN Funding (thousands of dollars, Full Time Equivalents)**

Item	2020		2021		2022		Inc. or Dec.	2023	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE		Budget	FTE
Mandatory Obligations^a									
Information Clearinghouse	\$250		\$250		\$250		0	\$250	
Institute of Child Nutrition	5,000		6,000		6,000		0	6,000	
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	182,000	5	203,431	2	187,000	5	+11,000	198,000	5
Technical Assistance Program Integrity	4,075	20	3,539	17	4,000	20	0	4,000	20
Administrative Review	292	4	188	1	4,000	4	0	4,000	4
Professional Standards – Foodservice	487	1	866		1,000	1	0	1,000	1
Farm to School Grants	11,945		12,563	11	17,000		0	17,000	
Subtotal, Mandatory Obligations	204,049	30	226,837	31	219,250	30	+11,000	230,250	30
Recoveries	6,590		0		0		0	0	
Unobligated Balance, SOY	-305,724		-292,544		-292,544		0	-292,544	
Lapsing Balances	0		0		0		0	0	
Unobligated Balance, EOY	292,544		292,544		292,544		0	292,544	
Total Obligations	197,459	30	226,837	31	219,250	30	+11,000	230,250	30

^a The program lines in table FNS-15 are not subject to appropriation.

Table FNS-16. Direct Appropriations Authorities

Direct Appropriation and Transfer Activities	Authorization
Information Clearinghouse	National School Lunch Act (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)	Child Nutrition Act (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

Base funds for Child Nutrition Programs will continue to fund school, child and adult care, and summer meal programs that are correlated with a long-term improvement in the nutritional content of American diets.

The FY 2023 request for the Child Nutrition Programs reflects a net increase of \$1,738,385,000 and an increase of 62 staff years (\$26,849,572,000 and 267 staff years estimated in FY 2022).

The numbers of the following listing relate to values in the Chg Key column of the Project Statement:

- (1) An increase of \$2,158,000 for Team Nutrition (\$18,004,000 estimated in FY 2022).

Team Nutrition supports the Child Nutrition Programs through training and technical assistance for food service, nutrition education for children and their caregivers, and school and community support for healthy eating and physical activity. Team Nutrition is an integrated, behavior-based, comprehensive plan for promoting the nutritional health of the Nation's children. This plan involves schools, parents, and the community in efforts to continuously improve school meals, and to promote the health and education of school children nationwide. The funding supports FNS' efforts to establish policy, develop materials that meet needs identified by FNS and its state and local partners, disseminate materials in ways that meet state and local needs, and develop partnerships with other Federal agencies and national organizations. The increase of \$2 million will allow FNS to increase training and technical assistance to help schools provide nutritious meals that meet meal standards as they transition out of pandemic operations. In addition, the funding will help FNS develop materials, media, or other products necessary to help schools implement any changes to meal patterns or nutrition education that arise from the new *2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. The increase of \$158,000 is due to pay cost.

(2) An increase of \$3,000,000 for Summer Demonstration Projects (\$42,000,000 estimated in FY 2022).

General Provision 749(g) of the 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Act (P.L. 111-80) authorized demonstration projects to develop and test alternative methods of providing access to food for low-income children during the summer months when schools are not in regular session, as well as rigorous independent evaluations of each project's effectiveness. As part of those original demonstrations, FNS implemented the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) pilots in eight States and two Indian Tribal Nations providing low income families with children more resources to use at retail food stores on EBT cards similar to those used in SNAP and WIC. Data-driven evaluations of previous projects have found that Summer EBT can significantly reduce very low food security among children by one-third. Summer EBT projects allow States to continue to test new strategies to reach children with limited access to sufficient food during the summer months. This increase will allow FNS to continue to expand the demonstration projects to new States or new areas within currently participating States.

(3) An increase of \$5,000,000 for School Meal Equipment Grants (\$30,000,000 estimated in FY 2022).

School Meals Equipment grants help schools purchase kitchen and other equipment needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, expand access and/or improve energy efficiency. The grants are targeted to schools, particularly in low-income areas, that need additional assistance to make these types of purchases. State agencies competitively award equipment assistance grants to eligible school food authorities participating in the National School Lunch program. The increase in School Equipment grants will help schools recover from pandemic operations and prepare for any changes in meal patterns that result from changes in the 2020 *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.

(4) A decrease of \$6,000,000 for School Breakfast Expansion Grants (\$6,000,000 estimated in FY 2022).

Breakfast participation by schools has come a long way over the last several decades. In FY 2020 prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, 94 percent of schools operating the National School Lunch Program also operated the School Breakfast Program, and in FY 2023, a similar participation rate is expected. Therefore, while the School Breakfast Program continues to be a priority, USDA believes these expansion grants are no longer needed to drive participation in the School Breakfast program, and that these resources would be better utilized for the Summer Demonstration Projects and School Equipment Grants.

(5) An increase of \$377,460,000 for National School Lunch Program (\$14,665,855,000 estimated in FY 2022).

Note in FY 2021 and FY 2022 due to waivers that were established for Child Nutrition Program operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, normal obligational patterns were disrupted. In FY 2021, about half of the meals served in schools were served and claimed under the Summer Food Service Program, while half were served and claimed under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, primarily using the Seamless Summer Option. For FY 2022, USDA issued a broad range of flexibilities designed to allow school meal and child care programs to return to serving healthy meals while maintaining social distancing. As a result of the waivers, schools had the option to choose to serve meals free of charge throughout the school year, using the meal pattern requirements of regular school and child care meals, while being reimbursed at the Summer Food Service Program reimbursement rates. The higher Summer Food Service Program reimbursement rates, coupled with increases in participation due to the waivers, are expected to result in higher obligations throughout FY 2022, which are expected to increase by over \$10 billion. The majority of these obligations (about \$9 billion) are being made using funding carried over from FY 2021 into FY 2022, which result from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116-13) supplemental appropriation received in March, 2020.

For FY 2023, requested funding assumes a return to more normal school lunch and school breakfast service. The total number of school lunches and snacks in FY 2023 is projected to be 5.594 billion, an increase of 353 million (or 6.74 percent) over the current estimate for FY 2022 of 5.241 billion.

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

NSLP Performance Measure	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated	2023 Budget
Lunches Served (millions):				
Above 185% of poverty	740	25	1,204	1,391
130% - 185% of poverty	157	4	256	309
Below 130% of poverty	2,313	1,514	3,580	3,680
Total Lunches	3,210	1,543	5,040	5,380
Average Daily Participation (millions)	22	9	30	30
Lunch Rate per meal (blended, cents):				
Above 185% of poverty	41	42	44	45
130% - 185% of poverty	310	320	335	350
Below 130% of poverty	350	360	375	390
Snacks Served (millions):				
Above 185% of poverty	4	1	7	1
130% - 185% of poverty	1	1	1	1
Below 130% of poverty	114	85	193	212
Total Snacks	119	87	201	214
Snack subsidy per meal (blended)(cents):				
Above 185% of poverty	8	8	8	9
130% - 185% of poverty	47	48	49	50
Below 130% of poverty	94	96	98	100
TOTAL, Lunches and Snacks	3,324	1,630	5,241	5,594
Total Meal Reimbursement (millions)	\$8,431	\$5,581	\$22,105	\$15,043

^a Meals served under the Seamless Summer Option will be reimbursed at the Summer Food Service Program rates in FY 2022.

Other information: Income Eligibility

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

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

Poverty Level (Family of 4)	2020-2021 School Year	2021-2022 School Year
100 Percent	\$26,200	\$26,500
130 Percent	\$34,060	\$34,450
185 Percent	\$48,470	\$49,025

(6) An increase of \$856,142,000 for the School Breakfast Program (\$5,188,750,000 estimated in FY 2022).

In FY 2023, the number of breakfasts served is projected to increase by 153 million meals (an increase of approximately 5.91% percent). The increase in the projected number of meals combined with the increase in school breakfast reimbursement rates requires an increased appropriation of \$856,142,000.

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

SBP Performance Measure	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated	2023 Budget
Meals Served (millions):				
Above 185% of poverty	223	8	393	410
Reduce Price, Regular	5	1	9	10
Reduce Price, Severe Need	64	2	129	126
130%-185% of poverty, Total	69	3	137	136
Free, Regular	68	123	65	65
Free, Severe Need	1,455	927	1,995	2,132
Below 130% of poverty, Total	1,523	1,050	2,060	2,197
TOTAL, Meals	1,815	1,061	2,590	2,743
Average Daily participation (millions)	12	6	16	16
Average Subsidy Per Meal (cents):				
Paid	31	32	33	34
Reduced Price:				
Regular	154	159	167	175
Severe Need	190	196	205	214
Free:				
Regular	184	189	197	205
Severe Need	220	226	235	244
Program Total (millions)	\$3,356	\$2,349	\$6,370	\$6,045

^a Meals served under the Seamless Summer Option will be reimbursed at the Summer Food Service Program rates in FY 2022.

(7) An increase of \$216,607,000 for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (\$4,314,605,000 estimated in FY 2022).

Year to year funding fluctuations are affected by increased participation and changes in the CPI for Food Away from Home (for centers) and for Food at Home (for homes). The current estimate projects 2.192 billion meals served in child care centers, family day care homes and adult care centers in FY 2023. This represents an increase of 34 million meals (or 1.58 percent) above the FY 2022 estimate of 2.158 billion meals. This change is the result of an anticipated 28 million more meals provided in centers and approximately 6 million more meals provided in family day care homes.

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

CACFP Performance Measure	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated	2023 Budget
Meals Served Centers (millions):				
Above 185% of poverty	170	284	409	415
130% - 185% of poverty	64	64	86	88
Below 130% of poverty	866	1,086	1,181	1,201
TOTAL, Centers	1,100	1,434	1,676	1,704
Tier 1 Homes (Low Income)	329	320	438	445
Tier 2 Homes (Upper Income)	34	36	44	43
TOTAL, Family Day Care Homes	363	356	482	488
Total Child & Adult Care Program Meals	1,463	1,790	2,158	2,192
Above 185% of poverty	23	24	26	27
130% - 185% of poverty	167	173	181	189
Below 130% of poverty	206	212	221	230
Tier 1 (Low Income)	152	159	160	162
Tier 2 (Upper Income)	73	76	77	79
Meal Reimbursement	\$2,627	\$3,470	\$4,154	\$4,374
Sponsor Admin	88	83	85	85
Audits	40	40	72	72
Training & Tech. Assistance	0	0	0	0
Program Total (millions)	\$2,755	\$3,593	\$4,311	\$4,531

(8) An increase of \$23,913,000 for the Summer Food Service Program (\$581,074,000 estimated in FY 2022).

During FY 2021, about half of school lunches and breakfasts were served and claimed under the Summer Food Service Program, which distorts the normal meal forecast trajectory. For FY 2022, the Summer Food Service Program is expected to return to more normal program operations, primarily being available in the summer months. The current forecast for FY 2023 projects 145 million meals will be served, which is a decrease of approximately 13 million meals (or 8.3 percent) compared to the estimate for FY 2022, but above pre-pandemic service levels. The request for additional funding also includes a pay cost increase of \$139,000.

Table FNS-21. Summer Food Service Program Performance Measure

SFSP Performance Measure	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated	2023 Budget
Meals Served (millions):				
Summer Food Program	1,282	3,091	158	145
Average Subsidy Per Meal (cents):				
Lunch	415	432	456	480
Breakfast	238	246	260	274
Supplements	98	102	108	114
Program Total (millions)	\$4,165	\$9,722	\$581	\$605

(9) An increase of \$1,567,000 for the Special Milk Program (\$6,250,000 estimated in FY 2022).

The cash reimbursement rate for milk served is adjusted annually on July 1 to reflect changes in the Producer Price Index for fresh processed milk.

Table FNS-22. Special Milk Program Performance Measure

SMP Performance Measure	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated	2023 Budget
Half Pints Served (millions):				
Paid (Above 130% of poverty)	15	13	29	31
Free (130% of poverty or below)	2	1	3	4
Total, half pints	17	14	32	35
Reimbursement Rates (cents):				
Paid	22	20	22	22
Free	22	20	22	22
Program Total (millions)	\$4	\$3	\$6	\$8

(10) An increase of \$7,000,000 for State Administrative Expenses (\$332,000,000 estimated in FY 2022).

An appropriation of \$339,000,000 is requested for FY 2023 for State Administrative Expenses (SAE). The formula for SAE as set forth in Section 7 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 specifies the formula as “an amount equal to not less than 1 ½ percent of the Federal funds expended under sections 4, 11, and 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1753, 1759a, and 1766) and sections 3 and 4 of this Act during the second preceding fiscal year.” This counts meal reimbursement funding for lunch, breakfast, and child care meals – but excludes meals served under the Summer Food Service Program. Because schools operated using waivers that allowed them to claim meals under the Summer Food Service Program in FY 2021, the SAE funding would decrease by almost half if based on the regular formula. Therefore, rather than using actual meal reimbursement data from 2021, the amount requested for SAE was calculated using expected participation assuming a more normal operating year.

(11) An increase of \$220,726,000 for Commodity Procurement Expenses (\$1,567,663,000 estimated in FY 2022).

An appropriation of \$1,788,389,000 is needed to fund commodity reimbursement and procurement costs in FY 2023. An increase of \$220,604,000 is due to the increase in the number of meals served and an increase of \$122,000 is due to pay cost. 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. The estimate is in addition to FNS receiving \$485 million each year in support for entitlement commodities from Section 32 or Commodity Credit Corporation funds.

Section 6(e)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that not less than 12 percent of the total assistance provided under Sections 4, 6, and 11 of the Act be provided in commodities. The FY 2023 request includes funds to cover the 12 percent requirement and procurement costs.

Table FNS-23. Commodity Performance Measure

Commodity Performance Measure	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated	2023 Budget
CN Appropriation:				
AMS/CCC Commodities	\$485	\$485	\$485	\$485
Section 6 Commodities/Cash/Procurement Costs	1,420	951	1,568	1,788
School Lunch Total	1,905	1,436	2,053	2,273
Child & Adult Care Food Program:				
Commodities/Cash	146	156	205	215
Summer Food Service Program:				
Commodities	10	10	1	1
Program Total (millions)	2,061	1,602	2,259	2,489
Appropriation (millions)	\$1,419	\$1,461	\$1,568	\$1,788

(12) An increase of \$ 1,208,000 for Food Safety Education (\$2,988,000 estimated in FY 2022).

Food safety education funds are used to reinforce and expand FNS' efforts to provide Child Nutrition Programs operators with continuous, effective training and technical assistance in food safety and food defense for schools, summer feeding sites, child care centers, family day care homes and adult care centers. FNS develops materials, ensures their delivery at all appropriate levels, makes training available at all possible levels, and facilitates the implementation of food safety requirements into the operators' food service operations. The funds provide resources to help ensure the safety of foods served to school children, including training for State and local staff. The change consists of \$121,000 to match state and local index trends, \$87,000 for pay cost, and \$1 million in a current law proposal. This current law proposal, "Food Safety Education," is to provide resources and funding to support food allergy education and data analyses, produce safety resource development and design, and resource development for emerging issues including heavy metals in baby food. It will also support the Institute of Child Nutrition to explore the opportunity to become a Certified Food Protection Manager certification body for Child Nutrition Programs and provide four additional staff and other resources to support additional food safety work.

(13) An increase of \$8,872,000 for Computer Support (\$19,366,000 estimated in FY 2022).

This line supports the essential systems needed to administer the Child Nutrition Programs, including the federal staff required to operate and maintain those systems. A portion of the increase, \$1,724,000, is related to inflation and \$148,000 is due to pay cost. The remaining \$7 million increase is being requested under four proposals for the modernization of several information technology tools and related systems:

- The first proposal is for \$2 million to begin the process of replacing the Food Program Reporting System (FPRS). This critical system has not had any significant modifications in over two decades. The costs of modernizing this system will be shared with SNAP. Please refer to the "Modernization of the Food Program Reporting Systems (FPRS)" proposal for more detail.
- The second proposal is for \$3 million to support enhancements to the Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) system and Integrated Food Management System (IFMS). Because these systems are used by both the Child Nutrition Programs as well as the commodity-based programs in the SNAP account, costs will be shared with SNAP. Please refer to the "Increase funding to modernize food ordering and inventory management systems" for more detail.
- The third proposal is for \$1 million and is for "Management Evaluation (ME) Tool Modernization/Integration with MEMS NextGen." Costs for this initiative are being shared across the Child Nutrition, SNAP, and WIC accounts. Please refer to this proposal under the SNAP section of this document for more details.
- The fourth proposal is for \$1 million and is for "Enhanced Program Operations through the Startup of an Innovation Team for Application System Modernization and Cloud Hosting." Costs for this initiative are being shared with SNAP. Please refer to this proposal under the SNAP section of this document for more details.

(14) An increase of \$11,782,000 for Training and Technical Assistance (\$34,214,000 estimated in FY 2022).

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. A change of \$808,000 is due to pay cost and a change of \$974,000 reflects increases to state and local index trends. An additional \$10 million increase is for three current law proposals.

- The first current law proposal increases funding by \$3 million for Child Nutrition Customer Service and Integration. While FNS provides tools, training, and resources to help state and local operators deliver specific programs, this proposal would build on this work to integrate service delivery across programs, both within and beyond USDA. Because this is a cross-program proposal, the costs of this initiative are being shared with the SNAP, WIC and NPA accounts. The proposal can be referenced for more detail under the NPA section of this document.
- The second proposal is for \$6 million for FNS to restore the ability to provide timely program technical support. This proposal addresses ability to better respond to state and local policy and operational issues and questions. Please refer to the “Restore FNS’ Ability to Provide Timely Program Technical Support” current law proposal for more details.
- The third proposal is for \$1 million and is for more dedicated grants management and contract resources. Currently FNS manages 700 active CNP grants and expects to award another \$100 million in new grants to States, tribes, schools and districts, non-profit organizations, and agricultural producers in FY 2023. The proposal, entitled, “Provide Dedicated Staff for Development, Management and Oversight of Program Specific Grant Programs and Procurements” addresses this need and can be referenced below for more detail.

(15) An increase of \$5,706,000 for CN Studies (\$15,299,000 estimated in FY 2022).

FNS conducts a variety of studies, evaluations, and related activities that respond to the needs of policy makers and managers and help ensure that nutrition assistance programs achieve their goals effectively. This line supports the critical evaluations needed for the Child Nutrition Programs, including the federal staff needed to oversee this vital work. The change consists of \$87,000 for pay costs, \$619,000 to match state and local index trends, and \$5 million for a current law proposal titled, “Feasibility study for a national system for State reviews of CNPs,” to complete a feasibility study for a national system for State reviews of CNPs.

(16) An increase of \$888,000 for CN Payment Accuracy (\$11,427,000 estimated in FY 2022).

This funding supports FNS’ robust Federal oversight, monitoring and technical assistance, which are essential to the identification, prevention and resolution of erroneous payments. The increase consists of \$462,000 to match state and local index trends and \$426,000 due to pay cost.

(17) An increase of \$2,356,000 for the Farm to School Team (\$4,077,000 estimated in FY 2022).

The Farm to School initiative is an effort to connect schools (K - 12) with regional or local farms in order to serve healthy meals using locally produced foods. USDA recognizes the growing interest among school districts and communities to incorporate regionally and locally produced farm foods into the Child Nutrition Programs. The Farm to School Team supports local and regional food systems by facilitating alliances between program operators and their local food producers. Working with local and state authorities, school districts, farmers, and community partners, the Farm to School Team provides guidance to and develops mechanisms for assisting program operators in accessing local markets, enabling food producers to effectively service their local schools and communities, and facilitating communication between interested stakeholders.

An increase of \$165,000 is related to inflation and \$191,000 is due to pay cost. The remaining increase of \$2 million is related to a current law proposal to increase FNS staffing, which has not kept pace with program growth. The level of funding for Farm to School Grants and the number of grantees has grown markedly over the last few years, but the Federal staff has not grown. The requested increase will provide 10 additional staff and other resources to manage these grants and provide technical assistance to grantees.

Table FNS-24. Summary of FY 2023 Current Law Proposals for CN

Proposals	FY 2023 (Amount in millions)
Modernization of the Food Program Reporting Systems (FPRS)	\$2.0
Increase funding to modernize food ordering and inventory management systems	3.0
Restore FNS ability to provide timely program technical support	6.0
Provide dedicated staff for development, management, and oversight of program-specific grant programs and procurements	1.0
Increase Farm to School team support	2.0
Feasibility study for a national system for State reviews of CNPs	5.0
Food safety education	1.0
Total	20.0

CURRENT LAW PROPOSALS**Child Nutrition Programs*****Modernization of the Food Program Reporting Systems (FPRS)***

FPRS is a critical link in the Agency’s financial and programmatic data processes and supports effective management and financial integrity of over \$100 billion annually in Federal awards to State and local partners in the nutrition assistance programs. The system is now over two decades old and, despite incremental improvements, needs a fundamental modernization to both meet today’s program requirements and to take advantage of current technology.

This budget proposal would fund a requirements and design study that would inform a future procurement for system development. Goals of this redesign would include, but not be limited to:

- Increase flexibility of the system to accommodate reporting requirement changes more easily;
- Better integration/exchange of FPRS data with other tools (FMML, Tableau, ACL, etc.);
- Reduce cost and potential shift of some systems responsibilities to Federal staff (reduced contractor reliance);
- Improve data quality protocols including potential use of AI/Machine Learning; and
- Improved State user experience.

Note: Funding for this initiative is also being requested in SNAP.

Table FNS-25. Modernization of the Food Program Reporting Systems (FPRS) (millions of dollars)

Item	2023	2024	2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$2.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$2.0
Outlays	\$2.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$2.0

Child Nutrition Programs***Increase funding to modernize food ordering and inventory management systems***

To improve program integrity, FNS is requesting an additional \$3 million to support enhancements to food ordering and inventory management platforms utilized in multiple FNS programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). These enhancements will allow FNS to migrate its existing food ordering system to commercial cloud hosting and make necessary upgrades to system software, among other changes intended to modernize the systems.

The Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) system is an integrated, internet-based system for commodity acquisition, distribution, and tracking. WBSCM supports domestic and international food and nutrition programs administered by three USDA agencies, including Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), and the United States Agency for International Development

(USAID). The Integrated Food Management System (IFMS) provides real-time inventory maintenance at FDPIR program facilities.

Note: Funding for this initiative is also being requested in SNAP.

Table FNS-26. Increase funding to modernize food ordering and inventory management systems (millions of dollars)

Item	2023	2024	2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$3.0	\$3.1	\$3.1	\$32.8
Outlays	\$3.0	\$3.1	\$3.1	\$32.8

Child Nutrition Programs

Restore FNS ability to provide timely program technical support

The past two years demonstrate the importance of FNS capacity to provide timely and thoughtful response to State and local needs, particularly in the face of changing circumstances. FNS staff worked tirelessly to respond, however our ability to respond to policy and operational questions, and waiver and other requests too frequently, did not meet the immediate needs of operators due to staffing constraints. While recent circumstances were extraordinary, they demonstrate the importance of FNS programmatic capacity to respond to complex and/or unexpected circumstances. Additionally, demonstration and expansion efforts, such as those targeted at expanding summer feeding require extensive support from both the national and regional offices. Significant resources are also needed to support State transition to normal program rules post COVID while also considering lessons learned that could improve program access and administrative efficiencies.

Furthermore, key Administration priorities such as expanded use of cross-program certification, online purchasing in SNAP, EBT modernization and improved program delivery in all programs will require expanded focus and resources. Implementing program changes quickly during the pandemic has been an overwhelming challenge for FNS staff and further permanent changes are anticipated as Congress contemplates CN reauthorization and the next Farm Bill.

Concurrently, we must also continue to exercise proper oversight over improper payments and payment accuracy and provide technical assistance to States in implementing effective corrective actions. The Child Nutrition Program staff recently underwent a reorganization designed to create a management and staffing structure which is better aligned with the growing complexity and scope of the Child Nutrition Programs.

In total, this request would add 42 staff to support CN at the regional and national level.

Table FNS-27. Restore FNS ability to provide timely program technical support (millions of dollars)

Item	2023	2024	2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$6.0	\$6.1	\$6.2	\$64.1
Outlays	\$6.0	\$6.1	\$6.2	\$64.1

Child Nutrition Programs

Provide dedicated staff for development, management, and oversight of program-specific grant programs and procurements

Both SNAP and the CNPs have a broad range of grant programs and contracts. Our ability to provide appropriate support and oversight to grantees and contractors to ensure desired outcomes is increasingly limited.

Currently FNS manages 700 active CNP grants and expect to award another \$100 million in new grants to States, tribes, schools and districts, non-profit organizations, and agricultural producers in FY 2023. SNAP has more than \$50 million in grants annually, both competitive and non-competitive, that go to State agencies, community-based providers, and other organizations. FNS also procures specialized services. SNAP also has more than \$66 million in contracts annually, including some of the largest systems in the Agency that track retailer redemptions and provide significant information for integrity and research purposes (e.g., STARS, ALERT, QCS, etc.). CNP contracting efforts include development of wide range of resources for State and local level operators, including educational resources, operator handbooks, and data management tools for State agencies.

There is a significant amount of work associated with stewardship of these investments, not only for a careful selection and vetting of grantees, but also for ongoing monitoring and oversight of grantees once selected. Contracts also require an extended level of FNS staff support as Federal staff are closely involved with the day to day oversight and review of deliverables that occur on contracted projects, which may also be much larger in scope than grants. Lack of staff for grant and contracts management can lead to delays in projects or higher costs which are detrimental to efficient stewardship of resources.

In total, this proposal would add six staff to enhance support for CN program-specific management and oversight of grants and contracts.

Table FNS-28. Provide dedicated staff for development, management, and oversight of program-specific grant programs and procurements (millions of dollars)

Item	2023	2024	2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.1	\$11.4
Outlays	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.1	\$11.4

Child Nutrition Programs

Increase Farm to School team support

This funding will increase the capacity of the Farm to School team to support Child Nutrition Program operators and other stakeholders as they plan, implement, and expand their procurement of local foods and agricultural education.

The Office of Community Food Systems (OCFS) 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 can play an important role in ensuring a resilient, sustainable, and equitable food system. Strong local food systems can 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, OCFS advances farm to school initiatives through grants, training and technical assistance, and research. Since the program's inception, USDA has awarded over \$52 million through Farm to School Grants, funding a total of 719 projects, reaching almost 21 million students in 47,000 schools. Total annual grant amounts have grown from \$4.5 million to 68 projects in 2013, to \$12.1 million to 159 projects in 2020. By the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, OCFS expects to have nearly 400 active grantees.

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 10 FTEs to the farm to school team, including one additional team member in each of FNS's seven regions to provide direct technical assistance to stakeholders. The proposal would also add three team members to the national office to support the annual grant making process, coordinate with partners, and develop program-wide materials and training. This will increase the overall team size from 14 to 24.

Increasing the number of staff available to support the growing community of farm to school stakeholders, as well as lifting the grant cap and match requirements, and allowing flexibility in procurement options will help farm to school expand to underserved areas and increase the share of local food on the menu in schools and child care facilities.

Table FNS-29. Increase Farm to School Team support (millions of dollars)

Item	2023	2024	2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$2.0	\$2.1	\$2.1	\$22.7
Outlays	\$2.0	\$2.1	\$2.1	\$22.7

Child Nutrition Programs***Feasibility study for a national system for state reviews of CNPs***

This proposal would provide additional CN studies research funds to support testing the feasibility for a national system for States conducting Administrative Reviews of the school meals programs, as well as reviews of CACFP and SFSP providers. If successful, USDA would request additional funds from Congress to build and implement the nationwide system.

Table FNS-30. Feasibility study for a national system for state reviews of CNPs (millions of dollars)

Item	2023	2024	2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$5.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$5.0
Outlays	\$5.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$5.0

Child Nutrition Programs***Food safety education***

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 program operators. Between 2010 and 2021, funding for food safety education has only increased, on average, by \$45,000 per year to account for inflation. A majority of the \$1 million increase will provide resources and funding to support food allergy education and data analyses, produce safety resource development and design, and resource development for emerging issues including heavy metals in baby food. Approximately \$250,000 of the increase will support an annual increase in funding for the Institute of Child Nutrition to explore the opportunity to become a Certified Food Protection Manager certification body for Child Nutrition Programs. The requested increase will provide four additional staff and other resources to support additional food safety work.

Table FNS-31. Food safety education (millions of dollars)

Item	2023	2024	2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$1.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.0
Outlays	\$1.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.0

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND STAFF YEARS**Table FNS-32. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years (thousands of dollars, FTE)**

State/Territory/Country	2020 Actual	SY	2021 Actual	SY	2022 Estimated	SY	2023 Budget	SY
Arizona	\$170	1	\$168	1	\$172	1	\$179	1
California	2,556	17	2,727	18	2,798	18	3,113	25
Colorado	2,882	20	2,833	18	2,907	18	3,226	26
Florida	335	2	316	2	324	2	338	3
Georgia	2,734	19	2,614	17	2,682	17	2,992	24
Illinois	2,760	19	2,542	16	2,608	17	2,915	23
Indiana	148	1	150	1	154	1	160	1
Massachusetts	3,004	21	2,852	18	2,926	19	3,246	26
Missouri	161	1	142	1	146	1	152	1
New Jersey	2,234	15	2,749	18	2,820	18	3,136	25
North Carolina	0	0	92	1	94	1	98	1
Texas	2,465	17	2,115	14	2,170	14	2,459	20
Virginia	75,750	164	81,261	139	83,374	170	85,392	183
Wisconsin	0	0	31	0	32	0	33	0
Obligations ^a	95,199	297	100,592	264	103,207	297	107,439	359
Total, Available	95,199	297	100,592	264	103,207	297	107,439	359

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

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

Item No.	Item	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated	2023 Budget
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$11,648	\$9,989	\$11,743	\$15,067
	Personnel Compensation, Field	17,471	14,983	17,614	22,601
11	Total personnel compensation	29,119	24,972	29,357	37,668
12	Personal benefits	10,005	10,702	12,582	16,144
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	39,214	35,674	41,939	53,812
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	501	97	250	551
23.1	Rental Payments to GSA	0	0	10	0
23.2	Rental payments to others	11	1	0	12
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	0	12	0	0
24.0	Printing and reproduction	1,158	2,012	2,112	1,274
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	21,748	12,387	6,174	23,923
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	0	27,967	23	0
26.0	Supplies and materials	1,057,370	1,234,901	1,567,663	2,061,347
31.0	Equipment	212	79	4	233
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	26,296,221	27,784,632	34,887,848	26,446,805
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	0	50	0	0
	Total, Other Objects	27,377,221	29,062,138	36,464,084	28,534,145
99.9	Total, new obligations	27,416,345	29,097,812	36,506,023	28,587,957
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	\$113,184	\$107,765	\$109,953	\$114,494
	Average Grade, GS Position	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8

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

Item No.	Item	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated	2023 Budget
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$1,363	\$1,589	\$1,360	\$1,496
	Personnel Compensation, Field	1,600	2,084	2,040	2,125
11	Total personnel compensation	2,963	3,673	3,400	3,541
12	Personal benefits	916	1,488	1,457	1,517
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	3,879	5,161	4,857	5,058
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	29	0	0	32
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	1,675	973	429	1,843
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	64	402	0	70
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	198,402	220,305	200,964	223,247
	Total, Other Objects	200,170	221,676	214,393	225,192
99.9	Total, new obligations	204,049	226,837	219,250	230,250
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	\$108,748	\$111,076	\$113,331	\$118,012
	Average Grade, GS Position	12.7	12.7	12.7	12.7

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

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

Program Mission

The Child Nutrition Programs improve the diets of children when they are away from home through nutritious meals and snacks based on the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. The National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs provide benefits in public and nonprofit private elementary, middle, and secondary schools, and in residential child care institutions. The Special Milk Program provides fluid milk to any participating public or nonprofit private school or child care institution that does not participate in other federally subsidized meal programs. The Child and Adult Care Food Program provides food for the nutritional well-being of young children and adults in day care homes and non-residential centers, and for children and teenagers in afterschool care programs and in emergency shelters. The Summer Food Service Program provides nutritious meals to children in low-income areas and in residential camps during the summer months, and at other times when school is not in session. In participating elementary schools, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program provides fresh fruits and vegetables outside of the regular meal service to all students. These programs are administered in most States by the State education agency, and in some States, by the State agriculture or health agencies.

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

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM***Program Mission***

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

States are generally reimbursed based on the number of qualifying lunches and snacks served to children in participating schools at designated reimbursement rates. These reimbursement rates are adjusted annually, and reflect three categories: free, reduced price, or paid meals. In accordance with Section 17A of the NSLA, reimbursement for snacks served by schools in eligible areas is paid at the free snack rate.

Section 4 of the NSLA authorizes a base reimbursement for all qualifying meals served, including lunches to children whose family income is above 185 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines. In addition, Section 11 of the NSLA authorizes additional reimbursement for meals served to children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty level (these children qualify for free meals), and for those from families with incomes between 130 and 185 percent (they qualify for reduced price meals). For school year (SY) 2021-2022, a child from a family of four with an annual income of \$34,450 or less is eligible for free meals, and a child from a family of four with a family income of no more than \$49,025 is eligible for reduced price meals. The reimbursement rates for meals are revised on July 1 of each year. The cash reimbursement for a free or reduced-price lunch is the sum of Section 4 (base) and Section 11 (supplemental) reimbursement rates. School food authorities (SFAs) that served 60 percent or more free and reduced-price lunches during the second preceding school year receive increased assistance at the rate of 2 cents per meal served. In addition, SFAs that demonstrated that the meals offered met the nutrition standards received an additional 7 cents per lunch served. In addition to the cash reimbursements, Section 6 of the NSLA also provides base funding for the purchase of USDA Foods to be used in the meal service, based on lunches served in the previous year.

Facts in Brief

Participating schools and Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs), saw a decrease of 61.6 percent in daily participation from FY 2020. This decrease is due to the COVID-19 pandemic which forced many schools to either close or operate at a diminished capacity. While fewer students participated in NSLP during FY 2021 compared to

previous years, students continued to receive nutrition benefits through the Pandemic-EBT Program and Summer Food Service Program.

- In FY 2021, more than 1.5 billion lunches were served in the NSLP, a decrease of 1.7 billion from FY 2020. Average daily participation in 2021 was 8.6 million, down from 22.4 million in FY 2020.
- In FY 2021, approximately 98.4 percent of all lunches served were provided free or at a reduced price, up from 76.9 percent in FY 2020.
- A total of 47,396 schools and RCCIs participated in the NSLP in FY 2021, compared to 96,965 in FY 2020 (49,527 fewer schools and 265 fewer RCCIs).

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Program Mission

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) provides funds to States for qualifying breakfasts served to students at or close to the beginning of their day at school. Like school lunches, the breakfasts must be consistent with statutory and regulatory nutrition standards, which are based on the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. 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 40 percent of lunches served to students during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price receive higher “severe need” reimbursements for breakfasts served free or at a reduced price. The meal reimbursement rates are revised on July 1 of each year.

Facts in Brief

Participating schools and RCCIs in FY 2021 saw a decrease of 52.8 percent in average daily participation from FY 2020. This decrease is due to the COVID-19 pandemic which forced many schools to either close or operate at a diminished capacity. While fewer students participated in SBP during FY 2021 compared to previous years, students continued to receive nutrition benefits through the Pandemic-EBT Program and Summer Food Service Program.

- In FY 2021, the School Breakfast Program was available at 44,692 schools and institutions (a decrease of 50.9 percent from FY 2020) with an enrollment of 27.8 million students (a decrease of 21 million students from FY 2020).
- Average daily participation in FY 2021 was 5.8 million students, a decrease of nearly 6.5 million students from the prior year. The program was available to 96 percent of the students enrolled in schools participating in the lunch program in FY 2021, as compared to 50 percent in FY 1990.
- The proportion of total meals served free or at a reduced price was about 99 percent during FY 2021, an increase of over 11 percent from FY 2020. Approximately 1.06 billion school breakfasts were served in FY 2021, a decrease of approximately 41 percent from FY 2021. This decrease is largely attributed to school closures due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

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

COVID-19 Response

Child Nutrition Waivers and Flexibilities

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

Using authority provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act [P.L. 116-127] (FFCRA), and funding provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act [P.L. 116-136] (CARES Act), and the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act [P.L. 116-159], USDA issued nationwide waivers of school meal program requirements to support access to meals while taking appropriate safety measures. These waivers provided the flexibility that State agencies and schools needed to maintain meal service while students learned

virtually, in person with social distancing, or a mix of virtual and in-person instruction. Notably, FNS allowed schools to offer meals throughout SY 2020-2021 through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO) (see the Summer Food Service Program section of this report for more information). This waiver allowed all children to receive meals at no cost and supported States and SFAs that needed to modify meal service models to ensure student and staff safety. In addition, for SY 2020-2021, USDA issued waivers allowing:

- Meals to be served in a non-congregate setting, supporting social distancing.
- Parents and guardians to pick up meals to take home to their children.
- Flexible mealtimes, to make it easier to provide multiple grab-and-go meals at a time.
- Meals to be served at no cost to all children during the school year, facilitating the safe provision of meals by eliminating the need to collect meal payments.

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

USDA also waived requirements on a state-by-state basis using the authority provided by Section 12(l) of the NSLA [42 U.S.C. 1760(l)], as well as expanded authority provided by FFCRA. For example, at the request of many States, USDA waived the requirement that reimbursement for Provision 2 schools must be based on the number of meals served to children eligible for free and reduced-price meals during the base year. These waivers assisted schools that were unable to complete a Provision 2 base year during SY 2019-2020 due to school closures because of COVID-19. FNS 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 FY 2021. FNS approved over 60 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. Since the outset of the COVID-19 outbreak, USDA worked tirelessly with States and local authorities to ensure schools and other program operators were empowered to continue feeding children.

In FY 2021, FNS fully implemented a provision in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 which extended eligibility for CACFP meals to certain persons under 25 in CACFP emergency shelters.

FNS also provided customer-oriented technical assistance resources to State and local Child Nutrition Program operators for the purposes of facilitating program access, sustainability, and participation during the COVID pandemic emergency. These included tip sheets on providing multiple meals at a time for NSLP, SSO, and CACFP, and [webpages](#) on program flexibilities and procurement and menu planning. In addition, FNS held multiple webinars on procurement strategies for State agencies and SFAs and collaborated with the Institute of Child Nutrition to conduct additional webinars regarding strategies to address supply chain challenges.

Innovative Partnerships

FNS partnered with the Baylor University Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty (BCHP) in FY 2020 to implement Emergency Meals to You (eMTY), a cooperative agreement supported by \$185 million in CARES Act funds that provided nutritious, boxed meals to eligible children by mail. Evaluation of eMTY is currently being completed by Urban Institute, Baylor University, and Healthy Eating Research at Duke University. The evaluation includes nutrition research, effectiveness of aid provided, and academic papers, and will be effective in informing future disaster response.

Pandemic EBT

FFCRA also created the Pandemic EBT program, or P-EBT. This optional program allowed States to issue benefits on EBT cards, redeemable for food, to households with children who would have received free or reduced-price school meals if not for the closure or reduction in attendance or hours of their schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In FY 2021, the FFCRA was amended to expand P-EBT to include households with children who were enrolled in SNAP

(Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and enrolled in certain child care facilities who did not attend because the facility was closed or operating at reduced attendance or hours. P-EBT was further expanded to include benefits for each day that a school in the area of the child’s covered child care facility or child’s residence was closed or operating at reduced attendance or hours. The FFCRA was further amended to extend P-EBT through the end of the public health emergency declaration and to include Summer P-EBT, which allowed States to extend their school and child care plans into the summer period and deemed all schools and child care centers as closed for a period of time not longer than 90 days. The value of benefits for each eligible child 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 child care in the last months of school year 2019-2020, school year 2020-2021, summer 2021, and through the end of the Federal public health emergency declaration. States administered P-EBT in FY 2021 consistent with individual State plans reviewed and approved by FNS. While P-EBT was meant to replace lost school 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. Over the course of FY 2021, FNS approved P-EBT plans for school children in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands the U.S. Virgin Islands; FNS approved P-EBT plans for children in child care in 46 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands; FNS approved P-EBT plans for summer 2021 in 49 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The school plans were designed to provide up to \$25.1 billion in benefits to over 27 million children; the child care plans were designed to provide up to \$5.7 billion in benefits to over 6 million children; the summer plans were designed to provide up to \$14 billion in benefits to over 37 million children.

Child Nutrition Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Programs

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, FNS implemented the *School Programs Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program* and the *Child and Adult Care Food Program Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program*, temporary reimbursements programs enacted by Congress under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. These reimbursement programs provided additional funding for local Child Nutrition Program operators whose revenues declined or were temporarily interrupted during the early months of the pandemic due to COVID-19 related restrictions and closures. The amount of funding provided to each program operated was determined using a statutory formula established under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. FNS disbursed a total of \$350,316,078 in funding to 57 State agencies participating in the *Child and Adult Care Food Program Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program*, and \$1,119,922,446 to 56 State agencies participating in the *School Programs Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program*. Overall, FNS approved 113 individual State agency implementation plans in support of this effort and ultimately provided nearly \$1.5 billion in financial relief to local child nutrition program operators.

Team Nutrition

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

Grants: In FY 2021, 21 State agencies received 2-year FY 2021 Team Nutrition Training Grant funds of up to \$300,000 for a total of approximately \$5.5 million. The FY 2021 Team Nutrition Training Grant for School Meal Recipe Development will build State agencies’ capacity and sustainable infrastructure to develop, standardize, prepare, test, and menu recipes for the NSLP and SBP. This grant will also help build a repository of school meal recipes that reflect local agricultural products across the country.

Team Nutrition Materials and Training Tools for Schools: In FY 2021, Team Nutrition released the 20-page *Offering Smoothies as Part of Reimbursable School Meals* training guide (over 10,000 webpage views in 2 months; 88 print copies distributed in less than 3 weeks); the 20-page *Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast* training guide, available in both English and Spanish (2,500 webpage views and 72 print copies distributed in the first two days of release); the *Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs* (accessed over 11,100 times,

with 3,308 downloads since its December 2020 release); the updated *Professional Standards Summary of Updates* flyer; and the *Professional Standards Training Reward Badges*.

Team Nutrition also provided over 400 online resources and 186 different printed publications to States, schools and CACFP operators. The most commonly downloaded Team Nutrition publications for the schools audience were *Serving Up MyPlate: Levels 1 and 2* (6,790 downloads), *Offering Smoothies Guide* (3,792 downloads), and *Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs* (3,308 downloads). Almost 110,000 printed training and nutrition education materials were requested by and distributed to State agencies, schools, school districts, and CACFP operators during FY 2021. The most commonly requested printed resources and training tools include Feeding Infants in the CACFP (8,090 copies) and Student Emergent Readers –Set of six books in Spanish (2,800 copies). Team Nutrition also responded to almost 1,910 emails from program operators and the public about Team Nutrition materials, technical assistance for program operations, and training opportunities.

In September 2021, Team Nutrition launched a new Stronger with School Meals campaign to support the reopening of schools in SY 2021-2022, which included the release of an infographic in English and Spanish, an activity booklet, five stickers, two buttons, two thank you cards, and social media graphics. These resources emphasize how school meals are supporting children’s learning and health during School Year 2021-2022, as well as acknowledge and support the efforts of school nutrition professionals and other school staff in providing school meals. In the first 4 days since their launch (over Labor Day weekend), the Stronger with School Meals materials had over 2,700 website views. Team Nutrition also released the Back-to-School Support Kit, which had over 13,500 webpage views in the first 3 months of release; this kit also includes a customizable letter that schools can adapt and use to communicate with families regarding changes to school meal service and menus due to supply chain challenges.

Team Nutrition continues to innovate and release resources to assist Child Nutrition operators and engage the stakeholder audience in raising awareness about Child Nutrition Programs. In September 2021, a 10-question Team Nutrition online quiz on school lunch was released (over 2,624 views in the first six days since release). This quiz can be used by parents and families, Child Nutrition Program operators, and others interested in nutrition to help test their knowledge on school lunch. To help the user broaden their knowledge base on school nutrition and raise awareness for FNS resources, a link to relevant resources is provided at the end of the quiz.

In July 2021, the Team Nutrition Photo Collection was launched as part of USDA’s Flickr account. This allows State agencies and other stakeholders to download and use these images as part of their Child Nutrition trainings and educational materials. All photos are property of USDA with unlimited rights to the use and redistribution of images. Currently, there are 250 photographs available, with more photos expected in fall 2021.

Technology Tools: In FY 2018, Team Nutrition made USDA history by releasing the first-ever FNS public-facing Mobile Application, the Food Buying Guide (FBG) mobile app, which has had over 33,600 downloads since its release, including in 73 countries. The app assists program operators and food manufacturers in purchasing the right quantity of food for their meal’s programs, comparing foods, and determining the specific contribution each food item makes towards Child Nutrition Program meal pattern requirements. This mobile app, together with the web-based Interactive Food Buying Guide (70,730 active users, 213,900 active individual sessions, and nearly 860,900 page views in FY 2021), have provided child nutrition program operators with invaluable information – at their fingertips – related to food purchasing and utilizing food yield information for menu planning. In FY 2021, Team Nutrition made numerous notable enhancements via 7 updates on both the FBG Tool and mobile app to enhance usability and consistency with the current meal pattern requirements. FNS also released three training modules to help Program operators better understand and successfully use the FBG resource in their Child Nutrition Programs; in FY 2021, more than 1,460 users have completed the modules).

Child Nutrition Database (CNDB): In FY 2021, Team Nutrition released the Child Nutrition Database, Release 24, with over 10,000 food items, in 6 file formats. The CNDB is a required part of the nutrient analysis software approved by USDA for use in the NSLP and SBP; the CNDB includes food product nutrient data collected for 18 different nutrients. The two web pages listing the USDA approved software for 1) Nutrient Analysis and 2) Certification of Compliance were viewed 19,128 and 4,255 times, respectively.

Trainings and Webinars: Collectively in FY 2021, Team Nutrition staff directly provided 32 professional development opportunities, leading to approximately 27,000 CN Program operators trained; this includes 16 staff-

conducted webinars (12 English and 4 Spanish) that reached almost 8,800 live viewing sites; recorded webinars were viewed nearly 9,700 times.

Recipes: Team Nutrition has a vast collection of 264 recipes and cookbooks featuring delicious, kid-approved recipes that incorporate whole grains and vegetables (dark-green, red/orange, and beans/peas vegetables subgroups). These recipes have been standardized to ensure consistent yields – and include information on how the recipe credits toward the meal pattern requirements for NSLP/SBP; these tasty recipes have the potential to increase student acceptance of school meals and therefore improve student health. In FY 2021, Team Nutrition worked collaboratively with the ICN to launch Phase II of the Child Nutrition Recipe Box (CNRB), which included the translation of recipe formats from PDF files to individual recipe landing pages and the roll-out of recipe tags and search features. Since the launch of Phase II, there have been almost 33,000 new users with almost 241,000 unique page views and nearly 2,500 new accounts created for Child Nutrition professionals to save and organize their favorite recipes.

Websites: Team Nutrition maintains a website that includes 400 online resources and access to printed publications in a Resource Library, which received over 2.1 million-page views in FY 2021. Team Nutrition published 12 Spanish-language webpages, thereby increasing access for Child Nutrition Program stakeholders who prefer to access materials in Spanish. Team Nutrition also maintains a Professional Standards Training Database with over 500 free or low-cost trainings available to help school nutrition professionals boost their essential job-related skills and knowledge related to program operations, program administration, nutrition, and communications and marketing. In addition, Team Nutrition facilitates sharing of State-developed menu planning and culinary training resources and best practices through the Child Nutrition Sharing Site (CNSS) (hosted by the Institute of Child Nutrition); in FY 2021, 307 resources were vetted and added to the CNSS.

Team Nutrition Network for Schools: In FY 2021, information for 9,917 Team Nutrition Schools was updated and 263 new schools were added to the Team Nutrition Network for Schools, for a total of 52,671 Team Nutrition Schools. Schools can join the Network to affirm their commitment to helping students make healthier food choices and be more physically active, and in turn they will have the opportunity to collaborate with other Team Nutrition Schools, be the first to hear about new nutrition education and training materials developed under the Team Nutrition initiative and receive special nutrition education and promotion materials.

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

In FY 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for virtual or self-study training courses remained high and were preferred over in-person trainings. As a result, Team Nutrition continued to work with the ICN to quickly convert in-person trainings curricula into virtual instructor-led formats and online courses. Altogether in FY 2021, approximately 22,640 Child Nutrition Program administrators and operators attended more than 344 job skills trainings in a variety of formats and topics, thereby supporting operators' efforts in managing program operations and implementing the meal patterns; this number includes the 18 webinars that reached nearly 16,200 child nutrition professionals, providing them with essential job skills to help them successfully implement their meals programs.

In FY 2021, Team Nutrition also worked collaboratively with the ICN to launch 13 new, self-paced, free online courses in ICN's eLearning Portal website (called iLearn) at <https://www.theicn.org>, providing a total of 93 self-paced online continuing education professional development opportunities to Child Nutrition professionals that can be accessed anytime, anywhere. There are almost 137,700 registered users in iLearn (an increase of about 33,000 more users in 1 year) who completed almost 588,670 online courses. This significant increase in the number of registered users indicates how hard Child Nutrition professionals have been working to stay up to date with professional development during these unprecedented times of COVID-19.

Professional Standards Tracker: In FY 2021, USDA's Team Nutrition continued to release updates to the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT) as part of the ongoing operations, maintenance, and enhancements of the tool to improve the user experience. The PSTTT is designed to assist school nutrition professionals in keeping track of their annual required training hours. PSTTT updates included the addition of reward

badges to motivate school nutrition professionals and make the process of completing annual training requirements fun. Users of the tool can earn a badge for each key area (Nutrition, Operations, Administration, and Communication and Marketing) by completing one or more trainings under a specific key area. Users can also earn achievement badges (Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze) by completing trainings in more than one key area. As of September 29, 2021, there are 4,042 total registered eAuthenticated users of the PSTTT; in the last 6 months of FY 2021, the PSTTT had a total of 7,201 active users (7,113 of them new users), with 16,720 sessions and 207,007 page views).

Newsletters: Team Nutrition also manages electronic newsletters and communications, which feature best practices and Team Nutrition resources available to Child Nutrition Programs. In FY 2021, Team Nutrition released a total of 52 electronic newsletters/communications, which included 37 promotional announcements of resources available via GovDelivery (with each announcement reaching over 135,000 GovDelivery subscribers), as well as nine newsletters that communicated the availability of resources for Child Nutrition Program operators and administrators and six School Meals Grab n’ Go Quick Tips e-newsletters, with each newsletter reaching over 141,000 subscribers, which demonstrates an increase of 14 percent (20,000 more subscribers) in FY 2021.

Program Integrity

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

Research

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

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

Process Improvements

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

The DVS improves on the existing FNS Food Program Reporting System in that it works directly with the State systems SFAs use for data entry, allowing for real-time edit checks. The DVS enhances customer service to States and SFAs by streamlining the data collection process and reducing burden associated with correcting errors. The DVS also directly improves the quality of the FNS-742 dataset, which informs policymaking, guidance, and program integrity efforts. The DVS has been adopted by four states and is being added to the FNS-742 data collection module of a national-level vendor, work that is expected to be completed in FY 2022.

Program Oversight

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

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

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

Regulations require State agencies to recover Federal funds for errors related to certification and benefit issuance, as well as meal pattern and nutritional quality requirements. Regulations also allow State agencies to recover Federal funds or withhold payments for other areas of noncompliance in program operation. The AR generates valuable information at the State and Federal levels, which informs technical assistance and the development of initiatives to improve integrity across the programs.

FNS provides technical assistance on Program regulations and guidance to State agencies in a variety of formats such as the development of guidance and handbooks, fact sheets, webinars, conference calls, and in person trainings and presentations. FNS also provides technical assistance through the review process, during assisted ARs, and during management evaluations, including a comprehensive review and update of the management evaluation manuals. For example, FNS continues to make significant efforts to strengthen implementation and oversight of the NSLA Buy American requirements in school meals programs, including issuing policy guidance and conducting numerous trainings on State agency oversight of procurement to ensure SFAs have the tools and knowledge to comply with this requirement.

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

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

Direct Certification

Direct certification is the process of matching data from other means-tested programs to automatically certify students as eligible for free or reduced-price school meal benefits, without need for families to submit applications. Direct certification is a key error-reduction strategy for the school meal programs. By eliminating applications, direct certification not only reduces program errors, but also reduces burden on families and schools. State agencies were required to reach direct certification rates of 95 percent with SNAP by SY 2013-2014 and must continue to meet the 95 percent benchmark in subsequent years to maximize program efficiency. 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.

For SY 2018-2019, 40 of the 52 State agencies achieved direct certification rates at or above the 95-percent performance target, a noteworthy increase of 12 States meeting the benchmark compared to SY 2015-2016. The National SNAP direct certification rate increased to 98 percent, from 92 percent reported in SY 2015-2016. FNS is continuing robust technical assistance efforts with State agencies to help them improve their direct certification performance. Although COVID-19 suspended travel in most instances in FY 2021, the technical assistance team did

conduct a State agency site visit to South Dakota. It is expected that the number of States visited will increase to previous years' levels once in-person meetings may continue.

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

Demonstrations to Evaluate Direct Certification with Medicaid Data

Section 9(b)(15) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act authorizes FNS to conduct demonstration projects in selected States and Local Education Authorities (LEA) to evaluate the effectiveness of using Medicaid data to directly certify students for school meals. The original demonstrations 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, USDA decided to examine the potential additional efficiencies of directly certifying students for both free and reduced-price meals. Seven States began demonstrations in SY 2016-2017, and eight additional States began demonstrations approved in SY 2017-2018. An evaluation is underway to examine the impact of direct certification with Medicaid on key program outcomes. The Year 2 report was released in September 2020 finding that about one in five students certified for free or reduced meals across the demonstration States were directly certified using Medicaid data, about 1.26 million students in total.

Special Provision Options

In an effort to reduce paperwork and other administrative burdens at the local level, Congress has incorporated into Section 11(a)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (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 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 free eligibility to be certified for a two-year period in schools where at least 80 percent of the children enrolled are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. 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 status.

Provision 2 establishes claiming percentages and offers meals to all participating children at no charge for a period of four years. During the first year (or base year) the school makes eligibility determinations and takes meal counts by type. During the next three years, 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 allows schools to receive the level of Federal cash and commodity support paid to them for the last year in which they made eligibility determinations and meal counts by type (the base year). Schools serve meals to all participating children at no charge for a period of four years. These schools do not make additional eligibility determinations and reimbursement is determined by the base year with some adjustments to reflect changes in enrollment and inflation. Schools electing Provision 2 or 3 must pay the difference between Federal reimbursement and the cost of providing all meals at no charge. The money to pay for this difference must be from non-Federal sources. Also, Provision 2 and 3 allow the State agency to approve four-year extensions if the socioeconomic status of the school's population remains stable.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

The Community Eligibility Provision allows schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) located in low-income areas to provide breakfast and lunch at no cost to students, without the burden of collecting household applications to determine eligibility for free school meals. CEP is a Federal-local partnership that streamlines program administration by using direct certification data to establish a school, group, or LEA-wide meal claiming percentage. Through direct certification, schools access income data already collected and verified through other Federal assistance programs and apply it to the school meals certification process, rather than duplicating data collection efforts. If a minimum percentage (at least 40 percent) of students qualify for free meals via direct certification, the LEA conducts its own cost-benefit analysis. Using an established equation, the LEA calculates the amount of federal reimbursement it will receive, and the level of non-Federal funds required to offer no-cost meals to all enrolled students. The LEA compares its funding contribution to anticipated savings through administrative cost and burden reductions. If it determines that CEP is more efficient than the traditional NSLP administrative structure (specific to local circumstances), the LEA can choose to move to CEP. CEP schools must pay the difference between Federal reimbursement and the cost of providing all meals at no charge. The money to pay for this difference must be from non-Federal sources. As of May 2020, 31,000 schools serving 14.9 million students are operating CEP, about 69 percent of 45,000 eligible schools.

In FY 2021, USDA continued to provide focused technical assistance to ensure State agencies and schools participating and interested in participating in CEP have the information and resources necessary to make informed decisions about participation. Technical assistance includes responding to State agency questions, issuing policy guidance, and highlighting CEP during webinars and presentations.

USDA conducted a national evaluation of CEP, collecting data in SY 2016-2017. This study examines characteristics of participating and non-participating schools. The study also assesses how CEP impacts student participation, revenue, attendance, and the type of breakfast program offered by the school. The study results will help USDA apply the best principles of continuous improvement, through identifying the strengths and weakness of CEP to help LEAs make determinations about CEP for their specific circumstances. USDA expects the study results to be available in early 2022.

School Breakfast Expansion Grants

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

Community Food Systems

USDA supports local and regional food systems as a way to improve economic, health and learning outcomes, and inspire youth toward careers in agriculture by connecting children and families to their food and the farmers, ranchers, and fishers who produce it. FNS formally created the Office of Community Food Systems (OCFS) within FNS' Child Nutrition Programs in 2015. This office represents an expansion of 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.

OCFS extends its focus on local foods and agricultural education beyond the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to incorporate associated programs including the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The integration of community food systems principles in Child Nutrition Programs encourages local control and provides flexibility to implement a variety of activities that leverage nutrition program operations to support resilient food systems through strong local food supply chains. FNS accomplished this work through awarding grants, providing technical assistance, and conducting research related to Farm to School in FY 2021.

Grants

The Farm to School Grant Program funds school districts, 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, teach children about food and agriculture through garden and classroom education, and develop schools'

and farmers' capacities to participate in Farm to School programs. Awards ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000 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 through the FY 2019 through FY 2021 Agricultural appropriations and, as a result, FNS has significantly increased the number of grant awards.

FY 2021 marked nine years since the inception of the Farm to School Grant Program. Since then, FNS has awarded 896 projects totaling nearly \$64 million and reaching all 50 states, DC, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam. In July 2021, FNS awarded \$12 million in grants to 177 grantees, the highest number of grant awards to date.

In addition to the general Farm to School Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA), on May 26, 2021, FNS also published a Farm to School Institute Cooperative Agreement RFA. In FY 2021, the Secretary of Agriculture was directed to use \$500,000 to form at least one cooperative agreement with an established entity, such as a regional Farm to School institute, 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. In September 2021, a three-year cooperative agreement of \$500,000 was awarded to Shelburne Farms (VT).

On October 22, 2021, FNS published the 2022 Farm to School Grant Program RFA. The RFA continues the same three grant tracks as the FY 2021 RFA: Implementation, State Agency, and Turnkey, and incorporates equity principles in the design and evaluation of proposed projects and expands priority consideration to projects led by and serving Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, and projects in rural areas.

Technical Assistance

In FY 2021, FNS entered the third year of its three-year, \$1.8 million cooperative agreement with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). The goal of this project is to develop training to help agricultural producers build their capacity to launch or expand efforts to market to schools, increasing farm to school activity in schools. A train-the-trainer model was developed to prepare State agencies and their representatives with the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver the producer-focused training curriculum to agricultural producers (farmers, fishers, or ranchers) in their states. Regional train-the-trainer workshops began in Spring 2021. FNS continues to provide direct training and technical assistance to program operators through in-person meetings, webinars, conference calls, and through online and print technical assistance materials. Throughout the year, FNS conducted national and local farm to school trainings at 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 the spring of 2021, OCFS hosted a four-part webinar series on best practices in farm to school. The 30-minute Seeding Success webinars provided technical assistance that supports stakeholders as they develop, expand, and maintain robust farm to school programs, projects, or initiatives. Each webinar attracted approximately 80 attendees and recordings of the webinars are available on the FNS website.

In September 2021, FNS held a Grantee Conference with over 250 attendees, including State agency staff, grantees, and agricultural producers, to review grant requirements, share best practices and allow for networking. Though normally an in-person conference, 2021 was the second time FNS hosted the Grantee Conference as an all-virtual event.

FNS also manages a monthly electronic newsletter, *The Dirt*, which features best practices among grantees, and shares additional resources to help grantees and other stakeholders advance farm to school and local procurement in Child Nutrition Programs. *The Dirt* boasts a subscriber base of over 80,000.

Research

In FY 2021, FNS published the 2019 Farm to School Census report. The Farm to School Census is the only nationwide survey designed to measure farm to school activities among schools participating the National School Lunch Program. The Farm to School Census surveyed school food authorities (SFAs) nationwide, including American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Washington, D.C., receiving responses from more than 12,000 SFAs. FNS has launched its newly redesigned Farm to School Census website, which easily allows users to view and compare data on farm to school efforts across the US. The new website features 2019 Farm to School Census results at the national, State, and SFA levels.

With assistance from an evaluation contractor, FNS reviewed all available grantee data from FY 2013 through FY 2018, to identify important trends and activities among Farm to School Grant recipients. FNS published the final report on Farm to School Grantee trends in July 2021.

FNS also developed an 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 FY 2021, 92 percent of respondents reported overall satisfaction with the support provided by FNS as they implemented the grants. FNS intends to use this information to make continuous improvements to the Farm to School Grant program.

SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM

Program Mission

The Special Milk Program (SMP) has encouraged consumption of fluid milk since 1955. Any public or nonprofit private school or child care 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 child care 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 example, at the request of many States, USDA waived the requirements 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 FY 2021, the SMP saw a decrease of nearly 35 percent in total number of half pint served from FY 2020. This decrease is due to the COVID-19 pandemic which forced many schools to either close or operate at a diminished capacity. While fewer students participated in NSLP during FY 2021 compared to previous years, students continued to receive nutrition benefits through the Pandemic-EBT Program and Summer Food Service Program.

- The number of half pints served as part of the SMP decreased from 17.2 million in FY 2020 to 11.2 million in FY 2021, a 34.9 percent decrease. This decrease is largely attributed to school closures because of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Overall, the number of half pints served has decreased from 181.3 million in FY 1990, down 94 percent.
- A total of 1,468 schools, residential child care institutions, non-residential child care institutions, and summer camps participated in the SMP in FY 2021, a 58 percent decrease from the FY 2020 level of 3,522.
- The portion of half pints served free during FY 2021 was about 7.0 percent, as compared to 8.8 percent in FY 2020.

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

Program Mission

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

In order to participate, child care centers must be either public or private nonprofit or for-profit centers in which at least 25 percent of their enrollment or licensed capacity receive Title XX funds or are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Adult day care centers that provide nonresidential adult day care must be either public or private nonprofit or for-profit centers in which at least 25 percent of their participants are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or are receiving Title XIX or Title XX funds. All participating day care homes and centers must be licensed or approved according to Federal, State, or local standards. Outside-school-hours care programs and at-risk afterschool care centers, in areas where Federal, State, or local licensing or approval is not required, and emergency shelters may participate in CACFP by meeting State or local health and safety standards. Funds are made available to the States for audit expenses associated with the administration of the CACFP.

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

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

Meals and snacks served in CACFP must meet nutrition standards that have been carefully designed to incorporate a variety of vegetables and fruit, more whole grains, less added sugar and saturated fat, and access to healthy beverages, including low-fat and fat-free milk, and water. The use of ounce equivalents in crediting grains went into effect on October 1, 2021. Prior to implementation of ounce equivalent measurements, FNS developed numerous technical assistance materials and for State agencies and sponsoring organizations to make compliance easier for meal planners.

Facts in Brief

- In FY 2021, CACFP saw an increase of nearly 19 percent in total meals served from FY 2020. In FY 2021, the peak participation attendance in CACFP was approximately 5.5 million children and adults, an increase of approximately 4.2 percent compared to the peak participation in FY 2020.
- In FY 2021, the average daily attendance of children was 4.5 million children, 4.0 million of which were in child care centers and approximately 500,000 were in family day care homes, a decrease from 4.1 million in average daily attendance, 3.5 million of which were in centers and 585,000 were in family day care homes in FY 2020.
- On average, in FY 2021, CACFP child care centers had 77 children in attendance each day and received about \$49,289 a year in meal reimbursement (compared to an average of 61 children and \$36,028 in FY 2020).
- On average, a family day care homes fed approximately 7 children daily in FY 2021 and received slightly more than \$7,552 a year in meal reimbursement (compared to approximately 7 children and slightly more than \$6,898 in FY 2020).
- Total meal service increased nearly 19 percent from FY 2020 to FY 2021, for a total of approximately 1.8 billion meals served in FY 2021.
- In FY 2021, approximately 84 percent of total meals served in CACFP were provided free or at a reduced price, an increase from 81.8 percent in FY 2020.
- In FY 2021, 21,444 At-Risk Child Care Center outlets provided a total of 552.3 million meals and snacks to children (compared to the 27,767 At-Risk Child Care Centers operating in FY 2020 that served a total of 254.4 million meals and snacks). This is a 23 percent decrease in the number of operating At-Risk sites and a 117 percent increase in the number of meals and snacks served to children.
- In FY 2021, CACFP At-Risk Child Care Centers had an average of 137 children daily, an increase from approximately 94 children in attendance daily during FY 2020.

COVID-19 Response

In FY 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 has 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 has 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. 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 2021. FNS approved 50 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.

Additional Team Nutrition Materials and Training for CACFP: In FY 2021, Team Nutrition released 12 new CACFP training resources, available in both English and Spanish, that included 3 new training worksheets on various CACFP hot topics; 6 Mealtimes with Toddlers in the CACFP videos that focus on hot topics for feeding toddlers; and 3 ready-to-go training slides and speaker notes that can be used by State agencies, sponsoring organizations and others to train CACFP providers, operators, and menu planners on the CACFP meal patterns.

Team Nutrition continues to innovate and release resources to assist Child Nutrition operators and engage the stakeholder audience in raising awareness about Child Nutrition Programs. In September 2021, a 10-question Team Nutrition online quiz on infant nutrition was released (over 2,014 views in the first 6 days since release). This quiz can be used by parents and families, Child Nutrition Program operators, WIC directors, and others interested in nutrition to help test their knowledge on infant nutrition. To help the user broaden their knowledge base on infant nutrition and raise awareness for FNS resources, a link to relevant resources is provided at the end of the quiz.

Team Nutrition provided over 400 online resources and 186 different printed publications to States, schools and CACFP operators. The most commonly downloaded Team Nutrition publications for the CACFP audience were *The Crediting Handbook* (10,016 downloads), *Using Ounce Equivalents for Grains in the CACFP English Worksheet* (8,310 downloads), and *Crediting Single-Serving Packages of Grains in the CACFP English Worksheet* (4,116 downloads). Almost 110,000 printed training and nutrition education materials were requested by and distributed to State agencies, schools, school districts, and CACFP operators during FY 2021. The most commonly requested printed resources and training tools include Feeding Infants in the CACFP (8,090 copies) and Student Emergent Readers –Set of 6 books in Spanish (2,800 copies). Team Nutrition also responded to almost 1,910 emails from program operators and the public about Team Nutrition materials, technical assistance for program operations, and training opportunities.

In FY 2021, Team Nutrition continued its popular CACFP Halftime Webinar series by conducting four 30-minute, interactive webinars (in both English and Spanish), which were viewed live by over 4,265 participants and recorded webinars were viewed over 4,613 times, for a total of 8,878 views. Altogether in FY 2018 to FY 2021, Team Nutrition conducted a total of 29 interactive CACFP Halftime webinars in two languages that have been viewed nearly 91,000 times, providing essential job skills training to CACFP operators on planning, preparing, and offering healthy foods that meet the updated meal pattern requirements.

Team Nutrition also partnered with the ICN to design a training curriculum to provide State agency staff with the fundamental knowledge and skills they need to implement the updated meal patterns in every CACFP setting. Upon completion of the training, staff have all the materials they need to customize and conduct the same training for sponsoring organizations and centers in their States. In FY 2017 to FY 2021, 207 in-person and virtual instructor-led CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements Trainings have been conducted across the country. Moreover, three CACFP Meal Pattern online courses continue to assist CACFP program administrators and operators with planning, preparing, and offering healthy foods that meet meal pattern requirements. Team Nutrition also collaborated with the ICN to release 55 CACFP Grab and Go Lessons, 8 CACFP Fact/Tip Sheets, a series of four 4-week cycle menus for CACFP preschoolers, CACFP Food Varieties Galore, and 12 CACFP Adult Day Care materials.

Recipes: Team Nutrition has a vast collection of recipes and cookbooks featuring delicious, kid-approved recipes that incorporate whole grains and vegetables (dark-green, red/orange, and beans/peas vegetables subgroups). These recipes have been standardized to ensure consistent yields – and include information on how the recipe credits toward the meal pattern requirements for CACFP; these tasty recipes have the potential to increase student acceptance of school meals and therefore improve student health. In FY 2021, Team Nutrition released FNS’ first Spanish-language

collection of recipes developed specifically for child care centers and family child care homes that provide meals through the CACFP. This diverse collection of 40 new standardized recipes supports Spanish-speaking CACFP operators in planning meals that appeal to the taste preferences of children in their care. These recipes are housed in the Child Nutrition Recipe Box (CNRB) website (hosted by the Institute of Child Nutrition, ICN), which boasts a collection of 264 standardized recipes, each available in multiple yields.

Team Nutrition Network for CACFP: In FY 2021, information for 103 CACFP organizations was updated and 75 new organizations were added to the Team Nutrition Network for CACFP, for a total of 475 Team Nutrition CACFP organizations. CACFP organizations can join the Network to affirm their commitment to helping program participants make healthier food choices and be more physically active, and in turn they will have the opportunity to collaborate with other Team Nutrition CACFP organizations, be the first to hear about new nutrition education and training materials developed under the Team Nutrition initiative and receive special nutrition education and promotion materials.

CACFP Program 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 FY 2021, FNS entered into the fourth year of its cooperative agreement to develop a CACFP training program to equip State agencies with the knowledge and skills necessary to train their CACFP sponsoring organizations in key areas of CACFP program administration, operation, accounting, and financial management. The training, CACFP Operational Resources & Education (CORE), is geared toward State agency staff who are primarily responsible for developing State agency policy related to the CACFP and State agency staff who are primarily responsible for providing training and/or technical assistance directly to sponsoring organizations. CACFP stakeholders continue to engage in the online training tools developed and maintained as part of the CORE project. The Train-the-Trainer virtual conference remains “available on demand” and registered participants may review the nine modules, activities, and quizzes at their own pace. The Train-the-Trainer virtual conference was broadcast live to FNS participants in the spring of 2021. FNS continued collaboration on the written resource guide modules to accompany each of the ten core topics throughout FY 2021.

The enhanced oversight and enforcement tools included in the proposed rule, *Child Nutrition Program Integrity*, published in FY 2016, would improve the financial management of CACFP by increasing State resources, strengthening review timeframes, and establishing other requirements designed to improve oversight by State agencies and sponsoring organizations. Comments on the proposed rule were analyzed and publication of a final rule is expected in FY 2022.

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

FNS is working to develop a new, electronic guidance resource aimed at assisting State agencies with making determinations of serious deficiency. This resource will be interactive and allow State agency reviewers to provide information on the number, frequency, and severity of observed non-compliance issues. In exchange, the electronic resource will provide guidance on potential courses of action. FNS provided an early demonstration of the CACFP SD Navigator as a concept and as preliminary categories are developed. FNS will continue to develop the Navigator in FY 2022.

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 child care centers. Similar to the APEC series of studies that estimate error in the School Meal Programs, EPICCS will serve as a basis for future integrity initiatives in CACFP throughout the coming years. The initial draft of the EPICCS study was reviewed by FNS and a final review is pending an additional data collection, which is expected to be completed in FY 2022. FNS

is also developing exploratory research to identify methods to measure error in family day care homes. Preliminary results of the research into family day care homes are expected in FY 2023.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Program Mission

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

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

Facts in Brief

In accordance with Program statute and regulations, FNS provided several nationwide waivers to allow for off-site reviews, effective through September 30, 2021 to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19. Additionally, FNS granted several individual waivers for SFSP monitoring regulations for States experiencing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic and dramatic increase in Sponsors and sites operating the SFSP.

- During FY 2021, about 3.1 billion meals were served, a 138 percent increase from FY 2020 when 1.3 billion meals were served.
- During FY 2021, 48,605 feeding sites provided 3.1 billion meals to needy children through the SFSP. Compared to FY 1990, meals have increased over 3,000 percent from 91.2 million.
- In FY 2021, approximately 56.4 percent of the meals served were lunches (51.2 percent in FY 2020), 41.9 percent were breakfasts (46.3 percent FY 2020), and the remaining 1.7 percent were suppers and supplements (2.6 percent in FY 2020).

COVID-19 Response: In SY 2020-2021, stakeholders expressed the critical need for flexibility to operate the SFSP during on-going school disruptions in a manner that conformed with public health guidelines and met the changing needs of communities. For SY 2020-2021, FNS determined that the use of SFSP during the school year was appropriate as schools worked to serve their students and communities in a dynamic and challenging environment. Therefore, FNS issued a waiver allowing the SFSP and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO) to continue to operate through June 30, 2021. This waiver allowed all children to receive meals at no cost and supported States and SFAs that were utilizing a virtual or hybrid education model and needed to modify meal service models to ensure student safety. In addition, FNS extending through June 30, 2021 numerous nationwide waivers of SFSP program requirements that were first offered when schools initially closed in spring 2020. FNS later extended many of the waivers through September 30, 2021. These waivers allowed States and program operators more options for operating the SFSP during COVID-19 related school disruptions. Key SFSP flexibilities provided through the nationwide waiver extensions included:

- *Meal Times Waiver:* Waiving the meal service time requirements supported safe and streamlined access to nutritious meals.
- *Non-congregate Feeding Waiver:* Waiving the congregate meal requirements was vital to ensure appropriate safety measures for the purpose of providing meals and meal supplements.
- *Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Up Waiver:* In keeping with the goal of providing meals while also taking appropriate safety measures, Program operators in a State with an approved waiver allowing non-congregate meal distribution could distribute SFSP meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their children.
- *Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and Summer Food Service Operations:* Due to the continued need for social distancing during SY 2020-2021, FNS issued a nationwide waiver allowing meals to be served through the SFSP/SSO, which supported these models without requiring additional administrative contact or burden for States or operators.

- *Area Eligibility*: This waiver allowed SFSP sponsors in good standing to operate open sites in areas that have not been determined to be area eligible.
- *Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites*: This waiver allowed closed enrolled sites to establish area eligibility through the use of community data.
- *Offer Versus Serve*: This nationwide waiver allowed the use of SFSP OVS meal service parameters by both non-SFA and SFA sponsors in good standing.
- *First Week Site Visits*: FNS waived the requirement that monitoring be conducted onsite. However, SFSP sponsoring were encouraged, to the maximum extent practicable, to continue monitoring activities of Program operations offsite (e.g., through a desk audit).

FNS continues to assess the evolving public health emergency and work with stakeholders to determine if additional waivers or flexibilities may be needed, and when, and how, the SFSP will return to normal operations.

In addition, State agencies that administer SFSP had the option to submit a waiver request of both State and SFSP sponsor monitoring requirements and propose an alternative plan for conducting effective Program oversight in fiscal year 2021. FNS approved 54 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.

SFSP Integrity and Program Simplification

In FY 2021, FNS devoted resources to working with the Office of the Inspector General to close Phase III of the three-phase SFSP. 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 FY 2020, FNS reached management decision on 12 of the 15 recommendations, and in FY 2021, FNS reached management decision on the remaining three recommendations. FNS also focused on implementing the Phase III audit recommendations, including updating memorandums to clarify how to identify and calculate unused reimbursements, providing best practices on site proximity, and updating the Management Evaluation guide to ensure reviewers verify all State agency responses.

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

Since 2015, FNS has been conducting in-person visits of SFSP sites. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency, FNS did not conduct SFSP site visits in summer 2020 or 2021 but plans to continue with the visits during summer 2022. In addition to conducting the summer site visits, FNS will conduct an SFSP Integrity Study that is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2021. FNS is developing a new integrity research study to investigate and estimate program errors and improper payments in the SFSP. Development of the study methodology follows USDA's 2018 risk assessment of the SFSP which concluded that the program is susceptible to significant improper payments. The study will generate the agency's first formal estimates of program error in satisfaction of the requirements of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010 (IPERA). Notably, this study is being designed in-house by FNS and will focus on the types of program error that result in improper payments. Due to the relatively smaller size of the SFSP, the data collection effort for this study will take place over a period of five years and ultimately result in a rolling estimate of program error.

Summer Demonstrations

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

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

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

USDA issued multi-year Summer EBT awards in FY 2019 and FY 2021 to three Indian Tribal Organizations (ITO) and five States: The Cherokee Nation, The Chickasaw Nation, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Connecticut, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon, and Wisconsin. These grantees were awarded a total of \$65 million and are approved to operate for three summers each, staggered between 2019 and 2024. For 2021, State grantees opted to forgo operating their projects because they had the opportunity to offer summer Pandemic EBT benefits. The type of benefit and eligible student populations for Summer EBT and Pandemic EBT are largely the same, so offering both benefits at the same time would have been redundant and difficult to implement and evaluate. These grantees may resume their projects in a later year and use the full amount of funding that was awarded to them.

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

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

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM

Program Mission

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

Section 19 of the NSLA authorizes the FFVP and provides a steady source of funding through an annual transfer from the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) Section 32 funds. Funding is allocated among States using a statutory formula that provides base funding equally to each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia, and provides

additional funding to all States operating a school lunch program (including Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) on the basis of population. In addition, USDA:

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

COVID-19 Response

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

FOOD SAFETY

The Office of Food Safety (OFS) 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 FY 2021, OFS continued to support FNS program operators' response to the COVID-19 pandemic. OFS provided subject matter expertise to inform CDC's Safely Distributing Schools Meals During COVID-19 Guidance; published a series of COVID-19 food safety resources for school nutrition professionals in cooperation with the Institute of Child Nutrition; released *Watch Out for Water Safety*, a web-based technical water safety resource to guide reopening operations following extended closure; and led presentations for webinars including *A Guide to Reopen Schools: Best Practices in Food Safety and COVID-19 Prevention*, *Back to School: Preparing to Pivot with a Food Safety Focus*, and *Weeding and Seeding | Pandemic Gardening Best Practices for Active Farm to School Grantees*.

OFS led the Agency's activities related to heavy metals in food by establishing and leveraging collaborative relationships with Federal partners to ensure the needs of nutrition assistance program operators and participants were considered in efforts to reduce exposure to toxic elements to the lowest levels possible in foods eaten by high-risk populations.

Food Safety Education in Child Nutrition Programs

In FY 2021, OFS delivered high-quality, relevant food safety resources and training to child nutrition program operators on a variety of topics and through a variety of modalities.

Through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) at the University of Mississippi, OFS facilitated the delivery of food safety training, resources, and technical assistance in a variety of easy-to-use formats to operators of federally funded Child Nutrition Programs. These resources and trainings enhance the food safety knowledge base of child nutrition personnel and help ensure the safety of foods served in Child Nutrition Programs. Training topics include norovirus, food allergies, food defense, Food Safety Basics, Food Safety in Schools, and Food Safety in Child Care. In FY 2021, the ICN delivered 88 food safety trainings reaching more than 1,750 child nutrition professionals through a variety of modalities to meet program operators' needs including virtual instructor led training and e-learning.

In FY 2021, OFS and the ICN initiated a project to decrease the burden associated with Certified Food Protection Manager requirements in child nutrition program operations. The project will launch in FY 2022 and, if successful, ensure that program operators continue to meet critical food safety standards, including applicable State and local food safety regulatory requirements, while reducing financial and logistical burdens associated with certification training and testing.

Since 2017, OFS and the ICN have partnered to develop and distribute food safety kits to targeted audiences including summer meals and child care program operators. These kits provide hands-on tools (including food thermometers,

magnets or decals, pens, mini-posters, and reference guides) for program operators to help keep food safe in meals provided through Child Nutrition Programs. The training materials in the summer meals kits have been adapted to a series of online training courses that have been completed by over 43,000 operators. In FY 2021, the *CACFP Family Child Care Food Kit* was released; within the first three months of the launch, 16,392 kits were distributed in 53 states and territories. In total, 62,199 food safety kits have been distributed.

Food Allergies

OFS 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 FY 2021, to address needs identified in the USDA FNS study titled “*The Study of Food Safety Needs of Adult Day Care Centers in the Child and Adult Care Food Program*”, OFS collaborated with the ICN to publish a series of evidence-based *Adult Day Care Center Food Allergy Fact Sheets* for CACFP providers including adult day care center directors and staff. The series provides an overview of food allergies and comprehensively addresses the top 8 food allergies, how to manage food allergies, and common questions regarding food allergies in adult day care programs. In addition, OFS began reviewing existing food allergy resources to respond to the FASTER Act of 2021 (S-578), which effective January 1, 2023 will include sesame as a major allergen.

Produce Safety

The FNS Office of Food Safety (OFS), in partnership with the Agricultural Marketing Service’s Specialty Crops Inspection Division, offers Produce Safety University (PSU); an experiential learning program that immerses school nutrition professionals in the fresh produce supply chain and arms them with tools and knowledge to address real life scenarios, critically analyze and respond to food safety issues, and teach others critical produce safety concepts and practices. Participants learn to identify and manage food safety risks associated with fresh produce whether purchased from farmers or distributors, received whole or fresh-cut, or grown in a school garden. PSU is far-reaching; more than 1,650 participants have graduated since 2010 and graduates have gone on to train nearly 70,000 additional people. Following graduation, 85 percent of PSU graduates reported making changes to improve receiving, storage, preparation, or service practices.

In FY 2021, in response to the pandemic, OFS executed the transition of PSU from an in-person to a virtual experience while maintaining the quality and reach of the program. The program, including course content, was comprehensively redesigned to adapt to the Virtual, Instructor Lead Training (VILT) platform and included two video series which delivered the traditionally hands-on produce labs and “on the farm” field trip experiences. In total, five multi-day trainings were delivered to 150 school nutrition professionals.

Center for Food Safety Research in Child Nutrition Programs

OFS supports the Center for Food Safety in Child Nutrition Programs at Kansas State University, the only entity that focuses on science-based food safety research in schools, child care, and other Child Nutrition Programs. In FY 2021, the Center completed the *Defining and Prioritizing Food Safety Research and Resource Needs for Farm to School* and *Profiling Food Safety Risk in School Nutrition Programs via Production Systems* studies. The Center continues to conduct research as it applies to Child Nutrition Programs and completed data collection for *The Status of Crisis Management Plans in School Nutrition Programs and Responsiveness to COVID-19* and *Food Safety Practices and Beliefs of Stakeholders Involved in Meal Distribution and Consumption in Crises Situations* studies.

Food Safety Promotion, Coordination and Support

OFS 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 FY 2021, OFS provided expert technical review for nutrition education projects such as WIC Works holiday food safety, CACFP Mealtimes with Toddlers, and food safety for household distribution programs including best practices for handling and storage of USDA Foods; handwashing; cleaning, and disinfecting; and proper handling, distribution, and storage of cheese. Additionally, OFS provided expert technical review to Federal food safety partners through the Conference for Food Protection, CDC's EHS-Net, and the FDA's cooperative agreement program for States and Territories to Implement a National Produce Safety Program.

Hold and Recall Actions

The Office of Food Safety (OFS) closely monitored food recalls affecting FNS nutrition assistance programs and communicated with food safety regulatory agencies (USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as well as the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and FNS Food Distribution Division) to determine the impact of food recalls on USDA Foods. In FY 2021, USDA Foods were not impacted by food recalls; however, OFS coordinated with the FSIS and the FDA on three commercial recalls impacting FNS programs including one related to infant rice cereal. OFS continued to offer the USDA State Emergency Notification System (SENS), a tool that allows State agencies to rapidly communicate critical food recall information to recipient agencies so they can remove contaminated food from distribution. Currently, 45 State agencies leverage SENS.

In FY 2021, OFS responded to 201 USDA Foods complaints with identified food safety concerns. Fruit and vegetable products represented 124 of these complaints, followed by 43 meat and poultry complaints. Foreign material and damaged packaging were the reasons for 166 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.

Acquisition and Distribution of USDA Foods

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

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

FY 2020 USDA Foods Assistance Rate

For SY 2019-2020, schools, daycare centers and residential institutions were authorized to receive an average of 23.75 cents worth of USDA Foods per lunch/supper served. The rate for USDA Foods increased to 24.50 cents on July 1, 2020, for SY 2020-2021. USDA Foods provided to Child Nutrition Programs (excluding bonus and cash in lieu of entitlement USDA Foods) totaled nearly \$1.6 billion for FY 2020.

USDA Foods in Schools

USDA strengthens the nation's nutrition safety net and supports American agriculture by distributing high quality, 100 percent American-grown 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 FY 2020, FNS continued to ensure schools had access to a wide variety of healthy foods by adding new options and reformulating existing items to continue to improve the nutrition quality and to better meet the needs of school programs. In particular, FNS added a commercial Kosher certification requirement to six items available to schools, including various flavors of yogurt, canned applesauce, and canned corn.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, FNS helped schools retool their feeding programs to meet the challenge of providing food outside of the cafeteria environment and worked closely with State Agencies to expedite or modify deliveries of USDA Foods where needed. In response to continued widespread school closures resulting from

COVID-19, FNS published a waiver in January 2021 allowing State Distributing Agencies to choose to use SY 2018-2019 lunch counts for calculating SY 2021-2022 entitlement. All participating States and Territories opted-in to this waiver.

National Processing Program

The COVID-19 pandemic drastically changed how school meals were provided in school year 2020-2021 as many schools served grab and go items instead of cooked entrees. FNS closely monitored USDA Foods inventories and orders for national processors due to the significant changes in the types of foods needed and meal service models. Based on review and analysis of USDA Foods data, FNS developed a forecasting tool to help States and processors more effectively and efficiently manage USDA Foods inventories, which helped to ensure efficient inventory utilization and reduced inventory balances, storage costs, and food losses.

USDA Department of Defense Fresh Produce Project

FNS and the Department of Defense (DoD) work together to enable school districts to obtain fresh produce. Under this joint venture, schools can use their USDA Foods entitlement to order fresh produce through DoD's contracting and distribution network. DoD uses its large-scale buying power to help meet the demand for consistent, weekly deliveries of a wide variety of fresh produce to school cafeterias, central kitchens, SFSP sponsors, and State and Tribal organizations. This program has grown steadily since its beginning in SY 1994-1995, when eight States spent \$3.2 million for produce. In FY 2021 48 States, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands participated, spending over \$564 million in USDA Foods entitlement funds on fresh fruits and vegetables through this program. Additionally, 28 States their Summer Food Service Program entitlement toward receiving fresh fruits and vegetables using the USDA DoD Program. FNS continues to work with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to improve key aspects of the USDA DoD Fresh program, including expanding coverage in many States and improving the availability of local produce items when in season.

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

Pilot Project for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables

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, but the remaining States allocated approximately \$8.7 million in USDA Foods entitlement funds to purchases through this program in FY 2021.

USDA Foods Administrative Expenses

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 HQ and Regional Office staff and forwarded onto 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 child care institutions participating in CACFP have also elected to receive their USDA Foods entitlements in cash.

Technical Assistance

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. Due to the limited opportunity for travel in FY 2021, FNS converted many trainings to webinar and virtual platforms to continue to engage with stakeholders and provide timely USDA Foods resources and information.

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE FUNDS

Section 7 of the CNA authorizes funds to the States for program administration and for supervision and technical assistance in local school districts and child care institutions. In FY 2021, \$324 million was appropriated for State Administrative Expenses (SAE). Funds appropriated for SAE are available to States for obligation over a two-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 USDA.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS STUDIES AND EVALUATIONS

FNS published seven reports related to the Child Nutrition Programs during FY 2021, which are available at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/research-analysis>. These reports include:

- **Study of School Food Authority (SFA) Procurement Practices (9/21/2021).** This is the first study from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service to comprehensively describe and assess the decision-making process regarding school food procurement practices at the SFA level. The sample for this study was a subset of the 1,679 SFAs that participated in the Child Nutrition Operations Study II (CN-OPS-II), which included a module on SFA procurement practices in school year (SY) 2016–17. Findings are based on the perceptions and experiences of the SFA and they may not reflect actual regulations and policies; this study was not an audit.
- **Third Access, Participation, Eligibility and Certification (APEC-III) Study, School Year 2017-2018 (9/03/2021).** This is the third study in the Access, Participation, Eligibility, and Certification study series, conducted in School Year 2017-18. FNS relies upon the APEC series to provide reliable, national estimates improper payments made to school districts operating the NSLP and SBP. APEC studies also help identify sources of error and inform FNS policy and technical assistance for state agencies and school food authorities to reduce error. FNS conducted previous iterations of the study in School Years 2005-06 and 2012-13.
- **Study of Nonresponse to the School Meals Application Verification Process (7/20/2021).** This study examined (1) the accuracy of the current verification process, (2) district practices when verifying applications for cause, and (3) the ultimate results of the verification process, including the reasons why households do not respond to verification requests and how many households reapply.
- **Farm to School Census and Comprehensive Review (7/15/2021).** Farm to School Census and Comprehensive Review includes the 2019 Farm to School Census; a descriptive review of the USDA Farm to School grant program; a review of published research on farm to school since 2010; and a set of interviews with school food distributors.
- **Child Nutrition Operations Study II School Year 2016-2017 (6/24/2021).** This is a multiyear study designed to provide FNS with information on current state agency and school food authority policies, practices, and needs related to school nutrition service operations, financial management, meal counting, eligibility, nutrition standards, and personnel. Results inform CN program management and policy development.
- **Direct Certification in the National School Lunch Program State Implementation Progress Report to Congress SY 2017-2018 and SY 2018-2019 (6/22/2021).** This report presents information on direct certification with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for free school meals for SY 2017-2018 and SY 2018-2019.
- **Evaluation of the FY 2016 Team Nutrition Training Grants (6/15/2021).** In September 2016, FNS awarded Team Nutrition Training Grants (TNTG) to 14 state agencies that administer the USDA's NSLP, SBP, and CACFP. This TNTG cohort was different than previous cohorts because, for the first time, grantees were asked to outline a plan to evaluate some or all of the interventions they would implement with grant funding. To support this evaluation, they were asked to partner with a social scientist, and FNS provided technical assistance for evaluation. This report summarizes the evaluations of interventions funded by the FY 2016 Team Nutrition Training Grants and the evaluation findings, and provides lessons learned from the experience and recommendations for improving the quality of evaluations under future grants.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS- 35. Financing for All - Fiscal Year 2021**

State or Territory	Special Milk	School Lunch	School Breakfast	State Admin Expenses	Commodities and Cash in Lieu	Child and Adult Care	Summer Food Service	Total Program Contribution
Alabama	\$12,708	\$82,822,198	\$33,552,805	\$5,600,637	\$25,417,375	\$52,940,098	\$248,000,240	\$425,690,706
Alaska	0	1,101,299	410,421	862,288	3,256,690	6,538,345	45,659,139	54,850,397
Arizona	13,899	100,403,639	45,549,751	5,298,843	28,389,204	71,079,783	221,641,247	447,778,812
Arkansas	0	128,516,285	58,314,952	3,109,780	16,782,811	41,546,258	3,862,513	237,324,050
California	53,593	1,137,960,876	614,749,460	28,824,062	163,982,535	703,562,866	308,753,839	2,834,683,956
Colorado	43,224	857,567	126,047	2,248,203	13,098,773	37,876,776	225,224,526	268,623,834
Connecticut	37,943	50,085,967	15,389,942	1,989,323	13,469,662	13,660,746	85,611,438	167,441,759
Delaware	0	6,247,053	2,145,655	1,293,840	4,903,858	11,937,631	60,005,948	82,273,346
District of Columbia	0	2,434,683	1,209,692	785,382	1,604,326	4,727,343	11,139,490	20,548,618
Florida	2,815	230,827,897	82,473,086	9,998,433	78,362,207	309,307,080	783,445,658	1,431,439,486
Georgia	7,203	565,426,739	233,261,027	9,778,979	41,615,527	100,389,720	37,143,066	951,694,550
Guam	0	9,391,006	5,505,325	281,373	10,119	41,721	0	15,229,544
Hawaii	0	21,696,310	8,301,344	903,936	972,497	4,104,269	5,154,718	40,503,675
Idaho	18,921	34,154,185	9,297,833	1,013,657	6,876,494	6,415,334	49,890,325	101,201,209
Illinois	480,065	6,283,724	2,592,537	5,094,607	36,965,476	131,607,514	582,245,643	735,920,435
Indiana	61,883	85,967,016	22,272,082	4,911,962	47,431,679	48,439,166	280,475,466	445,004,731
Iowa	22,300	34,449,325	8,464,217	2,231,538	13,381,297	24,662,652	238,480,281	309,958,728
Kansas	19,356	8,028,945	1,839,996	1,930,347	1,568,703	27,147,289	196,542,509	237,077,145
Kentucky	7,422	2,990,406	1,132,790	4,215,957	24,589,064	46,218,774	328,125,363	385,279,754
Louisiana	0	8,360,759	2,767,904	5,750,441	30,038,866	101,232,481	339,945,435	463,371,320
Maine	7,530	195,832	53,604	296,159	4,701,995	8,381,437	65,155,960	74,502,165
Maryland	88,032	712,215	372,685	6,301,672	18,989,429	85,037,140	211,997,062	309,215,458
Massachusetts	29,666	95,937,549	34,904,103	4,326,294	22,573,428	47,637,794	184,304,437	369,443,416
Michigan	92,515	8,769,201	4,192,150	5,768,276	34,678,375	54,663,824	567,422,575	644,009,775
Minnesota	393,525	53,474,484	14,819,831	3,896,576	32,631,596	193,022,315	578,034,881	854,990,042
Mississippi	2,996	787,789	125,062	3,487,160	25,640,043	37,630,766	218,267,598	262,191,702
Missouri	232,801	128,164,164	46,304,631	3,398,047	27,841,619	78,525,935	286,533,441	547,890,522
Montana	3,938	2,893,386	1,251,383	669,067	4,696,757	8,512,595	60,093,835	73,902,141
Nebraska	38,007	1,117,648	225,013	621,363	11,139,287	23,167,069	148,009,433	174,640,300
Nevada	20,814	5,797,391	2,128,244	1,280,112	9,336,857	6,635,168	96,374,105	112,634,347
New Hampshire	30,776	26,533,237	9,083,078	426,321	3,544,737	3,176,171	2,620,650	42,055,057
New Jersey	30,802	253,701,014	133,785,081	7,183,321	23,903,772	65,566,019	253,377,632	716,964,962
New Mexico	0	46,601,631	24,446,621	2,813,740	9,515,962	25,097,678	34,392,885	134,750,912
New York	170,723	139,252,981	56,319,955	15,379,291	57,369,967	141,797,211	1,007,824,706	1,369,473,570
North Carolina	48,012	13,965,841	5,216,128	6,823,102	48,515,459	77,305,844	472,815,496	580,881,268
North Dakota	6,826	298,828	116,794	141,452	5,526,101	9,078,252	67,089,824	77,352,732
Ohio	184,817	301,069,320	109,323,786	8,855,091	41,030,380	76,197,159	152,531,447	652,695,918
Oklahoma	9,480	66,165,442	27,007,755	3,820,531	24,641,653	65,213,578	143,023,780	308,592,007
Oregon	20,829	18,979,875	10,410,645	2,545,294	14,250,302	32,679,716	125,158,757	191,863,679
Pennsylvania	96,003	230,723,747	89,483,640	8,209,275	35,388,944	82,751,418	171,640,345	587,677,619
Puerto Rico	0	1,943,074	621,077	1,791,182	13,419,766	7,148,059	89,095,655	100,901,918
Rhode Island	15,631	343,304	155,606	436,299	3,579,073	9,186,282	42,128,240	52,691,659
South Carolina	781	129,582,413	56,819,336	3,870,796	18,339,653	23,736,623	98,218,427	313,297,305
South Dakota	7,415	31,927,422	7,091,916	715,610	4,550,001	6,249,181	23,931,480	70,362,837

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

State or Territory	Special Milk	School Lunch	School Breakfast	State Admin Expenses	Commodities and Cash in Lieu	Child and Adult Care	Summer Food Service	Total Program Contribution
Tennessee	7,310	313,986,955	130,845,960	4,067,131	25,631,980	58,624,288	20,978,721	531,639,931
Texas	1,854	875,794,644	361,854,271	32,149,412	166,219,381	409,879,247	489,254,077	2,191,800,464
Utah	17,860	172,928,593	32,807,036	1,424,127	16,913,494	26,925,719	1,813,738	237,620,494
Vermont	1,027	289,935	146,564	485,684	2,341,074	5,481,337	42,135,240	48,799,995
Virginia	39,305	10,775,684	4,951,091	4,710,180	31,045,813	96,741,451	387,634,447	510,271,270
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	317,350	14,885	355,888	3,338,038	4,026,161
Washington	50,223	11,837,624	6,083,308	4,380,443	19,128,081	30,757,729	295,085,601	350,109,474
West Virginia	9,513	1,168,125	498,151	1,949,438	6,887,551	14,442,797	131,024,150	149,960,564
Wisconsin	494,870	101,398,820	26,394,659	2,561,268	27,394,448	33,146,345	196,563,440	362,768,517
Wyoming	10,230	133,861	10,394	368,627	2,649,154	3,938,785	43,394,090	48,089,554
Anticipated Adjustment	-165,443	280,543,092	173,186,576	86,197,721	346,714,695	397,997,334	162,742,963	1,073,878,085
TOTAL	2,780,000	5,845,801,000	2,520,393,000	327,791,000	1,693,462,875	3,990,124,000	10,925,354,000	23,787,841,875

*Data based on obligations as reported September 30, 2021. Commodities are based on food orders for fiscal year 2021. Totals may not add due to rounding. The FY 2021 figures are impacted due the COVID-19 waivers which allowed many schools to serve non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-36. Commodities to States for Entitlement and Bonus for Fiscal Year 2021**

State or Territory	Entitlement	Bonus	Total
Alabama	\$22,655,355	0	\$22,655,355
Alaska	2,977,785	0	2,977,785
Arizona	24,597,555	0	24,597,555
Arkansas	14,808,548	0	14,808,548
California	123,203,275	0	123,203,275
Colorado	10,851,282	0	10,851,282
Connecticut	12,803,261	0	12,803,261
Delaware	4,260,639	0	4,260,639
District of Columbia	1,352,298	0	1,352,298
Florida	62,977,690	0	62,977,690
Georgia	35,927,712	0	35,927,712
Guam	629,400	0	629,400
Hawaii	6,465,540	0	6,465,540
Idaho	29,349,131	0	29,349,131
Illinois	44,554,523	0	44,554,523
Indiana	11,732,882	0	11,732,882
Kansas ^a	0	0	0
Kentucky	24,724,566	0	24,724,566
Louisiana	4,290,352	0	4,290,352
Maine	14,282,777	0	14,282,777
Maryland	20,269,855	0	20,269,855
Massachusetts	31,577,140	0	31,577,140
Michigan	21,283,166	0	21,283,166
Minnesota	23,749,712	0	23,749,712
Mississippi	23,110,116	0	23,110,116
Missouri	4,218,820	0	4,218,820
Montana	9,677,520	0	9,677,520
Nebraska	8,938,344	0	8,938,344
Nevada	3,359,914	0	3,359,914
New Hampshire	20,582,679	0	20,582,679
New Jersey	8,117,604	0	8,117,604
New Mexico	48,641,264	0	48,641,264
New York	43,808,613	0	43,808,613
North Carolina	4,905,346	0	4,905,346
North Dakota	36,496,082	0	36,496,082
Ohio	21,290,212	0	21,290,212
Oklahoma	12,181,740	0	12,181,740
Oregon	30,615,753	0	30,615,753
Pennsylvania	13,116,895	0	13,116,895
Rhode Island	3,152,776	0	3,152,776
South Carolina	17,270,724	0	17,270,724
South Dakota	4,110,188	0	4,110,188
Tennessee	22,502,413	0	22,502,413
Texas	143,352,422	0	143,352,422
Utah	15,210,074	0	15,210,074
Vermont	2,080,866	0	2,080,866

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State or Territory	Entitlement	Bonus	Total
Virginia	25,626,700	0	25,626,700
Washington	17,213,535	0	17,213,535
West Virginia	6,019,161	0	6,019,161
Wisconsin	25,185,333	0	25,185,333
Wyoming	2,415,587	0	2,415,587
AAFES	183,704	0	\$183,704
USDA DoD Fresh	564,172,871	0	564,172,871
Undistributed	12,520,364	0	12,520,364
Anticipated Adjustment	(246,595,894)	0	(246,595,894)
AMS/WBSCM/Admin Exp	21,528,904	0	21,528,904
TOTAL	\$1,517,864,000	0	\$1,517,864,000

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

Source: WBSCM sales orders and contract information

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-37. Child Nutrition Quantity and Value of Commodities for Fiscal Year 2021**

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
ALASKA POLLOCK, BREADED STICKS, FROZEN	1,558,000	\$4,128,330
ALASKA POLLOCK, BULK FOR PROCESSING	198,000	340,695
APPLES, BULK FOR PROCESSING	42,150,407	16,987,305
APPLES, CANNED, UNSWEETENED	2,685,384	2,261,866
APPLES, FRESH	2,170,014	1,340,859
APPLES, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	277,200	232,280
APPLESAUCE, CANNED, UNSWEETENED	13,417,344	7,849,192
APPLESAUCE, CUPS, UNSWEETENED	28,954,800	23,401,959
APRICOTS, CUPS, FROZEN	3,215,520	4,851,868
APRICOTS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	443,232	429,698
BEANS, CANNED, BABY LIMA, LOW-SODIUM	104,976	78,235
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK TURTLE, LOW-SODIUM	2,729,376	1,272,547
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK-EYED PEA, LOW-SODIUM	734,832	397,636
BEANS, CANNED, GARBANZO, LOW-SODIUM	2,204,496	979,163
BEANS, CANNED, GREAT NORTHERN, LOW-SODIUM	389,920	197,710
BEANS, CANNED, GREEN, LOW-SODIUM	16,946,784	8,666,573
BEANS, CANNED, KIDNEY, LOW-SODIUM	1,259,712	661,988
BEANS, CANNED, PINK, LOW-SODIUM	139,968	77,898
BEANS, CANNED, PINTO, LOW-SODIUM	6,193,584	2,792,794
BEANS, CANNED, REFRIED, LOW-SODIUM	2,540,160	1,856,019
BEANS, CANNED, SMALL RED, LOW-SODIUM	279,936	131,959
BEANS, CANNED, VEGETARIAN, LOW-SODIUM	6,053,616	2,785,851
BEANS, DRY, PINTO	80,640	51,176
BEANS, DRY, PINTO, BULK FOR PROCESSING	396,000	250,967
BEANS, GREEN, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	4,579,200	3,047,651
BEEF, BULK FOR PROCESSING	45,186,000	154,373,891
BEEF, CANNED	360,000	1,533,589
BEEF, CRUMBLES, WITH SOY PROTEIN, COOKED, FROZEN	2,760,000	10,361,712
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN	15,588,800	55,010,589
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN, LFTB OPTIONAL	200,000	711,304
BEEF, PATTIES, 85/15, FROZEN	798,000	3,190,636
BEEF, PATTIES, 85/15, WITH SOY PROTEIN, FROZEN	836,000	2,757,880
BEEF, PATTIES, 90/10, FROZEN	608,000	2,557,138
BEEF, PATTIES, COOKED, WITH SOY PROTEIN, FROZEN	2,508,000	10,349,427
BEFF, PATTIES, COOKED, FROZEN	2,546,000	13,489,973
BEEF, PATTIES, LEAN, FROZEN	532,000	2,226,739
BLUEBERRIES, HIGHBUSH, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	2,214,180	2,853,577
BLUEBERRIES, WILD, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	1,437,840	2,385,556
BROCCOLI, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	10,852,380	17,214,199

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Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
CARROTS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,837,224	1,257,390
CARROTS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	5,535,360	3,175,170
CATFISH, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH BREADED FILLET STRIPS, FROZEN	640,000	4,337,600
CEREAL, OAT CIRCLES BOWL	233,280	675,346
CHEESE, AMERICAN	7,009,200	12,896,010
CHEESE, AMERICAN, REDUCED FAT	8,038,800	11,710,387
CHEESE, CHEDDAR, BULK FOR PROCESSING	37,903,200	69,223,414
CHEESE, CHEDDAR, REDUCED FAT	2,803,200	5,520,160
CHEESE, CHEDDAR	3,335,040	6,725,489
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, BULK FOR PROCESSING	28,129,500	47,703,364
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, LITE	1,128,960	2,077,415
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, LOW MOISTURE, PART SKIM	8,144,640	14,396,327
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, INDIVIDUAL, LOW MOSITURE, PART SKIM	3,515,400	8,070,940
CHEESE, PEPPER JACK	349,200	800,441
CHERRIES, DRIED	325,248	1,330,763
CHERRIES, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	210,090	465,755
CHICKEN, BREAST FILLET, COOKED, FROZEN	1,638,000	5,439,489
CHICKEN, BULK FOR PROCESSING	90,936,000	91,060,556
CHICKEN, CUT UP, FROZEN	2,054,000	2,418,804
CHICKEN, DICED, COOKED, FROZEN	8,680,000	20,169,893
CHICKEN, FAJITA STRIPS, COOKED, FROZEN	5,187,000	14,461,368
CHICKEN, OVEN ROASTED, COOKED, FROZEN	5,076,000	13,444,168
CHICKEN, UNSEASONED STRIPS, COOKED, FROZEN	3,061,530	9,228,406
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED	459,375	1,199,560
CORN, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED	12,434,436	6,971,499
CORN, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	15,048,000	9,400,121
CRANBERRIES, DRIED, INDIVIDUAL PORTION	6,557,625	18,577,939
DoD FRESH PRODUCE	0	564,172,871
EGGS, BULK FOR PROCESSING	3,168,000	1,990,661
EGGS, COOKED PATTY, FROZEN	2,336,400	4,311,292
EGGS, LIQUID WHOLE, FROZEN	1,787,940	1,544,271
FLOUR, BULK FOR PROCESSING	8,271,000	2,324,571
FLOUR, ALL-PURPOSE, ENRICHED	428,400	131,210
FLOUR, WHITE WHOLE WHEAT/ENRICHED BLEND	1,415,880	460,358
FLOUR, 100% WHOLE WHEAT	1,283,200	302,583
MILK, 1% LOW-FAT	457,713	298,055
MIXED BERRY CUP, FROZEN	14,044,800	26,024,812
MIXED FRUIT, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	27,442,764	22,015,100
MIXED FRUIT, DRIED	364,000	1,161,437
MIXED VEGETABLES, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	2,692,800	2,016,085
OATS, ROLLED	163,800	110,765

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
OIL, VEGETABLE	2,106,720	1,819,946
OIL, VEGETABLE, BULK FOR PROCESSING	192,000	159,456
ORANGES, FRESH	187,245	87,658
ORANGE JUICE, INDIVIDUAL, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	23,756,928	11,502,894
PANCAKES, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH	1,360,800	1,506,451
PASTA, ENRICHED	680,000	324,588
PASTA, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH	1,632,200	1,148,383
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	45,786,276	36,843,668
PEACHES, CUPS, FROZEN	20,364,960	29,090,230
PEACHES, FROZEN	465,632	650,655
PEANUT BUTTER	1,071,840	1,344,206
PEANUT BUTTER, BULK FOR PROCESSING	80,000	76,888
PEANUT BUTTER, INDIVIDUAL PORTION	717,255	1,642,121
PEANUTS, BULK FOR PROCESSING	6,468,000	3,366,220
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	38,185,440	31,253,324
PEAS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,873,248	1,206,752
PEAS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	3,524,400	2,790,747
PEPPER/ONION BLEND, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	792,000	1,201,147
PORK, BULK FOR PROCESSING	6,283,140	11,425,914
PORK, CANNED	432,000	1,026,839
PORK, HAM, FROZEN	6,000,000	15,142,000
PORK, LEG ROAST, FROZEN	500,000	1,209,800
PORK, PULLED, FROZEN	4,320,000	12,244,088
POTATOES, BULK FOR PROCESSING	71,289,951	8,150,554
POTATOES, DICED, FROZEN	950,400	650,417
POTATOES, OVEN FRIES, LOW-SODIUM, FROZEN	7,722,000	4,903,172
POTATO WEDGES, FAT FREE, LOW-SODIUM, FROZEN	396,000	304,656
POTATO WEDGES, LOW-SODIUM, FROZEN	4,118,400	2,880,042
RAISINS, INDIVIDUAL PORTION	5,619,744	10,028,012
RICE, BROWN	2,058,000	1,486,132
RICE, WHITE	504,000	190,378
PANCAKES, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH	3,779,987	2,340,885
PASTA, ENRICHED	5,042,526	2,518,418
PASTA, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH	304,320	286,536
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	32,923,800	63,470,442
PEACHES, CUPS, FROZEN	2,851,200	4,563,755
PEACHES, FROZEN	4,474,800	7,873,378
PEANUT BUTTER	1,029,600	1,741,291
PEANUT BUTTER, BULK FOR PROCESSING	665,280	1,507,199
PEANUT BUTTER, INDIVIDUAL PORTION	2,254,171	435,222
PEANUTS, BULK FOR PROCESSING	1,255,824	1,042,735

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	2,019,600	2,739,436
PEAS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	554,400	384,146
PEAS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	4,389,000	2,438,066
PEPPER/ONION BLEND, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	683,234	466,041
PORK, BULK FOR PROCESSING	1,523,697	769,029
PORK, CANNED	2,127,924	970,285
PORK, HAM, FROZEN	445,500	426,643
PORK, LEG ROAST, FROZEN	1,480,000	4,679,160
PORK, PULLED, FROZEN	7,740,000	12,364,560
POTATOES, BULK FOR PROCESSING	5,840,000	19,684,832
POTATOES, DICED, FROZEN	4,310,000	13,245,840
POTATOES, OVEN FRIES, LOW-SODIUM, FROZEN	2,925,000	5,967,858
POTATO WEDGES, FAT FREE, LOW-SODIUM, FROZEN	526,776	623,181
POTATO WEDGES, LOW-SODIUM, FROZEN	601,170	713,504
RAISINS, INDIVIDUAL PORTION	372,558	439,728
RICE, BROWN	286,548	362,301
RICE, WHITE	1,558,000	4,128,330
SALSA, CANNED/POUCH, LOW-SODIUM	198,000	340,695
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CANNED/POUCH, LOW-SODIUM	42,150,407	16,987,305
SPINACH, FROZEN	2,685,384	2,261,866
STRAWBERRIES, CUPS, FROZEN	2,170,014	1,340,859
STRAWBERRIES, SLICED, FROZEN	277,200	232,280
STRAWBERRIES, SLICED, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	13,417,344	7,849,192
STRAWBERRIES, WHOLE, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	28,954,800	23,401,959
SUNFLOWER SEED BUTTER	3,215,520	4,851,868
SWEET POTATOES, BULK FOR PROCESSING	443,232	429,698
SWEET POTATOES, CANNED, LIGHT SYRUP	104,976	78,235
SWEET POTATOES, CRINKLE FRIES, FROZEN, LOW-SODIUM	2,729,376	1,272,547
SWEET POTATOES, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	734,832	397,636
TOMATO PASTE, BULK FOR PROCESSING	2,204,496	979,163
TOMATO PASTE, CANNED/POUCH, NO SALT ADDED	389,920	197,710
TOMATO SAUCE, CANNED/POUCH, LOW-SODIUM	16,946,784	8,666,573
TOMATOES, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED	1,259,712	661,988
TORTILLAS, WHOLE GRAIN- RICH	139,968	77,898
TURKEY HAM, FROZEN	6,193,584	2,792,794
TURKEY, BULK FOR PROCESSING	2,540,160	1,856,019
TURKEY, DELI BREAST, FROZEN	279,936	131,959
TURKEY, ROAST, FROZEN	6,053,616	2,785,851
TURKEY, TACO FILLING, COOKED, FROZEN	80,640	51,176
YOGURT, CUP, BLUEBERRY, HIGH PROTEIN	396,000	250,967
YOGURT, CUP, STRAWBERRY, HIGH PROTEIN	4,579,200	3,047,651

Entitlement Commodities	Pounds	Value
YOGURT, CUP, VANILLA, HIGH PROTEIN	45,186,000	154,373,891
YOGURT, TUB, VANILLA, HIGH PROTEIN	360,000	1,533,589
SUBTOTAL	900,102,800	\$1,721,402,086
Cash In-Lieu of Commodities	0	175,598,875
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expenses	0	21,528,904
TOTAL COMMODITY ENTITLEMENT	900,102,800	\$1,517,864,000

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-38. National School Lunch Program Schools, Enrollment, and Participation for Fiscal Year 2021**

State or Territory	Number of Schools	Enrollment (000)	Peak Participation (000)
Alabama	116	110	131
Alaska	32	2	1
Arizona	1,034	33	206
Arkansas	1,066	466	280
California	6,342	6,980	1,565
Colorado	43	5	1
Connecticut	616	277	114
Delaware	21	6	1
District of Columbia	73	21	3
Florida	3,243	2,296	440
Georgia	2,127	1,730	859
Guam	45	31	19
Hawaii	273	171	54
Idaho	414	216	79
Illinois	379	57	14
Indiana	886	318	197
Iowa	109	28	15
Kansas	165	36	18
Kentucky	50	17	6
Louisiana	79	16	13
Maine	89	18	0
Maryland	26	2	1
Massachusetts	1,431	585	272
Michigan	242	72	12
Minnesota	181	33	42
Mississippi	52	1	1
Missouri	1,423	632	307
Montana	797	147	6
Nebraska	27	3	1
Nevada	120	39	12
New Hampshire	409	142	58
New Jersey	2,601	766	419
New Mexico	860	318	99
New York	841	670	152
North Carolina	83	73	9
North Dakota	18	1	0
Ohio	2,909	1,530	679
Oklahoma	1,861	649	159
Oregon	243	78	38
Pennsylvania	1,785	850	443
Puerto Rico	134	45	3
Rhode Island	32	3	1
South Carolina	797	484	249
South Dakota	453	130	65
Tennessee	2,170	2,143	520
Texas	8,548	5,934	1,840
Utah	963	644	316
Vermont	11	2	0
Virginia	110	32	23
Washington	144	32	24
West Virginia	60	2	2
Wisconsin	860	158	155
DOD Army/Air Force	1	40	21
DOD Marines	1	1	1
DOD Navy	1	7	4
TOTAL	47,396	29,083	9,946

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 FY 2021 figures are impacted due the COVID-19 waivers which allowed many schools to serve non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program. Schools operating under these waivers may not be included in the total number of outlets operating the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and/or, the Special Milk Program.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-39. National School Lunch Program Lunches Served for Fiscal Year 2021**

State or Territory	Paid Lunches (000)	Reduced Price Lunches (000)	Free Lunches (000)	Total (000)
Alabama	29	7	22,607	22,643
Alaska	10	0	126	136
Arizona	311	75	26,825	27,212
Arkansas	38	6	35,280	35,324
California	853	173	311,035	312,060
Colorado	49	15	88	152
Connecticut	58	5	13,899	13,962
Delaware	73	6	1,679	1,758
District of Columbia	45	2	568	615
Florida	2,521	410	61,219	64,150
Georgia	52	6	153,247	153,305
Guam	0	0	2,237	2,237
Hawaii	517	65	5,031	5,612
Idaho	68	13	9,430	9,510
Illinois	338	16	1,516	1,870
Indiana	102	7	23,392	23,501
Iowa	200	19	9,248	9,467
Kansas	134	6	2,056	2,196
Kentucky	42	0	741	784
Louisiana	67	40	1,922	2,030
Maine	12	2	32	45
Maryland	27	2	174	202
Massachusetts	82	12	26,345	26,439
Michigan	337	31	2,186	2,554
Minnesota	377	50	14,313	14,740
Mississippi	36	3	59	98
Missouri	774	55	35,298	36,127
Montana	376	35	668	1,079
Nebraska	41	2	127	170
Nevada	7	1	1,568	1,576
New Hampshire	76	5	7,368	7,449
New Jersey	78	14	69,559	69,651
New Mexico	5	1	11,565	11,571
New York	634	46	34,266	34,946
North Carolina	816	181	3,309	4,306
North Dakota	8	0	57	65
Ohio	690	66	83,491	84,246
Oklahoma	76	12	18,155	18,243
Oregon	22	6	5,116	5,145
Pennsylvania	632	36	63,990	64,658
Puerto Rico	25	28	433	486
Rhode Island	20	5	76	102
South Carolina	12	3	35,508	35,522
South Dakota	395	31	8,785	9,211
Tennessee	346	41	85,822	86,209
Texas	12,051	2,104	239,155	253,309
Utah	220	41	47,758	48,019
Vermont	22	2	60	84
Virginia	19	0	2,875	2,894
Washington	118	14	3,224	3,356
West Virginia	15	1	266	282
Wisconsin	730	137	27,690	28,557
Wyoming	4	1	7	12
DOD Army/Air Force	0	0	2,190	2,190
DOD Marines	0	0	73	73
DOD Navy	0	0	447	447
Total	24,589	3,842	1,514,159	1,542,591

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 FY 2021 figures are impacted due the COVID-19 waivers which allowed many schools to serve non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-40. School Breakfast Program Schools, Participation and Enrollment FY 2021**

State or Territory	Number of Schools and Institutions	Enrollment (000)	Peak Participation (000)
Alabama	112	80	92
Alaska	29	1	0
Arizona	997	26	136
Arkansas	1,063	466	205
California	6,034	6,911	1,410
Colorado	37	3	0
Connecticut	516	242	55
Delaware	20	10	1
District of Columbia	73	21	3
Florida	3,203	2,282	256
Georgia	2,192	1,557	580
Guam	42	29	18
Hawaii	270	171	23
Idaho	391	209	34
Illinois	271	31	9
Indiana	764	302	80
Iowa	104	26	8
Kansas	113	24	7
Kentucky	48	16	4
Louisiana	79	16	8
Maine	84	18	0
Maryland	24	2	1
Massachusetts	1,237	532	160
Michigan	203	64	9
Minnesota	123	21	18
Mississippi	12	1	0
Missouri	1,291	577	172
Montana	749	140	3
Nebraska	19	2	1
Nevada	232	17	7
New Hampshire	381	133	31
New Jersey	2,188	686	424
New Mexico	833	313	85
New York	746	279	104
North Carolina	75	70	5
North Dakota	14	0	0
Ohio	2,622	1,415	372
Oklahoma	1,857	645	101
Oregon	236	77	33
Pennsylvania	1,673	799	248
Puerto Rico	18	3	1
Rhode Island	30	3	0
South Carolina	797	481	172
South Dakota	387	122	24
Tennessee	2,160	2,281	343
Texas	8,572	5,920	1,131
Utah	877	591	96
Vermont	11	2	0
Virginia	107	31	15
Washington	129	30	21
West Virginia	53	2	1
Wisconsin	592	83	64
DOD Army/Air Force	1	27	6
DOD Navy	1	0	0
TOTAL	44,692	27,788	6,579

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 FY 2021 figures are impacted due the COVID-19 waivers which allowed many schools to serve non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program. Schools operating under these waivers may not be included in the total number of outlets operating the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and/or, the Special Milk Program.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-41. School Breakfast Program Breakfasts Served Fiscal Year 2021**

State or Territory	Reduced Price		Reduced Price	Free		Total (000)
	Paid (000)	Regular (000)	Severe Need (000)	Regular (000)	Severe Need (000)	
Alabama	4	0	3	4,187	11,198	15,391
Alaska	4	0	0	0	112	116
Arizona	119	3	26	1,305	19,004	20,458
Arkansas	6	1	1	402	25,463	25,872
California	349	15	81	22,644	250,672	273,760
Colorado	14	0	3	1	50	68
Connecticut	8	0	0	2,738	4,518	7,265
Delaware	20	1	1	126	806	955
District of Columbia	33	0	1	71	467	572
Florida	788	10	120	3,750	33,041	37,709
Georgia	47	0	4	6,740	96,625	103,416
Guam	0	0	0	0	2,085	2,085
Hawaii	38	4	6	214	2,951	3,214
Idaho	8	0	3	193	3,949	4,153
Illinois	52	0	4	57	1,087	1,200
Indiana	39	0	1	1,767	8,363	10,170
Iowa	39	0	4	751	3,005	3,799
Kansas	1	0	0	775	165	941
Kentucky	10	0	0	0	500	510
Louisiana	52	5	32	30	1,154	1,274
Maine	5	0	1	8	15	29
Maryland	11	0	1	1	161	173
Massachusetts	15	0	3	62	15,387	15,468
Michigan	67	1	11	38	1,793	1,909
Minnesota	59	4	17	3,585	3,376	7,041
Mississippi	7	0	1	12	43	63
Missouri	218	3	25	4,975	16,256	21,477
Montana	95	6	6	18	513	637
Nebraska	21	2	0	5	91	119
Nevada	3	0	0	39	909	951
New Hampshire	19	2	0	1,548	2,720	4,290
New Jersey	45	0	8	17,936	44,182	62,170
New Mexico	5	0	1	85	10,744	10,836
New York	240	3	18	1,983	22,903	25,147
North Carolina	436	6	93	200	1,929	2,664
North Dakota	6	0	0	0	51	57
Ohio	262	1	29	8,455	41,223	49,970
Oklahoma	14	1	4	263	11,724	12,006
Oregon	23	2	4	584	4,106	4,719
Pennsylvania	132	1	10	7,571	33,234	40,949
Puerto Rico	16	0	19	17	200	253
Rhode Island	9	0	3	3	61	77
South Carolina	2	0	1	1,608	23,795	25,406
South Dakota	56	3	1	1,248	2,083	3,391
Tennessee	196	2	20	3,478	54,397	58,092

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

State or Territory	Paid (000)	Reduced Price Regular (000)	Reduced Price Severe Need (000)	Free Regular (000)	Free Severe Need (000)	Total (000)
Texas	4,412	84	965	11,376	149,014	165,851
Utah	35	1	13	3,766	11,251	15,066
Vermont	7	0	2	4	58	71
Virginia	22	0	0	126	2,082	2,230
Washington	39	0	2	2,452	631	3,126
West Virginia	6	1	0	37	186	230
Wisconsin	343	24	49	5,395	6,927	12,738
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	5	5
DOD Army/Air Force	0	0	0	590	0	590
DOD Navy	0	0	0	7	0	7
TOTAL	8,455	190	1,598	123,228	927,267	1,060,738

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 FY 2021 figures are impacted due the COVID-19 waivers which allowed many schools to serve non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-42. Child and Adult Care Food Program Participation and Meals Served FY 2021**

State or Territory	Number of Centers/Homes	Participation (000)	Reduced Price			Total Centers (000)	Meals Homes (000)	Total (000)
			Paid Center Meals (000)	Center Meals (000)	Free Center Meals (000)			
Alabama	1,606	70	4,145	1,106	19,483	24,734	2,305	27,039
Alaska	403	8	946	149	895	1,990	675	2,665
Arizona	2,816	103	4,750	1,286	25,749	31,785	6,251	38,036
Arkansas	1,412	53	5,415	2,176	15,140	22,731	1,381	24,112
California	17,937	936	11,355	3,584	201,498	216,437	56,855	273,292
Colorado	1,737	69	4,113	571	12,180	16,864	2,706	19,570
Connecticut	1,106	16	1,082	397	3,196	4,675	2,592	7,267
Delaware	629	32	1,643	266	3,638	5,547	1,380	6,927
District of Columbia	233	27	358	105	1,809	2,272	110	2,382
Florida	7,196	405	24,909	8,645	119,591	153,145	7,613	160,758
Georgia	3,067	121	15,001	3,387	35,270	53,658	4,338	57,996
Guam	3	0	122	5	3	130	0	130
Hawaii	325	7	2,467	231	550	3,248	479	3,727
Idaho	427	10	1,601	241	1,963	3,805	623	4,428
Illinois	7,272	124	10,637	2,456	33,600	46,693	24,021	70,714
Indiana	2,658	112	5,713	1,018	10,875	17,606	11,435	29,041
Iowa	2,038	38	7,569	580	4,502	12,651	6,686	19,337
Kansas	2,807	45	4,944	563	3,942	9,449	9,424	18,873
Kentucky	1,615	111	6,313	995	18,389	25,697	769	26,466
Louisiana	9,396	99	2,827	803	17,517	21,147	27,157	48,304
Maine	792	10	818	160	1,183	2,161	2,968	5,129
Maryland	3,266	264	2,529	251	24,914	27,694	6,727	34,421
Massachusetts	3,460	64	2,202	705	9,680	12,587	10,202	22,789
Michigan	4,166	89	4,043	519	13,514	18,076	12,381	30,457
Minnesota	6,009	300	6,386	545	70,386	77,317	21,602	98,919
Mississippi	1,570	45	3,546	1,301	13,797	18,644	1,872	20,516
Missouri	2,355	127	7,692	866	27,077	35,635	4,521	40,156
Montana	644	10	1,356	153	1,566	3,075	2,281	5,356
Nebraska	1,964	33	5,247	463	4,454	10,164	6,561	16,725
Nevada	412	10	930	166	1,824	2,920	349	3,269
New Hampshire	216	7	1,303	109	987	2,399	240	2,639
New Jersey	1,374	70	2,978	1,319	17,391	21,688	1,017	22,705
New Mexico	2,026	27	2,322	528	5,939	8,789	4,380	13,169
New York	9,128	156	8,932	1,755	28,343	39,030	33,506	72,536
North Carolina	3,356	116	15,849	3,404	26,725	45,978	4,564	50,542
North Dakota	944	23	2,264	90	1,441	3,795	3,706	7,501
Ohio	3,601	103	10,629	2,214	25,933	38,776	5,295	44,071
Oklahoma	2,335	88	5,083	1,198	20,509	26,790	6,041	32,831
Oregon	1,855	53	741	103	7,097	7,941	5,624	13,565
Pennsylvania	3,753	105	12,173	2,983	27,859	43,015	4,203	47,218
Puerto Rico	683	8	55	44	2,874	2,973	151	3,124
Rhode Island	305	18	616	144	3,881	4,641	443	5,084
South Carolina	994	32	3,168	690	7,016	10,874	1,717	12,591

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

State or Territory	Number of Centers/Homes	Participation (000)	Paid Center Meals (000)	Reduced Price Center Meals (000)	Free Center Meals (000)	Total Centers (000)	Meals Homes (000)	Total (000)
South Dakota	518	12	2,040	120	1,216	3,376	1,813	5,189
Tennessee	2,626	99	5,655	1,446	21,513	28,614	4,265	32,879
Texas	10,783	1,016	32,232	10,749	121,607	164,588	16,154	180,742
Utah	1,560	32	2,860	320	5,382	8,562	6,997	15,559
Vermont	440	10	606	102	1,383	2,091	1,028	3,119
Virginia	2,979	177	6,271	870	38,183	45,324	5,889	51,213
Virgin Islands	18	0	4	6	154	164	0	164
Washington	2,117	45	6,798	897	8,470	16,165	5,274	21,439
West Virginia	1,116	28	2,184	281	4,456	6,921	1,662	8,583
Wisconsin	2,306	51	7,977	701	8,993	17,671	4,689	22,360
Wyoming	315	6	894	178	838	1,910	872	2,782
TOTAL	144,669	5,623	284,292	63,944	1,086,373	1,434,612	355,792	1,790,404

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

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-43. Summer Food Service Program Sites, Participation and Meals Served Fiscal Year 2021**

State or Territory	Number of Sites	Participation (July) (000)	Total Meals Served (000)
Alabama	981	140	70,030
Alaska	132	7	8,055
Arizona	607	38	62,277
Arkansas	199	12	1,073
California	1,890	133	95,678
Colorado	749	79	63,175
Connecticut	573	36	24,609
Delaware	382	24	17,708
District of Columbia	250	10	3,483
Florida	3,105	301	216,366
Georgia	845	56	11,343
Hawaii	87	14	1,299
Idaho	215	24	13,683
Illinois	2,548	187	170,386
Indiana	1,131	137	77,819
Iowa	701	64	63,977
Kansas	683	60	54,456
Kentucky	1,766	119	100,450
Louisiana	590	94	96,094
Maine	848	21	18,275
Maryland	1,483	126	62,628
Massachusetts	1,277	175	52,473
Michigan	2,157	193	163,540
Minnesota	976	279	169,228
Mississippi	389	39	62,449
Missouri	1,036	139	83,940
Montana	255	17	16,872
Nebraska	292	22	38,986
Nevada	403	23	29,761
New Hampshire	150	13	743
New Jersey	1,064	156	75,296
New Mexico	354	22	10,042
New York	2,332	866	291,428
North Carolina	2,292	478	138,619
North Dakota	179	14	18,075
Ohio	1,557	80	43,913
Oklahoma	1,131	34	40,514
Oregon	720	39	36,865
Pennsylvania	1,746	90	49,465
Puerto Rico	799	37	24,184
Rhode Island	201	9	12,158
South Carolina	1,057	77	28,136

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

State or Territory	Number of Sites	Participation (July) (000)	Total Meals Served (000)
South Dakota	63	9	6,440
Tennessee	1,005	56	6,432
Texas	2,877	190	138,825
Utah	82	6	523
Vermont	307	16	12,185
Virginia	1,541	111	112,776
Virgin Islands	63	2	1,078
Washington	1,013	72	86,644
West Virginia	442	39	38,425
Wisconsin	927	72	55,996
Wyoming	153	11	11,862
TOTAL	48,605	5,067	3,090,737

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 FY 2021 figures are impacted due the COVID-19 waivers which allowed many schools to serve non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-44. Special Milk Participating Outlets and Obligations Fiscal Year 2021**

State or Territory	Schools	Institutions	Summer Camps	Total	Obligations (000)
Alabama	1	0	0	1	13
Arizona	4	0	0	4	14
California	17	1	4	22	54
Colorado	17	0	0	17	43
Connecticut	20	0	3	23	38
Florida	1	0	1	2	3
Georgia	2	0	0	2	7
Idaho	4	0	3	7	19
Illinois	197	0	9	206	480
Indiana	16	0	5	21	62
Iowa	12	0	3	15	22
Kansas	35	0	1	36	19
Kentucky	3	0	0	3	7
Maine	1	0	2	3	8
Maryland	28	11	3	42	88
Massachusetts	16	7	1	24	30
Michigan	24	0	10	34	93
Minnesota	157	62	22	241	394
Mississippi	1	0	0	1	3
Missouri	86	0	4	90	233
Montana	10	0	0	10	4
Nebraska	33	0	2	35	38
Nevada	3	5	0	8	21
New Hampshire	3	0	8	11	31
New Jersey	59	0	0	59	31
New York	70	22	21	113	171
North Carolina	2	0	10	12	48
North Dakota	6	0	3	9	7
Ohio	68	1	0	69	185
Oklahoma	4	0	1	5	9
Oregon	6	0	7	13	21
Pennsylvania	19	6	0	25	96
Rhode Island	1	0	1	2	16
South Carolina	1	0	0	1	1
South Dakota	16	0	0	16	7
Tennessee	1	0	1	2	7
Texas	0	0	0	0	2
Utah	7	0	8	15	18
Vermont	1	0	0	1	1
Virginia	13	0	0	13	39
Washington	16	2	0	18	50
West Virginia	6	0	0	6	10
Wisconsin	183	40	7	230	495
Wyoming	0	0	1	1	10
TOTAL	1,170	157	141	1,468	2,945

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 FY 2021 figures are impacted due the COVID-19 waivers which allowed many schools to serve non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program. Schools operating under these waivers may not be included in the total number of outlets operating the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and/or, the Special Milk Program.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**Table FNS-45. Special Milk Half Pints Served FY 2021**

State or Territory	Average Daily	Average Daily	Total Average	Total Free (000)	Total Paid (000)	Total (000)
	Free Served (000)	Paid Served (000)	Daily (000)			
Alabama	0	0	0	2	60	62
Arizona	0	0	0	0	67	67
California	0	1	1	31	222	253
Colorado	0	1	1	6	202	208
Connecticut	0	1	1	13	169	182
Florida	0	0	0	6	7	13
Georgia	0	0	0	0	35	35
Idaho	0	0	0	0	91	91
Illinois	2	10	12	370	1,924	2,294
Indiana	0	1	2	31	270	301
Iowa	0	0	0	8	100	108
Kansas	0	0	1	6	88	95
Kentucky	0	0	0	0	36	36
Maine	0	0	0	0	34	34
Maryland	0	2	2	0	427	427
Massachusetts	0	1	1	0	141	141
Michigan	0	2	2	50	391	441
Minnesota	0	5	5	7	1,900	1,906
Mississippi	0	0	0	0	14	14
Missouri	0	6	6	54	1,073	1,127
Montana	0	0	0	2	17	19
Nebraska	0	1	1	7	175	182
Nevada	0	0	0	14	83	98
New Hampshire	0	0	0	1	143	144
New Jersey	0	1	1	1	149	150
New York	0	3	3	298	513	811
North Carolina	0	0	0	0	229	229
North Dakota	0	0	0	0	32	33
Ohio	0	5	5	32	863	896
Oklahoma	0	0	0	0	46	46
Oregon	0	0	0	2	95	96
Pennsylvania	0	2	2	33	421	454
Rhode Island	0	0	0	1	71	72
South Carolina	0	0	0	0	4	4
South Dakota	0	0	0	15	20	35
Tennessee	0	0	0	0	36	36
Texas	0	0	0	0	9	9
Utah	0	0	0	0	86	86
Vermont	0	0	0	1	4	5
Virginia	0	1	1	4	187	191
Washington	0	1	1	1	241	242
West Virginia	0	0	0	5	42	46
Wisconsin	0	11	11	54	2,344	2,398
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	49	49
TOTAL	4	55	59	1,054	13,111	14,164

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.

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):

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), \$6,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, [2023] 2024, [of which \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be placed in reserve, to be allocated as the Secretary deems necessary, notwithstanding section 17(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1786(i)), to support participation should cost or participation exceed budget estimates]: *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 shall be used for infrastructure], and not less than \$100,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available for management information systems, including WIC electronic benefit transfer systems and activities]: 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.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

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

Item	Amount
Estimated, 2022	\$6,000,000,000
Budget Estimate, 2023	6,000,000,000
Budget Estimate, Current Law 2023	6,000,000,000
Net 2023 Request	\$6,000,000,000

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

Item	2020		2021		2022		2023		Chg Key	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE		
Discretionary Appropriations:										
Grants to States (Food & NSA)	\$5,880,000	0	\$5,880,000	0	\$5,880,000	0	\$5,842,346	0	-\$37,654	(1)
Infrastructure Grants	13,600	0	13,600	0	13,600	0	13,600	0	0	
Technical Assistance	400	0	400	0	400	0	400	0	0	
Program Eval & Monitoring	5,000	0	5,000	0	5,000	0	22,000	0	+17,000	(2)
Breastfeeding Peer Counselors	60,000	0	90,000	0	90,000	0	90,000	0	0	
Federal Admin and Oversight	11,000	0	11,000	0	11,000	0	31,654	0	+20,654	(3)
MIS/EBT Initiatives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
WIC Contingency Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
WIC FFCRA	500,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Subtotal (Discretionary)	6,500,000	38	6,000,000	41	6,000,000	44	6,000,000	70	0	
Mandatory Appropriations:										
UPC Database	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	
WIC Cash Value Voucher	0	0	490,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
WIC Innovation Fund	0	0	390,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Subtotal (Mandatory & Suppl)	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	
Total Available	6,501,000	38	6,881,000	41	6,001,000	44	6,001,000	70	0	

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

Item	2020		2021		2022		2023		Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE	
Discretionary Obligations:									
Grants to States (Food & NSA)	\$5,808,704	0	\$5,543,000	0	\$5,880,000	0	\$5,842,346	0	-\$37,654
Infrastructure Grants	14,238	0	11,773	0	13,600	0	13,600	0	0
Technical Assistance	446	0	360	0	400	0	400	0	0
Breastfeeding Peer Counselors	90,643	0	89,926	0	90,000	0	90,000	0	0
Management Information Systems	27,196	0	6,959	0	8,000	0	8,000	0	0
Federal Admin. Oversight	10,472	0	12,011	0	11,000	0	31,654	0	+20,654
Program Evaluation & Monitoring	7,013	0	18,000	0	5,000	0	22,000	0	+17,000
WIC FFCRA	0	0	330,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Discretionary Obligations	5,963,712	38	6,012,029	41	6,008,000	44	6,008,000	70	0
Mandatory Obligations:									
WIC Innovation Fund	0	0	0	0	90,000	0	90,000	0	0
WIC Cash Value Voucher (CVV)	0	0	490,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIC Contingency Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UPC Database	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0
Subtotal Mand Obligations	0	0	490,000	0	91,000	0	91,000	0	0
Total Obligations	5,963,712	38	6,502,029	41	6,099,000	44	6,099,000	70	0
Balances Available (EOY):									
WIC Programs	810,861	0	563,212	0	227,583	0	300,000	0	72,417
WIC Contingency	150,000	0	150,000	0	150,000	0	150,000	0	0
Total Bal. Available (EOY)	960,861	0	713,212	0	377,583	0	450,000	0	72,417
Total Available	6,924,573	38	7,215,241	41	6,476,583	44	6,549,000	70	72,417
Less:									
Rescission	-1,000,000	0	-1,250,000	0	-1,250,000	0	-250,000	0	1,000,000
Sequestration	-59	0	-59	0	-57	0	-57	0	0
Recoveries, Other	608,573	0	942,083	0	856,278	0	995,000	0	138,722
Balances Available, SOY	-1,033,087	0	-947,265	0	-582,804	0	-1,543,943	0	-961,139
Total WIC Appropriations	5,500,000	38	5,630,000	41	5,500,000	44	5,750,000	70	250,000

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The numbered justifications items are keyed to the Change Key (Chg Key) column on the Project Statement.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants, and Children

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

There is no change in the FY 2023 appropriation request of \$6,000,000,000 from FY 2022. However, there are changes within the budget line items, including:

- (1) A decrease of \$37,654,000 in WIC Grants to States for supplemental food, nutrition service and administration costs from the (\$5,800,000,000 in FY 2022). The FY 2023 budget request has been formulated to support 6.2 million women, infants and children, including Cash Value Benefits (CVB) at the levels consistent with those provided by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM), adjusted for inflation. The request assumes that, because the continuing resolution for FY 2022 allowed WIC to provide increased CVB benefits, the rescission amount for the year will be lower than the amount rescinded in FY 2021.

Table FNS-49. Program Performance Data thousands of dollars, staff years (SY)

Program Performance Data	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated	Increase or Decrease	2023 Estimated
Average Participation Per Month (in thousands)	6,247	6,244	6,200	0	6,200
Average Food Cost Per Person Per Month	\$38.48	\$36.01	\$49.03	\$2.53	\$51.56
Average Admin. Cost Per Person Per Month	\$26.50	\$26.81	\$30.86	-\$0.10	\$30.76
Total Benefit Costs	\$64.98	\$62.82	\$68.27	\$2.15	\$70.42

- (2) An increase of \$17,000,000 in Food Nutrition Service for Program and Evaluation from the (\$5,000,000 available in FY 2022). An increase of \$10,000,000 is for the Mortality Research and Nutrition Security proposal detailed below. An additional increase of \$7,000,000 is for the WIC Research to support critical Longitudinal work, described in the proposal below.
- (3) An increase of \$20,654,000 for Federal Oversight from the (\$11,000,000 available in FY 2022). Of the \$20,654,000 increase, \$654,000 is related to pay cost. The remaining \$20,000,000 is related to four proposals: Full Staffing for the State Systems Office for \$1,000,000; Cross-Program Customer Service and Integration for \$3,000,000; WIC Program Integration and Development Fund for \$15,000,000; and ME Tool Modernization for \$1,000,000. The State Systems Office and ME Tool Modernization proposals are in the SNAP section of this document. The Cross-Program Customer Service and Integration Proposal is in NPA section of this document. The WIC program Integration and Development Fund proposal is listed below.

Table FNS-50. Summary of FY 2023 Current Law proposal for WIC

Proposal	Amount (millions)
Collaboration for Maternal Mortality Research and Nutrition Security	\$10.0
Increase funding for WIC Research to support Critical Longitudinal Work	7.0
Full Staffing for the State Systems Office (SSO)/ (Proposal in SNAP section)	1.0
Cross-Program Customer Service and Integration/ (Proposal in NPA section)	3.0
Establish WIC Program Innovation and Development Fund	15.0

CURRENT LAW PROPOSAL**Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)**

Proposal: Maternal Mortality. USDA is currently conducting a review of existing evidence, and developing plans to build evidence on the impact of the WIC Program on reducing maternal mortality among specific populations of mothers with the highest maternal mortality rates in the U.S. This request will provide funds to supplement base

WIC research funds to implement the evidence plan on WIC and maternal mortality, potentially including demonstration and assessment of strategies to better detect and mitigate maternal mortality risks.

Rationale: This request (complemented by one in the ERS justification) would supplement baseline funds for data collection for a second round of FoodAPS (FoodAPS-2). ERS has been collaborating with key Federal statistical agencies, academia, and non-profit policy institutions on the content and methodological improvements and conducting field testing; it will be ready to launch a full collection in FY 2023. Funds would also be available for other collaborative projects to harness the power of nutrition assistance to improve nutrition security—fighting both hunger and disease related to inadequate or poor diet—and promote long-term health.

Nutrition Security. In 2009, The USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS) and FNS launched a collaboration on the *National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey* (FoodAPS-1), a groundbreaking data collection on expenditures, prices, and quantities of food bought by the Nation’s households. Research from FoodAPS-1 has produced much needed evidence for policy and program officials on such issues as factors affecting the food choices and shopping behaviors of SNAP and low-income households, the affordability of healthy diets, and the role of the local food environment and other geographic factors driving food purchase and acquisition decisions.

Table FNS-51. Collaboration for Maternal Mortality Research and Nutrition Security (thousands of dollars)

Item	2023	2024	2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority				
WIC	\$10,000	0	0	\$10,000
NPA	\$8,000	0	0	\$8,000

Proposal: Increase funding for WIC Research to support Critical Longitudinal Work

FNS Office of Policy Support (OPS) requests an additional amount of \$7 million in WIC research funding for each of Fiscal Years 2023, 2024, and 2025 to fund the third iteration of the WIC Infant and Toddler Feeding Practices Study. FNS research funding is currently funded at \$5 million annually.

The purpose of the third national WIC Infant and Toddler Feeding Practices Study (WIC ITFPS-3) is to examine the association of early feeding practices and duration of WIC participation with the diet quality, nutritional status, and health outcomes of infants enrolled in WIC shortly after birth. The proposed study will use a longitudinal design, following mothers and their newborns from the prenatal period until the infant’s fifth birthday, regardless of their WIC participation status.

The proposed study is a new data collection for the WIC ITFPS series. A previous iteration of WIC ITFPS began data collection in mid-2013, making early study findings reflective of the WIC program around that time. Since 2013, however, the WIC Program has evolved, and new policies and initiatives have been, or will soon be, implemented. Because of these changes, findings from the previous WIC ITFPS no longer reflect the current WIC policy environment, warranting the initiation of a new longitudinal study to better inform the WIC program and evaluate the impact of policy changes.

Table FNS-52. Collaboration for Increased funding for WIC Research to Support Critical Longitudinal Work (thousands of dollars)

Item	2023	2024	2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority				
WIC	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$70,000

Proposal: Establish WIC Program Innovation and Development Funds.

In order to sustain and improve data systems, USDA FNS requests an additional \$10 million annually in the federal administrative and oversight account to meet the ongoing and future costs of data systems used to support oversight efforts. Currently, WIC program funds are used to make necessary upgrades and improvements in the two data systems used for Program oversight – Management Evaluation (ME) Tool/MEMS and The Integrity Profile/Food Delivery Portal. Over time the technology costs have grown, while the program set-aside funding has remained flat.

The balance of the annual funds requested, \$5 million, will support approximately eight (8) staff years to support these systems as well as 12 staff years to support the implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) provision to carry out WIC outreach, innovation, and program modernization efforts, including appropriate waivers and flexibility, to increase participation and redemption of benefits.

Table FNS-53. Improve WIC Oversight and Administration of Outreach, Innovation, and Program Modernization (thousands of dollars)

Item	2023	2024	2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority				
WIC	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$150,000

Table FNS-54. Summary of FY 2023 Proposed Legislation for WIC

Proposal	Amount (millions)
Provide WIC the statutory flexibility to support online ordering, pickup, and delivery of WIC benefits without the presence of a cashier	\$0.0
WIC Permanent Nationwide Waiver Authority During an Emergency or Disaster	0.0

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Proposal: Provide WIC the statutory flexibility to support online ordering, pickup, and delivery of WIC benefits without the presence of a cashier.

Rationale: The retail grocery industry has changed rapidly, but WIC State agencies are currently only allowed to authorize traditional brick and mortar stores and must require that transactions occur in the presence of a cashier. Explicitly allowing State agencies to have more flexibility to authorize new types of stores and to allow online transactions will ensure that WIC participants are not left behind as the industry continues to innovate. This would include an explicit statutory definition of WIC authorized vendor which allows for online WIC transactions.

SNAP already has legislation that addresses this issue and therefore, WIC proposes similar legislative language to promote equity and program access for all eligible *women, infants, and children*.

Table FNS-55. Budget and FTE changes (thousands of dollars)

Item	2023	2024	2025	Ten Year Total
Budget Authority	0	0	0	0

Proposal: WIC Permanent Nationwide Waiver Authority During an Emergency or Disaster

Rationale: USDA FNS does not have the authority to grant nationwide waivers to WIC State agencies during times of disasters or any waiver authority during public health emergencies such as COVID-19. The current authority under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), is time-limited and on a State-by-State basis. Being able to issue national waivers or the same waiver to multiple states in a disaster situation would be more administratively efficient than individual State waivers and improve USDA's ability to respond quickly in disaster response.

Table FNS-56. Budget and FTE changes (millions of dollars)

Item	2023	2024	2025	Ten Year Total
Budget Authority	0	0	0	0

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTE*Table FNS-57. Geographic Breakdown (thousands of dollars, FTE's)*

State/Territory/Country	2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimate	FTE	Estimate	FTE
California	\$288	2	\$288	2	\$279	2	\$391	2
Colorado	468	3	493	3	506	3	627	5
Georgia	152	1	274	2	281	2	393	2
Illinois	303	2	311	2	319	2	432	4
Massachusetts	356	2	349	2	358	2	473	4
New Jersey	211	1	296	2	304	2	416	2
Tennessee	73	0	72	0	74	0	77	1
Texas	293	2	452	3	464	3	583	3
Virginia	18,251	26	18,036	25	18,505	28	18,564	47
Obligations	20,395	39	20,555	41	21,090	44	21,956	70
Total, Available	20,395	39	20,555	41	21,090	44	21,956	70

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**Table FNS-58. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)**

Item No.	Item	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated	2023 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$1,841	\$1,734	\$1,909	\$3,162
	Personnel Compensation, Field	2,161	2,600	2,864	4,744
11	Total personnel compensation	4,002	4,334	4,773	7,906
12	Personal benefits	1,422	1,858	2,045	3,389
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0	0
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	5,424	6,192	6,818	11,295
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	135	135	135	135
22.0	Transportation of things	2	2	2	2
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	13,574	13,574	13,574	13,574
26.0	Supplies and materials	605	605	605	605
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	6,904,833	7,194,733	6,455,449	6,523,889
	Total, Other Objects	6,919,149	7,209,049	6,469,765	6,538,205
99.9	Total, new obligations	6,924,573	7,215,241	6,476,583	6,549,500

STATUS OF PROGRAMS**Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)*****Program Mission***

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides nutritious supplemental foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support, and health care referrals at no cost to low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breast-feeding women, to infants, and to children up to their fifth birthday, who are determined by health professionals to be at nutritional risk. “Low-income” is defined as at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines. For the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, this represented \$49,025 for a family of four. WIC also promotes breastfeeding as the feeding method of choice for infants, provides substance abuse education, and promotes immunization and other aspects of healthy living.

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

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

Average Monthly Participation (In Thousands)	2018	2019	2020	2021
Women	1,633.00	1,515.00	1,446.00	1,379.00
Infants	1,712.00	1,610.70	1,551.00	1,464.00
Children <5	3,523.00	3,272.00	3,210.00	3,397.00
Total	6,868.00	6,398.00	6,247.00	6,240.00
Change from Prior Year	-5.70%	-6.80%	-2.40%	0.00%
Food Cost Total (Million \$)	\$3,365	\$3,139	\$2,864	\$2,767
Avg./Person/Month	\$40.83	\$40.90	\$38.25	\$36.97
Change in Per Person Food Cost	-1.20%	0.10%	-6.40%	-0.03%
Per Person Per Month Total (Food/Admin.) Cost	\$64.23	\$66.75	\$64.51	\$63.36

Source: Program Information Reports, November 29, 2018, National Data Bank, KD21 US FY 2018. Updates may be received in future reporting periods.

WIC FOOD PACKAGE

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

In FY 2021, FNS successfully implemented the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) WIC CVB increase, providing up to \$35 per month for fruits and vegetables for up to four months.

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 and 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 in excess of six months.

Nutrition education is provided through individual or group counseling sessions. In addition, participants receive resources designed to help participants achieve a positive change in dietary and physical activity habits and improve health status. Participants also are counseled on the importance of WIC foods in preventing and overcoming specific

nutrition risk conditions identified during their nutrition risk assessment. For pregnant and postpartum mothers, special emphasis is given to appropriate infant feeding practices, prenatal nutrition, and breastfeeding support and promotion. Program regulations require clinics to provide information on drug and other harmful substance abuse to all pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, and to parents or caregivers of infants and children.

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

WIC Breastfeeding Support. Learn Together. Grow Together is the Program's national breastfeeding campaign, which provides key messaging, original photography, graphics, videos, and posters via a mobile-friendly website, wicbreastfeeding.fns.usda.gov. In FY 2021, FNS continued to support the implementation and evaluation of the *Learn Together. Grow Together* national campaign via seven WIC State agencies: Chickasaw Nation, Georgia, Massachusetts, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The overarching goal of the three-year grant is to increase knowledge of and promote behavior change about breastfeeding among WIC staff and participants. The implementation of the campaign includes a special focus on social media and a *Learn Together. Grow Together* Buddy Program. These activities, along with a State-specific implementation activity, are aimed at supporting WIC moms in reaching their breastfeeding goals and, importantly, helping babies get a healthy start in life. Each WIC State agency carried out a robust social media campaign, staff training on the campaign, and enrolled WIC mom pairs into the Buddy Program all of which contributed to helping moms reach their individual breastfeeding goals. The WIC Peer Counseling Program provides mother-to-mother support and addresses the barriers to breastfeeding that WIC mothers face. WIC State agencies continue to implement breastfeeding peer counseling as a core WIC service. In FY 2021, FNS awarded nearly \$90 million in grants for breastfeeding peer counseling.

In FY 2021, WIC Breastfeeding Bonus Awards were made to six State agencies: Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI); Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI); Oregon; Pueblo of Zuni; Santo Domingo Pueblo; and Vermont for their sustained high percentage of fully breastfed infants. The performance bonuses, totaling \$100,000, intended to recognize and award State agencies demonstrating successful breastfeeding promotion and support efforts.

All WIC local agencies are required to implement policies and procedures to provide breastfeeding support and assistance throughout the prenatal and postpartum period. The WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence, formerly the Loving Support Award of Excellence, recognizes local agencies that provide exemplary breastfeeding programs and support services. In FY 2021, FNS awarded 90 Gold, 11 Premiere awards, and 1 Elite award to local agencies that demonstrated excellence in breastfeeding promotion and support.

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

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

FNS also strengthened its partnership with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration through an interagency collaboration workgroup with WIC, Healthy Start Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), and Tribal MIECHV representatives. Through the efforts of this workgroup, FNS was able to host two webinars. One webinar was for Healthy Start grantees which provided information on the mission and operations of the WIC Program and how WIC and Healthy Start complement each other. Additionally, a joint webinar was held for WIC and MIECHV program staff that highlighted examples of effective partnerships and collaboration between WIC, MIECHV and Tribal MIECHV.

FNS also collaborated with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). As a result of collaborating and meeting with representatives from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) about the *Healthy Pregnancy Healthy Baby Fact Sheets*, FNS added a series of fact sheets that include information on Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and pregnancy, treatment, neonatal abstinence syndrome, and considerations to address before hospital discharge to the [Substance Use and](#)

Medication Safety’ page on the WIC Works Resource System. The WIC Works Resource System is an online nutrition education, training and resource center for WIC staff. FNS has also shared the availability of these new SAMSHA resources through a monthly e-newsletter to program stakeholders.

Program Oversight and Monitoring

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

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

Each year, FNS issues a WIC ME Target Area Memorandum providing guidance to FNS Regional Offices on topics to evaluate via MEs the following FY. Target Areas are established focus FNS’ oversight efforts on key areas related to WIC program integrity and operations. Usually, the Target Area is comprised of one functional area and risk based MEs in other functional areas. In FY 2019, FNS revised the WIC Nutrition Services ME in preparation for the FY 2020-2022 Target Area of Nutrition Services. The Nutrition Services ME examines how State agencies plan for and deliver nutrition services, including nutrition and breastfeeding education. In FY 2020, FNS hosted four technical assistance conference calls to review resources available in conducting high quality Nutrition Services MEs.

During FY 2021, FNS Regional Offices conducted fieldwork for 12 of the 31 planned WIC MEs. Nutrition Services MEs require on-site observation by design, therefore, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, 13 WIC MEs were either postponed or canceled. In response to the public health emergency, FNS issued an updated WIC ME Target Area Memorandum that extended the Nutrition Services Target Area through FY 2023 to ensure that Regional Offices have time to complete high quality reviews of all 89 WIC State agencies. The memorandum also requires Regional Office participation in WIC ME improvement projects, which are ongoing.

Cost Containment and Vendor Management

WIC State agencies are required to implement certain cost containment strategies in order to keep food costs down. In an effort to use food grants efficiently, most WIC State agencies have implemented additional cost containment strategies. Cost containment strategies in WIC include using a competitive bidding process to award rebate contracts for infant formula or other WIC foods, authorizing competitively priced vendors and setting price limitations, and authorizing lower cost foods. The most successful cost containment strategy is competitively bid infant formula rebate contracts between State agencies and infant formula manufacturers. In FY 2020, States reported an estimated annual rebate savings of \$1.7 billion. State agencies use savings generated by these kinds of strategies to provide benefits to more participants within the same total budget.

WIC Prescreening Tool

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

The WIC Prescreening Tool is accessible to all internet users via the “WIC Prescreening Tool” link on the WIC Eligibility Requirements page. The tool is accessed approximately 1,000 times per day by users across the country. Currently, the WIC Prescreening Tool is available in nine different languages: English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese,

Arabic, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian, Somali, and Vietnamese. Metrics gathered from the tool provide data that can be used to help inform the development of WIC initiatives and collaboration with similar programs.

Moving forward, FNS is exploring ways to modernize the Tool with an application component.

State Agency Model (SAM) Project

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

The three SAM systems are:

Successful Partners in Reaching Innovative Technology (SPIRIT), comprised of 17 ITOs and six geographic State agencies: Acoma Canoncito & Laguna (ACL), Alaska, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Eight Northern Pueblos, Five Sandoval Pueblos, Inter-Tribal Council (ITC) of Oklahoma, Indian Township Passamaquoddy Reservation, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Missouri, Montana, Muscogee Creek Nation, Osage Nation, Otoe-Missouria, Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy Reservation, Pueblo of San Felipe, Santo Domingo Tribe, Wichita Caddo Delaware (WCD) Enterprises, and Zuni Pueblo; The Mountain Plains State Consortium (MPSC), comprised of nine State agencies: Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Nevada, Inter Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN), North Dakota, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming; and Crossroads, comprised of four State agencies: Virginia, West Virginia and Alabama, and Rhode Island.

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)

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

EBT systems enhance benefit delivery and improve accountability of food benefits and vendor payment systems. FNS continues to work with individual State agencies to plan, develop, and implement WIC EBT systems. As of the end of FY 2020, all 89 WIC State agencies are involved in some phase of EBT -- planning, development, or implementation or they are already operational Statewide. In FY 2021, one EBT project was funded.

As of fall 2021, 77 WIC State agencies, delivering benefits to almost 93 percent of participants, have successfully implemented EBT projects statewide. Ten State agencies (Arkansas, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Pueblo of Isleta, Texas and Wyoming) are using smart card or chip technology and 60 State agencies (Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Connecticut, Delaware, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inter-Tribal Council of Oklahoma, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Minnesota, Montana, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Navajo Nation, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Omaha Nation, Oregon, Osage Nation, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Rhode Island, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Santee Sioux Tribe, South Carolina, South Dakota, Standing Rock Sioux, Tennessee, Three Affiliated Tribes, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Virgin Islands, Virginia, West Virginia, Wichita Caddo Delaware (WCD), Vermont, Washington, Winnebago Tribe and Wisconsin) have successfully implemented EBT using magnetic stripe cards, or online technology.

Nineteen (19) State agencies requested and received conditional approvals for exemption to the statutory timeframe for implementation, pursuant to provisions of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. These State agencies are: Acoma Canoncito and Laguna (ACL); Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe; District of Columbia; Eastern Shoshone; Eight Northern Indian Pueblos, Inc.; Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos; Georgia; Indian Township Passamaquoddy; Maine; Mississippi; New Jersey; North Dakota; Northern Arapaho Tribe; Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy; Pueblo of San Felipe; Pueblo of Zuni; Puerto Rico; Santo Domingo Tribe; and Utah. All of these State agencies are actively pursuing plans to implement statewide EBT.

Nutrition Risk Assessment

Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA): The VENA initiative was implemented in FY 2006 with the purpose of improving the WIC nutrition assessment process and criteria and to more closely align nutrition risk determination with WIC nutrition interventions. The VENA Guidance was updated in FY 2019 - 2020 to reflect current program policy, references and resources and was issued in FY 2021. The VENA Guidance update is a web-

based, interactive document for use by State and local WIC agencies as well as FNS National and Regional Office staff. In FY 2021, VENA Training videos were developed through a contract to provide an overview of the updated VENA Guidance focusing on the new features of the guidance. The training videos were launched in FY 2021 and made available to WIC State agencies and Regional offices via USDA YouTube. Development of additional, targeted VENA trainings will be initiated in FY 2022.

Innovation and Modernization

American Rescue Plan Act Modernization Fund

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

In FY 2021, FNS partnered with the U.S. Digital Service (USDS) to conduct research to identify priority areas for investing the modernization funding. FNS asked USDS to focus on the enrollment process as only around half of WIC eligible mothers and children participate in the program, despite evidence that WIC drives better health outcomes. FNS also convened more than 30 stakeholder listening sessions across the country on strategies to increase enrollment, improve the participant experience, and to reduce disparities in health outcomes. All of this research resulted in an investment strategy that supports the Administration's commitments to improve health equity, reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, and improve child health outcomes by focusing on projects that improve program participation and retention and reduce disparities in program delivery.

In FY 2022, FNS is developing work plans around six initiatives:

1. Expand State and community-level outreach and engagement efforts to reach underserved populations;
2. Rebrand WIC from a benefit program to a public health service through a national outreach campaign;
3. Transform WIC business practices and implement technology tools that improve and streamline the participant experience;
4. Modernize the WIC shopping experience at the grocery store;
5. Expand opportunities to transact benefits at farmers markets; and
6. Reduce disparities in service delivery through evidence-informed strategies.

WIC Online Ordering & Transactions

In FY 2021, FNS awarded the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition (GSCN) \$2.5 million to develop and test a safe and secure model for online ordering in WIC. In FY 2021, GSCN developed and released the Blueprint for WIC Online Ordering (the Blueprint). The Blueprint is a resource for State agencies and their partners that are working to implement online ordering projects. The Blueprint suggests activities to successfully plan, implement, and maintain WIC online ordering projects. As of October 2021, GSCN is working to award sub-grants to WIC State agencies through the WIC Online Ordering Sub-grant Project. The Request for Proposals encouraged applicants to use the Blueprint as a resource to devise and propose innovative projects to test both online ordering and transactions in WIC.

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

GSCN's and the Task Force's efforts will inform USDA FNS' *WIC Online Ordering and Transactions* proposed rule, which is currently under development. This proposed rule will address key regulatory barriers to online ordering in the WIC Program by making changes to the provisions that prevent online transactions and types of online capable stores from participating in the Program. The proposed rule will also allow FNS to modernize WIC vendor regulations to reflect current technology. FNS anticipates publication in 2022, with a public comment period.

WIC EBT MIS Delivery Assessment: Blanket Purchase Agreement Call Order

Under the WIC Blanket Purchase agreement, WIC established a call order to assess the ability of delivering EBT and MIS through cloud-based computing. This effort will engage all stakeholders, including WIC State agencies and the EBT and MIS industry, to assess options and feasibility of cloud-based computing. The assessment will also consider the costs in developing and potential savings in federal tax dollars with a new way of conducting WIC operations.

Participant-Centered Service Optimization

FNS continued participating in collaboration efforts with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, specifically the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Office of Head Start (OHS), to improve program coordination and service delivery to families with young children with the goal of increasing WIC participation among children one through four years of age. A Memorandum of Understanding between FNS' WIC and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Administration of Children and Families' (ACF) Head Start and Child Care Development Fund Programs was released in November 2017. In FY 2020, the FNS-ACF collaboration released a shared resource document that highlighted 10 ways that WIC and the Head Start program can collaborate to enhance participant-centered services. In FY 2021, FNS and ACF jointly hosted a webinar for Head Start operators to share about how the programs responded to and continue to provide services during the COVID-19 pandemic, including both WIC and Child Nutrition Programs. Additional partnerships with other programs that serve young children, e.g., childcare facilities, CACFP, Head Start and Early Head Start, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will continue in FY 2022.

The Johns Hopkins University (JHU), through a cooperative agreement with FNS, continues the *Participant Research Innovation Laboratory for Enhancing WIC Services*. As a background, in FY 2019, JHU competitively awarded five WIC local agencies sub-grants to develop and implement interactive tools, technical resources, and innovative solutions that improve customer service in WIC clinics and ultimately encourage and improve retention of eligible children in WIC. JHU is in the process of evaluating these 18-month WIC local agency projects.

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. FNS continues to support CSG in providing technical assistance to sub-grantees as they implement and evaluate their projects.

Also, in FY 2021, FNS provided extensive technical assistance to Tufts University for the USDA WIC Telehealth Innovations Project. Through this cooperative agreement, Tufts will test and evaluate the use of telehealth innovations in delivery of nutrition education, including breastfeeding support, to pregnant women and caregivers of young children participating in the WIC Program. Tufts awarded seven WIC State agencies as sub-grantees (District of Columbia, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Vermont) for this research through a national competition. State agency sub-grantees are currently completing their study design and evaluation plans in collaboration with Tufts University and its partners.

WIC STUDIES AND EVALUATIONS

FNS published two reports related to WIC during FY 2021, which are available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/research-analysis>. These include:

NATIONAL AND STATE-LEVEL ESTIMATES OF SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) ELIGIBILITY AND PROGRAM REACH IN 2018 WITH UPDATED ESTIMATES FOR 2016 AND 2017. This report, the latest in a series of annual reports on WIC eligibility, presents 2018 national and state estimates of the number of people eligible for WIC benefits, percentage of eligible population, and the US population covered by the program, including estimates by participant category. The report also provides estimates by region, state, U.S. territory, and race and ethnicity.

WIC PARTICIPANT AND PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS 2018 FOOD PACKAGES AND COSTS REPORT. This report supplements FNS administrative data on total food costs by estimating the average monthly food costs for each WIC participant category and food package type. It also estimates total pre- and post-rebate dollars spent on 18 major categories of WIC-eligible foods in FY 2018.

WIC PARTICIPATION AND PROGRAM FINANCING FY 2021**Table FNS- 60. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) Participation and Program Financing**

STATE OR TERRITORY	AVERAGE MONTHLY PARTICIPATION				PROGRAM GRANT 2/
	WOMEN	INFANTS	CHILDREN	TOTAL	(000)
Alabama	24,210	29,671	57,861	111,741	\$99,506
Alaska	3,059	3,192	8,297	14,548	19,616
Arizona ^L	28,074	32,705	80,999	141,778	126,501
Arkansas	13,267	16,224	21,260	50,751	63,945
California	189,550	175,623	582,556	947,729	919,431
Colorado ^L	17,880	17,778	43,038	78,695	67,421
Connecticut	9,207	10,928	23,671	43,805	42,023
Delaware	3,543	4,302	9,323	17,168	14,581
District of Columbia	3,205	3,380	7,361	13,946	13,588
Florida	90,757	97,094	214,511	402,361	369,770
Georgia	42,488	49,490	92,508	184,486	181,353
Hawaii	5,431	5,305	15,171	25,907	28,105
Idaho	6,418	6,835	16,669	29,922	24,121
Illinois	35,201	44,479	73,949	153,629	190,103
Indiana	32,013	34,637	86,482	153,131	106,320
Iowa	12,594	13,245	32,968	58,807	42,126
Kansas	9,571	10,504	24,294	44,368	41,542
Kentucky	21,809	26,384	59,285	107,477	81,965
Louisiana	23,957	28,662	35,796	88,415	104,101
Maine ^L	3,321	3,712	9,774	16,807	16,446
Maryland	27,030	27,663	64,965	119,658	106,321
Massachusetts	21,989	22,228	67,084	111,300	78,925
Michigan	40,374	46,779	120,163	207,317	174,641
Minnesota	20,013	20,515	57,916	98,443	90,880
Mississippi ^L	15,350	20,398	36,973	72,721	79,195
Missouri	21,536	25,165	40,758	87,459	80,083
Montana	2,873	3,213	8,100	14,186	14,571
Nebraska ^L	7,192	7,655	20,052	34,898	31,324
Nevada ^L	11,938	12,999	32,034	56,971	46,919
New Hampshire	2,622	2,659	8,644	13,925	9,602
New Jersey	30,663	30,253	80,820	141,736	144,310
New Mexico ^L	8,453	8,764	18,779	35,995	47,103
New York ^L	78,372	81,099	208,374	367,845	429,892
North Carolina ^L	54,063	56,943	143,113	254,119	183,336
North Dakota ^L	2,133	2,366	5,859	10,358	15,019
Ohio	38,226	55,480	70,548	164,254	140,982
Oklahoma ^L	20,114	22,326	46,186	88,627	88,350
Oregon	15,426	14,981	45,396	75,802	67,242
Pennsylvania	38,621	40,188	91,281	170,090	185,489
Rhode Island	3,578	3,927	9,027	16,533	17,093
South Carolina	19,979	23,255	43,585	86,819	81,134
South Dakota ^L	3,133	3,678	9,073	15,884	20,323
Tennessee	28,018	31,615	52,574	112,207	113,704
Texas	182,404	170,524	315,686	668,613	481,622
Utah	8,493	8,868	19,929	37,290	37,449
Vermont	2,173	1,942	7,298	11,413	12,240

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES –FOOD NUTRITION SERVICE

STATE OR TERRITORY	AVERAGE MONTHLY PARTICIPATION				PROGRAM GRANT 2/
	WOMEN	INFANTS	CHILDREN	TOTAL	(000)
Virginia	25,524	29,214	66,053	120,792	86,839
Washington	25,782	25,100	72,145	123,027	128,733
West Virginia	6,754	8,152	18,043	32,949	33,894
Wisconsin	16,816	19,081	50,142	86,039	80,390
Wyoming ^{1/}	1,633	1,686	3,817	7,137	8,863
American Samoa	742	637	2,932	4,311	6,740
Guam	928	1,140	2,769	4,836	9,507
North Mariana Island	575	503	1,978	3,056	4,313
Puerto Rico	20,393	18,764	59,886	99,043	184,607
Virgin Islands	699	676	1,469	2,844	6,093
Anticipated adjustment	24,211	29,674	57,863	111,739	-337,292
TOTAL	1,404,377	1,494,257	3,457,085	6,355,709	\$5,543,000

^{1/}Includes Indian Tribal Organizations

^{2/}Excludes obligations for WIC Infrastructure grants, Technical Assistance, Breastfeeding Peer Counselors, EBT/MIS, WIC FFRCA, WIC Cash Value Voucher (CVV) and Federal Administrative Oversight. Totals may not add due to rounding.

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

ACCOUNT 3: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

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

For necessary expenses to carry out the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), [~~\$114,035,578,000~~] \$111,181,895,000, of which \$3,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, [2024] 2025, 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, \$1,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, shall be used to carry out section 4208 of Public Law 115-334: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$3,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, shall be used to carry out section 4003(b) of Public Law 115-334 relating to demonstration projects for tribal organizations: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be subject to any work registration or workfare requirements as may be required by law: *Provided further*, That funds made available for Employment and Training under this heading shall remain available through September 30, [2023] 2024: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for section 28(d)(1), section 4(b), and section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 shall remain available through September 30, [2023] 2024: *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: 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 [2023] 2024, [~~\$20,983,952,000~~] \$27,795,473,800, to remain available through September 30, [2023] 2024.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**Table FNS-61. Lead-Off Tabular Statement**

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2022	\$140,359,596,000
Change in Appropriation	<u>-29,177,701,000</u>
Budget Estimate, 2023	<u>\$111,181,895,000</u>
Budget Estimate, Current Law 2023	<u>\$111,181,895,000</u>
Net 2023 Request	<u>\$111,181,895,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENT**Table FNS-62. Project Statement (thousands of dollars, Full-Time Equivalent (FTE))**

Item	2020 Actual	FTE	2021 Enacted	FTE	2022 Estimated	FTE	2023 Budget	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Participant Benefits:										
SNAP Benefits	\$56,201,345	-	\$101,803,982	-	\$127,379,769	-	\$97,694,225	-	-\$29,685,544	(1)
Contingency Reserve	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	-	0	
State Administrative Costs	4,965,651	-	5,313,427	-	5,536,316	-	5,707,550	-	+171,234	(2)
Nutrition Ed. & Obesity Prevention Grant	441,000	-	440,000	-	464,000	-	486,000	-	+22,000	(3)
Employment and Training, Federal Funds 100%	123,900	-	123,900	-	123,900	-	123,900	-	0	(4)
Employment and Training, 50%	489,794	-	501,878	-	511,929	-	525,935	-	+14,006	(4)
Mandatory Other Program Costs:										
Benefit & Retailer Redemption and Monitoring	53,780	112	55,377	120	55,377	120	73,509	123.5	+18,132	5(a)
Certification of SSI Recipients for SNAP	20,172	-	20,454	-	20,454	-	21,045	-	+591	5(b)
Payment Accuracy and Cooperative Services	34,148	84	72,954	97	72,954	97	77,837	101	+4,883	5(c)
Web-Based Automation of Systems	7,500	2	7,500	2	7,500	3	7,898	3	+398	5(d)
Retailer Integrity and Trafficking	21,667	47	22,221	57	22,221	57	35,879	74	+13,658	5(e)
Computer Support	10,496	-	10,643	-	10,643	-	21,105	-	+10,462	5(f)
Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems	17,339	36	17,568	39	17,568	39	19,167	43	+1,599	5(g)
Nutrition Education and Program Information	29,008	45	29,572	49	29,572	49	65,378	104	+35,806	5(h)
Program Evaluation and Modernization	18,679	6	19,145	8	19,145	8	42,162	10	+23,017	5(i)
FMMI	3,500	-	3,500	-	3,500	-	3,682	-	+182	5(j)
IT Modernization and Support	2,000	-	20,000	-	20,000	-	23,090	-	+3,090	5(k)
Discretionary Other Program Costs:										
FDPIR Nutrition Education	998	-	998	-	998	-	998	-	0	
Demo Projects Tribal Orgs	0	-	0	-	3,000	-	3,000	-	0	
Healthy Milk Incentives	0	-	0	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	0	
Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico	1,937,647	-	2,037,976	-	2,501,805	-	2,633,252	-	+131,447	(6)
American Samoa	7,782	-	8,185	-	10,047	-	10,575	-	+528	(7)
FDPIR USDA Foods in lieu of SNAP	104,976	1	104,976	-	63,331	1	82,005	1	+18,674	(8)
FDPIR Distributing Agencies Exp. And Nut Ed	55,255	-	57,174	-	62,669	-	63,000	-	+331	(8)
TEFAP Commodities a/	317,500	2	342,000	2	399,750	2	419,003	2	+19,253	(9)
CNMI	12,148	-	12,148	-	12,148	-	30,700	-	+18,552	(10)
Community Food Project	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	0	
Program Access	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	0	
CNMI DA	25,200	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico DA	-	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Impact of the additional benefits PR (study)	-	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	
American Samoa DA	-	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	
General Provisions (Non-Add Discretionary)										
Demo Projects Tribal Orgs	3,000	-	3,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	
PR NAP Study	6,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Healthy Milk Incentives	1,000	-	1,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Subtotal, Total Regular Appropriations	67,896,285	335	114,039,578	374	140,359,596	376	111,181,895	461.5	-29,177,701	
Supplemental Appropriations:										
FFCRA										
Benefits P-EBT	12,800,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Puerto Rico Supplemental	98,982	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Am Sam Supplemental	397	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	
CNMI Supplemental	621	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	
CARES Act										
Puerto Rico Supplemental	197,960	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Am Sam Supplemental	800	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	
CNMI Supplemental	1,240	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	
FDPIR COVID Supplemental	100,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

Item	2020		2021		2022		2023		Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
	Actual	FTE	Enacted	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Budget	FTE		
SNAP Contingency-COVID Supplemental Emergency Supplemental (Division N)	15,510,000	-	15,510,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Benefits-PEBT	0	-	44,000,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	
PEBT Grants to States	0	-	1,100,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	
SNAP Waiver Authority	0	-	3,600,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	
COVID Relief Benefits-15% Benefit Bump	0	-	7,634,699	-	0	-	0	-	0	
SAE Mass Change	0	-	100,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Puerto Rico Supplemental	0	-	597,600	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Am Sam Supplemental	0	-	2,400	-	0	-	0	-	0	
CNMI Supplemental	0	-	14,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Online Purchasing & Tech Improvements	0	-	5,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	
American Rescue Plan										
COVID Relief Benefits-15% Benefit Bump	0	-	3,817,349	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Benefits P-EBT	0	-	0	-	25,000,000	-	0	-	0	
PEBT Grants to States	0	-	0	-	300,000	-	0	-	0	
SAE Mass Change	0	-	1,150,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Online Purchasing & Tech Improvements	0	-	25,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Puerto Rico Supplemental	0	-	966,120	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Am Sam Supplemental	0	-	3,880	-	0	-	0	-	0	
CNMI Supplemental	0	-	30,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	
Extension of SNAP Waiver Authority	0	-	0	-	3,600,000	-	0	-	0	
Supplemental Appropriation (excl. non-add)	28,710,000	-	63,046,048	-	28,900,000	-	0	-	0	
Total SNAP Appropriation	96,606,285	335	177,085,626	374	169,259,596	376	111,181,895	461.5	-29,177,701	
Sequestration	-9,423	-	-10,325	-	-10,325	-	-14,656	-	-4,331	
Total SNAP Appropriation w/Sequestration	96,596,862	335	177,075,301	374	169,249,271	376	111,167,239	461.5	-29,182,032	

^a 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.

PROJECT STATEMENT

Table FNS-63. Project Statement (thousands of dollars, Full-Time Equivalent (FTE))

Item	2020		2021		2022		Inc. or Dec.	2023		
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE		Budget	FTE	
Obligations, Participant Benefits:										
SNAP Benefits	\$54,780,305	-	\$89,662,238	-	\$127,379,769	-	-\$29,685,544	-	\$97,694,225	-
State Option Reimbursable	55,639	-	69,000	-	90,000	-	+5,000	-	95,000	-
Contingency Reserve	4,000,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
State Administrative Costs	4,504,029	-	4,651,038	-	5,536,316	-	+171,234	-	5,707,550	-
Nutrition Ed. & Obesity Prevention Grant	440,787	-	434,483	-	464,000	-	+22,000	-	486,000	-
Employment and Training, Federal Funds 100%	113,649	-	110,684	-	123,900	-	0	-	123,900	-
Employment and Training, 50%	426,260	-	439,472	-	511,929	-	+14,006	-	525,935	-
Mandatory Other Program Costs:										
Benefit & Retailer Redemption and Monitoring	42,775	112	46,613	112	53,050	120	+17,369	-	70,419	123.5
Certification of SSI Recipients for SNAP	19,294	-	19,594	-	19,594	-	+567	-	20,161	-
Payment Accuracy and Cooperative Services	28,463	84	48,794	84	71,504	97	+4,787	4	76,291	101
Web-Based Automation of Systems	4,162	2	5,313	2	7,185	3	+381	-	7,566	3
Retailer Integrity and Trafficking	15,456	47	18,998	47	21,210	57	+13,037	-	34,247	74
Computer Support	9,859	-	10,102	-	10,196	-	+10,022	-	20,218	-
Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems	10,848	36	12,477	36	16,737	39	+1,523	4	18,260	43
Nutrition Education and Program Information	26,105	45	27,553	45	28,503	49	+34,510	55	63,013	104
Program Evaluation and Modernization	14,482	6	24,163	6	18,470	8	+22,205	2	40,675	10
FMMI	3,178	-	3,295	-	3,300	-	+172	-	3,472	-
IT Modernization and Support	1,884	-	18,827	-	18,860	-	+2,914	-	21,774	-

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

Item	2020		2021		2022		Inc. or		2023	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Dec.	FTE	Budget	FTE
Discretionary Other Program Costs:										
FDPIR Nutrition Education	986	-	991	-	998	-	0	-	998	-
Demo Projects Tribal Orgs	0	-	0	-	3,000	-	0	-	3,000	-
Healthy Milk Incentives	0	-	0	-	1,000	-	0	-	1,000	-
Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico	1,938,123	-	2,037,976	-	2,501,805	-	+131,447	-	2,633,252	-
American Samoa	7,782	-	8,185	-	10,047	-	+528	-	10,575	-
FDPIR USDA Foods in lieu of SNAP	94,422	1	30,442	1	63,331	1	+18,674	-	82,005	1
FDPIR Distributing Agencies Exp. And Nut Ed	53,626	-	57,244	-	62,669	-	+331	-	63,000	-
TEFAP Commodities	162,919	2	404,471	2	399,750	2	+19,253	-	419,003	2
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	12,148	-	12,148	-	12,148	-	+18,552	-	30,700	-
Community Food Project	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	0	-	5,000	-
Program Access	5,000	-	4,800	-	5,000	-	0	-	5,000	-
CNMI DA	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico DA	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Impact of the additional benefits PR (study)	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
American Samoa DA	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
General Provisions (Non-Add Discretionary)										
Demo Projects Tribal Orgs	3,000	-	3,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
PR NAP Study	6,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Healthy Milk Incentives	1,000	-	1,000	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Subtotal, Total Regular Obligations	66,787,181	335	98,167,901	335	137,439,271	376	-29,177,032		108,262,239	461.5
Supplemental Appropriations:										
FFCRA										
Benefits P-EBT	12,647,000	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
Puerto Rico Supplemental	98,982	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
Am Sam Supplemental	397	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
CNMI Supplemental	621	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
CARES Act										
Puerto Rico Supplemental	197,960	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
Am Sam Supplemental	800	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
CNMI Supplemental	1,240	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
FDPIR COVID Supplemental	39,949	-	54,478	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
SNAP Contingency-COVID Supplemental	15,510,000	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
Emergency Supplemental (Division N)										
Benefits-PEBT	0	-	31,228,649	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
PEBT Grants to States	0	-	583,471	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
SNAP Waiver Authority	0	-	3,584,000	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
COVID Relief Benefits-15% Benefit Bump	0	-	7,634,699	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
SAE Mass Change	0	-	100,000	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
Puerto Rico Supplemental	0	-	597,600	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
Am Sam Supplemental	0	-	2,400	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
CNMI Supplemental	0	-	14,000	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
Online Purchasing & Tech Improvements	0	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
American Rescue Plan										
COVID Relief Benefits-15% Benefit Bump	0	-	3,817,349	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
Benefits P-EBT	0	-	0	-	25,000,000	-	-	-	0	-
PEBT Grants to States	0	-	0	-	300,000	-	-	-	0	-
SAE Mass Change	0	-	241,299	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
Online Purchasing & Tech Improvements	0	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
Puerto Rico Supplemental	0	-	966,120	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
Am Sam Supplemental	0	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	0	-
CNMI Supplemental	0	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	0	-

Item	2020		2021		2022		Inc. or		2023	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Dec.	FTE	Budget	FTE
Extension of SNAP Waiver Authority	0	-	0	-	3,600,000	-	-	-	0	-
Supplemental Obligations (excluding non-add)	28,496,949	-	48,824,065	-	28,900,000	-	-	-	0	-
Unobligated Balance Start of Year	-6,110,000	-	-5,000,000	-	-3,000,000	-	-	-	-3,000,000	-
Unobligated Balance End of Year	5,000,000	-	6,110,000	-	3,000,000	-	-	-	3,000,000	-
Balance Lapsing	2,479,371	-	29,043,333	-	3,000,000	-	-	-	3,000,000	-
Collections from Reimbursable Obligations	-55,639	-	-69,000	-	-90,000	-	-5,000	-	-95,000	-
Sequestration	9,423	-	10,325	-	10,325	-	+4,331	-	14,656	-
Total SNAP Appropriation	96,607,285	335	177,086,624	335	169,259,596	376	-29,177,701	-	111,181,895	461.5

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The numbered justifications items are keyed to the Change Key (Chg Key) column on the Project Statement.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- (1) A decrease of (\$29,685,544,000) for Benefit Costs (\$127,379,769,000 available in FY 2022).

This decrease reflects the net effect of estimated decreases in the average benefit costs per person/per month as emergency allotment (EA) payments end due to the end of the Public Health Emergency. The current estimate assumes that the Public Health Emergency will end in July of FY 2022 and that no further emergency allotments will be paid after August of FY 2022. However, the current estimate also assumes that SNAP participation is expected to increase slightly to an average of 43.5 million participants over the course of FY 2023. This reflects experience with SNAP participation during the economic recovery from the Great Recession. While overall unemployment levels peaked in FY 2010, SNAP participation did not peak until FY 2013. Similarly, during the pandemic, unemployment levels peaked in FY 2020 and that expectation is that SNAP participation will peak in FY 2023.

- (2) An increase of \$171,234,000 for State Administrative Expenses (SAE) (\$5,536,316,000 available in FY 2022).

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 and the expiration of the A-87 cost allocation waiver provided to agencies by OMB in association with the Affordable Care Act. FNS continues to be required to carry a larger portion of all state-level systems costs in the SNAP.

- (3) An increase of \$22,000,000 for Nutrition Education Grant Program (\$464,000,000 available in FY 2022).

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

- (4) An increase of \$14,006,000 for Employment and Training (\$635,829,000 available in FY 2022).

These matching funds provide grants to States to conduct employment and training (E&T) programs to assist SNAP participants to prepare for and find work. States use flexible SNAP E&T funding to serve lower-skilled, vulnerable adults who often have limited access to employment services or job training otherwise. SNAP E&T programs are designed to promote self-sufficiency. The E&T grants allow State agencies to choose the components that make up their particular E&T programs and meet the specific needs of their SNAP recipients, including: job search and job search training; basic education or vocational training; job retention services, and other workforce opportunities. This increase is due to estimated inflationary increases in state and local government costs, as well as increased state investment in programs.

- (5) An increase of \$111,818,000 for mandatory other program costs (\$278,934,000 available in FY 2022).

The overall change consists of the following:

- (a) An increase of \$18,132,000 for Benefit & Retailer Redemption and Monitoring (\$55,377,000 available in FY 2022).

This will provide resources to support compliance specialists, investigators, quality assurance and data mining experts, as well as administrative reviewers. Funding for contracts will support benefit redemption activity, as well as most of the systems development and maintenance associated with retailer management. Of the increase,

\$15 million is requested to support the Current Law Proposal: Case Management and Communication Portal. The remainder is due to estimated inflationary costs and a 4.6 percent pay increase.

- (b) An increase of \$591,000 for Certification of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Recipients for SNAP (\$20,454,000 available in FY 2022).

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

- (c) An increase of \$4,883,000 for Payment Accuracy and Cooperative Services (\$72,954,000 available in FY 2022).

This line supports a wide range of activities aimed at increasing payment accuracy and promotes integrity and efficiency in State administration of the program by promoting a State exchange of ideas and information. This line also provides funding for the Federal Quality Control (QC) system, and computer systems designed to provide states with greater access to SNAP integrity tools. These activities are a core part of USDA's program integrity investments. Additional resources are utilized to decrease fraud. The requested increase includes \$691,000 due to estimated inflationary costs and a 4.6 percent pay increase. The remainder of the increase is requested to support two Current Law Proposals: Improving Management of SNAP Accounts Receivable and SNAP Fraud Framework Information Clearinghouse.

- (d) An increase of \$398,000 for Web-Based Automation of Systems (\$7,500,000 available in FY 2022).

This line provides funding for IT, automation, and technology-based process improvement resources to improve SNAP recipient program integrity. The requested increase includes estimated inflationary costs and a 4.6 percent pay increase.

- (e) An increase of \$13,658,000 for Retailer Integrity and Trafficking (\$22,221,000 available in FY 2022).

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. Of the increase, \$11.1 million is to support three Current Law Proposals: Enhancing Fraud Detection, Expanding Fraud Investigation Capacity, and Increased Store Visits. The remainder is due to estimated inflationary increases and a 4.6 percent pay increase.

- (f) An increase of \$10,462,000 for Computer Support (\$10,643,000 available in FY 2022).

This line supports the essential systems needed to administer SNAP, including the Federal staff required to operate and maintain those systems. These systems include SNAP-specific systems, and FNS' internal computer systems that support the activities of Federal staff. Of the increase, \$10.0 million is to support three Current Law Proposals: Management Evaluation Tool Modernization/Integration with MEMS NG, Enhanced Program Operations through the startup of an Innovation Team for Application System Modernization and Cloud Hosting and Increase funding to modernize food ordering and inventory management systems which is in the CN Current Law Proposals. The remainder is due to estimated inflationary costs.

- (g) An increase of \$1,599,000 for Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems (\$17,568,000 available in FY 2022).

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. Of the increase, \$1.0 million is requested for the Current Law Proposal: Full Staffing for the State Systems Office. The remainder is due to estimated inflationary costs and a 4.6 percent pay increase.

- (h) An increase of \$35,806,000 for Nutrition Education and Program Information (\$29,572,000 available in FY 2022).

This line supports Federal costs for SNAP nutrition education initiatives, and supports national projects, including program information and educational efforts to increase awareness of the nutrition benefits of SNAP. Of the request, \$25.5 million is to support eight Current Law Proposals: Strengthen the Thrifty Food Plan, E&T Data Systems Grants, Enhance Regional E&T Support to States, Restore FNS ability to provide timely program technical support, Dedicated Staff for Grants and Procurements, Support Efforts to Eradicate Nutrition Insecurity,

Increase FNS Ability to Support FDPIR, and Staffing to support FDPIR/TEFAP Commodity purchases. The remainder is due to estimated inflationary costs and a 4.6 percent pay raise.

- (i) An increase of \$23,017,000 for Program Evaluation and Modernization (\$19,145,000 available in FY 2022).
FNS conducts a variety of studies, evaluations, and related activities that respond to the needs of policy makers and managers and help ensure that nutrition programs achieve their goals. This line supports efforts for SNAP, including the Federal staff needed to oversee this vital work. Of the request, \$23.0 million is to support three Current Law Proposals: Deliver on promoting the Dietary Guidelines and integration into programs, Evaluation/Analysis of TFP Impacts (total) and Cross-Program Customer Service and Integration in the NPA Current Law Proposals. The remainder is due to estimated inflationary costs and a 4.6 percent pay raise.
- (j) An increase of \$182,000 for the Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI) (\$3,500,000 available in FY 2022).
Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI) is an on-going project to enhance financial system transparency and reporting capabilities in advance of new OMB and Treasury initiatives to improve financial management and reporting government wide. This transparency and advanced functionality will support ensuring integrity in SNAP. An increase of \$182,000 is due to estimated inflationary costs.
- (k) An increase of \$3,090,000 for IT Modernization and Support (\$20,000,000 available in FY 2022).
This line provides for the operations, maintenance, and enhancement costs associated with Federal systems and equipment. The increase is requested to support the Current Law Proposal: Modernization of the Food program Reporting Systems (FPRS) in the CN Current Law Proposals. The remainder is due to estimated inflationary costs.
- (6) An increase of \$131,447,000 for Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico (\$2,501,805,000 available in FY 2022).
Section 19(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (as amended by P.L. 110-246), provides a block grant to Puerto Rico to administer NAP benefits. The change is due to the estimated increase in the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP).
- (7) An increase of \$528,000 for American Samoa (\$10,047,000 available in FY 2022).
Section 19(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (as amended by P.L. 110-246), provides a block grant to American Samoa to administer SNAP benefits. The change is due to the estimated increase in the TFP.
- (8) An increase of \$19,005,000 for Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) (\$126,000,000 available in FY 2022).
The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, provides for an alternative program to SNAP for low-income individuals living on or near qualifying Indian reservations or service areas in Oklahoma. This line provides for the food costs and administration of this program. The program provides monthly food packages to improve nutrition as well as nutrition education for approximately 47,300 participants. The increase is primarily due to expected increases in program participation as the supplemental increases in SNAP benefits begin to expire. Of the increase, \$4.0 million is to support the Current law Proposal: Increase Funding for FDPIR Nutrition Education.
- (9) An increase of \$19,253,000 for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) (\$399,750,000 available in FY 2022).
Section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 requires the Secretary to purchase USDA Foods for distribution through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). The section establishes a baseline funding level and a formula for annual adjustments based on food price inflation. The change is due to the estimated changes in the TFP and a 4.6 percent pay increase.
- (10) An increase of \$18,552,000 for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) (\$12,148,000 available in FY 2022).
This increase reflects the actual resources needed to support current program participation and aligns their annual base grant with supplemental and other enhanced funding that has been available to support CNMI's NAP since the 2014 Farm Bill. The increase will provide CNMI with the ability to manage their program with more certainty and will allow them to be better prepared to address disasters or other unforeseen events that could impact program participation.

TABLE FNS-64. SUMMARY OF FY 2022 AND FY 2023 MANDATORY CURRENT LAW PROPOSALS FOR SNAP

Proposal	Amount (millions)
Strengthen the Thrifty Food Plan	\$2.5
E&T Data Systems Grants	5.0
Enhance Regional E&T Support to States	2.0
Restore FNS ability to provide timely program technical support	3.0
Dedicated Staff for Grants and Procurements	2.0
Support Efforts to Eradicate Nutrition Insecurity-support for SNAP-Ed	8.0
Increase FNS Ability to Support FDPIR	2.0
Staffing to support FDPIR/TEFAP commodity purchases	1.0
Full Staffing for the State Systems Office (SSO)	1.0
Enhancing Fraud Detection	1.5
Expanding Fraud Investigation Capacity	6.6
Increased Store Visits	4.0
Improving Management of SNAP Accounts Receivable	1.0
Modernization of the Food Program Reporting Systems (FPRS)	2.0
Management Evaluation Tool Modernization/Integration with MEMS NG	2.0
Enhanced Program Operations through the startup of an Innovation Team for Application System Modernization and Cloud Hosting	5.0
Increase funding to modernize food ordering and inventory management systems	3.0
Increase Funding for FDPIR Nutrition Education	4.0
Funding for TEFAP Distribution Research Project	2.0
Case Management and Communication Portal	15.0
SNAP Fraud Framework Information Clearinghouse	1.0
Deliver on promoting the Dietary Guidelines and integration into programs	3.0
Evaluation/Analysis of TFP Impacts (total)	17.0

CURRENT LAW PROPOSALS**SNAP*****Strengthen the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP)***

The TFP has important policy implications and, as the basis for SNAP maximum allotments, impacts the economic well-being of millions of households. SNAP is the nation’s most important anti-hunger program, reaching nearly 40 million people nationwide per month in 2020.

The 2018 Farm Bill mandates re-evaluation of the TFP market baskets by 2022 and every five years thereafter to reflect “current prices, composition data, consumption patterns, and dietary guidance.” While the TFP was reevaluated in August 2021, ongoing, dedicated funding for CNPP is required to ensure the scientific integrity, continuous quality advancement, and translation of the science to ensure SNAP participants have access to nutritious food they need. Updating the TFP requires the ability to evolve and advance with the science, with CNPP integrating new scientific review and data analysis methodologies to inform evidence-based decisions (including Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review/NESR, meta-analysis, data analysis, food pattern modeling, systems modeling and practicality testing). This funding will allow CNPP to obtain the necessary price and consumption data needed to regularly update the TFP as required by law.

Moving from periodic revisions to the TFP to a new report every five years is a large-scale change that requires infrastructure that currently does not exist. With this proposal and continued funding levels, CNPP will be able to publish a new TFP report every five years that reflects current food prices, food composition data, consumption patterns, and dietary guidance.

Table FNS-65. Strengthen the Thrifty Food Plan (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$2.5	\$2.6	\$2.6	\$27.4

SNAP***E&T Data Systems Grants***

FNS has made significant investments to improve SNAP E&T data systems since FY 2016. Two rounds of SNAP E&T Data grants have been awarded to more than a dozen State agencies. These grants are intended to improve the collection, analysis, and use of data for the continuous improvement of SNAP E&T programs.

However, FNS understands that there are systems improvements that are needed across the whole E&T data ecosystem, including at the provider, State, and Federal levels. FNS has a contract in place to assess the comprehensive data and data systems needs for E&T. The contractor is conducting an extensive assessment and FNS anticipates a report of recommendations to improve the collection, analysis, and validation of E&T data in the first half of FY 2022. FNS anticipates the recommendations to include such strategies as a new or upgraded Federal system, enhanced training, development of tools and resources, or even small grants to States to enhance their ability to collect, report and analyze data. FNS is requesting \$5 million dollars to implement these types of recommendations from the final report.

Table FNS-66. E&T Data Systems Grants (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$5.0	\$5.0	\$5.0	\$51.5

SNAP***Enhance Regional Employment and Training (E&T) Support to States***

These additional staff years add one additional E&T specialist in each region.

These staff years will build capacity in the regions to support States in expanding E&T programs to provide meaningful work for SNAP participants; improve data collection; provide proactive technical assistance; monitor oversight of programs to ensure accountability and implement the 2018 Farm Bill rule.

This work aligns with the Administration's goal of improving economic development and recovery.

Table FNS-67. Enhance Regional E&T Support to States (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$2.0	\$1.2	\$1.3	\$13.6

SNAP***Restore FNS ability to provide timely program technical support***

The past year demonstrates the importance of FNS capacity to provide timely and thoughtful responses to State and local needs, particularly in the face of changing circumstances. FNS staff worked tirelessly to respond to State and local policy and operational questions as well as waiver and other requests; however, all too frequently FNS was not able to meet the immediate needs of operators due to Federal staffing constraints. Delayed responses to State waiver requests can lead to delays in access to benefits for participants and prolonged inefficiencies which these waivers could address. While recent circumstances were extraordinary, they demonstrate the importance of FNS programmatic capacity to respond to complex and/or unexpected circumstances. Additionally, demonstration and expansion efforts, such as those targeted at expanding summer feeding require extensive support from both the national and regional offices. Significant resources are also needed to support State transition to normal program rules post COVID-19 while also considering lessons learned that could improve program access and administrative efficiencies.

Furthermore, key Administration priorities such as expanded use of cross-program certification, online purchasing in SNAP, EBT modernization and improved service delivery in all programs will require expanded focus and resources. For example, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 provide \$35 million in funding to bring modern payment options to SNAP participants, enhance Program integrity, and support American farmers and businesses that provide food access to SNAP participants. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic nutrition assistance safety net and it continues to grow in complexity to serve low income people, including those impacted by COVID-19; however, staffing has remained static and even declined over time.

Concurrently, as proper stewards of the taxpayers' dollars, we must also continue to exercise proper oversight over improper payments and payment accuracy and provide technical assistance to States in implementing effective corrective actions.

In total, this request would add 20 analysts to support SNAP administration and oversight at the regional and national level.

Table FNS-68. Restore FNS ability to provide timely technical support (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$3.0	\$3.1	\$3.2	\$34.1

SNAP

Dedicated staff for grants and procurements

Both SNAP and the CNPs have a broad range of grant programs and contracts. Our ability to provide appropriate support and oversight to grantees and contractors to ensure desired outcomes is increasingly limited.

Currently FNS manages 700 active CNP grants and expects to award another \$100 million in new grants to States, tribes, schools and districts, non-profit organizations, and agricultural producers in FY 2021. SNAP has more than \$50 million in grants annually, both competitive and non-competitive, that go to State agencies, community-based providers, and other organizations. FNS also procures specialized services. SNAP also has more than \$66 million in contracts annually, including some of the largest systems in the Agency that track retailer redemptions and provide significant information for integrity and research purposes (e.g., STARS, ALERT, QCS, etc.). CNP contracting efforts include development of wide range of resources for State and local level operators, including educational resources, operator handbooks, and data management tools for State agencies.

There is a significant amount of work associated with stewardship of these investments, not only for a careful selection and vetting of grantees, but also for ongoing monitoring and oversight of grantees once selected. Contracts also require an extended level of FNS staff support as Federal staff are closely involved with the day to day oversight and review of deliverables that occur on contracted projects, which may also be much larger in scope than grants. Lack of staff for grant and contracts management can lead to delays in projects or higher costs which are detrimental to efficient stewardship of resources.

In total, this proposal would add 8 staff to enhance support for SNAP program specific management and oversight of grants and contracts. A similar proposal is included for Child Nutrition.

Table FNS-69. Dedicated staff for grants and procurements (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$2.0	\$1.2	\$1.3	\$13.6

SNAP

SNAP Nutrition Education (SNAP-Ed) Funding

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 directed USDA to use 2 percent of the statutory grant funding provided to State agencies for FNS administrative use, including technical assistance and pilot projects. FNS intends to use these funds to make investments into SNAP-Ed to fulfill 2018 Farm Bill objectives. These include one-time projects to expand on SNAP's plan to revise data collection in order to improve outcome reporting on the impact of SNAP-Ed, as well as enhancements to our online clearinghouse (<http://www.snaped.fns.usda.gov>) to improve the transparency of State SNAP Ed plans, reports, and how States spend their allocated funds. However, as this change is temporary, it limits FNS's ability to make long-term investments with reoccurring costs. FNS is proposing to convert this change into a permanent mandatory spending line that provides FNS with the equivalent of 2 percent of the overall SNAP-Ed allocation for administrative use. With these funds, FNS intends to make long-term investments to increase the number of Federal staff providing SNAP-Ed technical assistance and to establish a new electronic reporting system as these are on-going annual costs.

Table FNS-70. SNAP Nutrition Education (SNAP-Ed) Funding (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$8.0	\$8.2	\$8.4	\$90.2

SNAP***Increase FNS ability to support Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)***

This funding would support FDPIR nutrition education and other initiatives, including self-determination demonstration projects. This proposal would add 8 staff to increase FNS' ability to develop program policy and provide technical assistance to Indian Tribal Organizations.

FDPIR is a food package program which provides nutritious USDA Foods to low-income households living on Indian reservations and to low-income American Indian households residing in approved service areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. FDPIR is administered at the Federal level by FNS. Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) and State agencies administer the program locally and are responsible for storing and distributing the foods, determining applicant eligibility, and providing nutrition education to recipients. Approximately 75,000 participants received benefits and nutrition-related services through FDPIR on an average monthly basis during FY 2020 and about 80,000 are estimated to participate in FY 2022.

While there are dedicated funds for technical assistance, nutrition education, etc. for other programs such as SNAP, there are currently no equivalent Federal administrative funds available for FDPIR, which presents a challenge in ensuring FDPIR is operated equitably as an alternative to SNAP. Tribes have recognized the importance of technical assistance in areas like nutrition education, as well as improved program operations and capacity building to respond to emergencies. This proposal would add dedicated staff in the headquarters office as well as in each regional office to work specifically on FDPIR issues, including food purchasing, nutrition education, tribal relations, capacity building, etc.

Table FNS-71. Increase FNS ability to support FDPIR (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$2.0	\$1.2	\$1.3	\$13.6

SNAP***Staffing to support FDPIR/TEFAP commodity purchases***

This proposal requests an additional \$1 million in administrative funding through the SNAP account to support FNS administrative expenses related to TEFAP and FDPIR commodity purchasing. This proposal allows 7 staff years to be supported through the SNAP account. The volume of commodity purchases for the household programs including TEFAP, FDPIR and CSFP has increased exponentially over the past few years but there has been no commensurate staff increase to support the additional workload. For example, TEFAP commodity purchases totaled about \$500 million in FY 2018, but increased to over \$2 billion in FY 2020. In addition, there have been multiple changes in the purchasing due to lessons learned from COVID-19.

Table FNS-72. Staffing to support FDPIR/TEFAP commodity purchases (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.1	\$11.4

SNAP***Full Staffing for the State Systems Office***

This proposal would fully staff the State Systems Office (SSO) offices to enable FNS to engage proactively with our State and Federal partners in ensuring that technology enables success, access, customer service and accountability in our programs. With adequate resources, the SSO not only helps States comply with Federal requirements, but adds value to that process, with tools, training, guidance, and process improvement that keeps up with changing technology.

The workload of the SSO has expanded significantly in recent years, due to significant changes in SNAP eligibility systems, and the continued impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Whereas, in the past, there were typically 2 or 3 active SNAP projects in each region at any given time, there are now SNAP projects in almost all States - whether a full-scale project or a constant process of small modernization projects, enhancements, etc.

In addition, changes in technology have increased due to new areas of risk management and oversight. An example of this is the addition of the requirements in SNAP for test plans, pilot plans, reviewing test results, go/no decisions, etc. These changes were essential to assure compliance and accountability, but they did generate significantly more work for the SSO.

The role of the SSO has also expanded within FNS, as an internal “consultant” for large technology-focused projects at the State level. SNAP and OPS, as well as other offices within FNS rely on the SSO for technical input on budget and policy initiatives such as the NAC project, the Longitudinal Database Project, etc. These sometimes involve ongoing participation in an initiative or workgroup, not just a single consultation.

This proposal would add 4 staff years in the SNAP account (there is a comparable proposal in WIC to add 1 staff year) for the SSO.

Table FNS-73. Full Staffing for the SSO (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.1	\$11.4

SNAP

Enhancing Fraud Detection

This change is proposed to better identify those select retailers that are violating SNAP Federal regulations and defrauding the government. FNS would accomplish this by purchasing analytic fraud detection services (e.g., helping with data mining, data analytics, new and revised algorithms, etc.) from entities with expertise in Federal program fraud.

This investment reflects FNS’ commitment to catching and sanctioning the bad actors who do not comply with SNAP Federal regulations; deterring future retailer non-compliance; and supporting access to more compliant stores that bolster the economy by helping to ensure appropriate stewardship of SNAP funding, thereby improving, program integrity and public confidence in the program.

Specifically, this investment supports:

- Use of advanced platforms and services to perform in-depth text analysis and ingestion of retailer invoices and receipts provided by retailers to validate administrative investigations
- Use of advanced platforms and services to perform in-depth data mining using new/innovative test queries to assist with fraud detection and to identify potential retailer violations for administrative investigation; and
- Screening of retailers throughout their SNAP application process, program reauthorization, or while in the program for potential business integrity issues (e.g., criminal records) ensuring the retailer is eligible for the redemption of SNAP benefits.

Table FNS-74. Enhancing Fraud Detection (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$1.5	\$1.5	\$1.6	\$16.5

SNAP

Expanding Fraud Investigation Capacity

This request maintains and enhances fraud investigations of select retailers improperly using SNAP funds, thereby undermining the integrity of SNAP and decreasing public confidence in the program.

The recent and significant increase in SNAP provided by the COVID-19 supplemental appropriations will likely lead to heightened scrutiny of the program by the OIG, GAO, Congress, and the public. In anticipation of these increased audits and to buttress our accountability, FNS must maintain and further develop its Federal investigations across the country that includes the flexibility to respond to potential retailer fraud more efficiently.

Like the previous proposal, this investment reflects FNS’ commitment to catching and the bad actors who do not comply with SNAP Federal regulations. Focusing on retailers identified through data analytics provides a deterrent to stores who might gravitate towards non-compliance, fraud, and trafficking.

Using contracted investigative resources is a more agile and adaptive approach to address ongoing changes in the retailer food and nutrition space, as demonstrated most recently during the COVID-19 period. Reliance on a limited pool of Federal staff means that investigators are required to travel extensively, particularly to more rural areas of the country – which was difficult during the pandemic. Contracted investigative resources are providing nation-wide coverage; and are

demonstrating nimbleness to varying situations. Increasing funding for contracted investigative resources will allow FNS to provide a higher level of oversight to ensure program integrity.

Table FNS-75. Expanding Fraud Investigation Capacity (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$6.6	\$8.1	\$9.9	\$118.3

SNAP

Increased Store Visits

FNS is responsible for managing all retailer applications, authorizations, and maintenance responsibilities for over 250,000 SNAP authorized retailers across the country. This change is proposed to help provide improved customer service to retailers applying for approval to sell nutritious food to SNAP EBT participants, and to identify the small number of retailers that are not following the rules.

FNS currently contracts for these services and this investment supports purchasing additional and sufficient store visit contracted services to keep up with the increased demand for retailers wishing to sell food to SNAP recipients. While most SNAP benefits are redeemed at large grocery stores, including superstores and big box stores, the vast majority of SNAP-authorized retailers are smaller businesses such as private grocery stores, convenience stores, dairies, bakeries, etc. Revenue from SNAP participants is important to these stores and it is economically important for FNS to have the capacity to promptly process applications and conduct store visits.

Specifically, this investment:

Provides the capacity for sufficient store visits to authorize retailer SNAP EBT applications and re-authorizations to determine they have the required stock and inventory; and

Provides capacity for sufficient store visits to validate administrative actions for retailers that are allegedly not in compliance with SNAP rules and regulations; are trafficking; and/or are defrauding SNAP beneficiaries.

Table FNS-76. Increased Store Visits (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$4.0	\$4.1	\$4.2	\$44.1

SNAP

Improving Management of SNAP Accounts Receivables

FNS has an annual accounts receivables portfolio of approximately \$400 million. This balance is almost exclusively SNAP activities including both recipient claims (\$350 million) and civil money penalties (\$50 million) imposed on SNAP retailers. FNS approaches collection directly, through Treasury cross servicing, and through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP). FNS is consistently in the top five Federal agencies in the use of TOP.

In the transition to department wide Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI) accounting system, FNS lost a great deal of customization and automation that had been available in its stand-alone program accounting system (IPAS). While FNS has worked to streamline processes and improve automation, challenges remain in keep this work current. This impacted both customer service and timeliness/amounts of collections.

FNS is proposing a \$1 million annual investment including both staff and FMMI system modernization to improve the operation of the accounts receivable processes across the Agency.

Table FNS-77. Improving Management of SNAP Accounts Receivable (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.1	\$11.4

SNAP

Modernization of the Food Program Reporting Systems (FPRS)

FPRS is a critical link in the Agency's financial and programmatic data processes and supports effective management and financial integrity of over \$100 billion annually in Federal awards to State and local partners in the nutrition assistance

programs. The system is now over two decades old and, despite incremental improvements, needs a fundamental modernization to both meet today’s program requirements and to take advantage of current technology.

This budget proposal would fund a requirements and design study that would inform a future procurement for system development. Goals of this redesign would include, but not be limited to:

- Increase flexibility of the system to accommodate reporting requirement changes more easily;
- Better integration/exchange of FPRS data with other tools (FMMI, Tableau, ACL, etc.);
- Reduce cost and potential shift of some systems responsibilities to Federal staff (reduced contractor reliance);
- Improve data quality protocols including potential use of AI/Machine Learning; and
- Improved State user experience.

Note: Funding for this initiative is also being requested in CN..

Table FNS-25. Modernization of the Food Program Reporting Systems (FPRS) (millions of dollars)

	2023	2024	2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$2.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$2.0

SNAP

Management Evaluation Tool Modernization/Integration with MEMS NG

This request funds the modernization and enhancement of key technology tools supporting the Agency’s oversight and technical assistance for State partners and other grantees. Planned changes to MEMS Next Generation and the Management Evaluation (ME) Tool will improve access and ease of use; reduce duplicative work; and lower lifecycle costs. Functionality supported by these enhancements contribute to improving customer service, ensuring program integrity, and enhancing technical assistance.

MEMS NextGen is an Agency-wide system used during reviews of State Agency operations that was originally planned to replace both MEMS (an Agency-wide Management Evaluation (ME)/Financial Management Review (FMR) tracker that is now retired) and ME Tool (a system to conduct MEs/FMRs from start to finish, currently used by WIC, Financial Management, and the Summer Food Service Program). For the past several years, ME Tool users have been working with OIT and the Regional Offices to integrate ME Tool functionality to MEMS NextGen so that ME Tool users can fully transition to MEMS NextGen. Last year, the Agency granted approval to move forward with the MEMS NextGen development which will transform MEMS NextGen into a robust, modern ME system, capable of conducting MEs/FMRs from start to finish, as well as provide FNS with a wealth of data on program operations and compliance.

Following approval, the functionality to integrate ME Tool into MEMS NextGen and retire the legacy ME Tool has continued to experience delays due to the program getting approved for incremental funding at 3-6 months rather than funding for completion of phases of the project with defined deliverables. The current process of making limited funds available without the requirement of specified deliverables will continue to result in project delays and cost overruns due to changing technology, rework when new requirements are identified, as well as contradictory or duplicative tasks. Best practice for agile system development justifies the need to create a Performance Work Statement that defines the full scope of the system with a work breakdown structure of phases with defined deliverables that necessitates a quote for a firm fixed price. Following the strategy of funding based upon phased deliverables aligns with the agile methodology for incremental and iterative allows for continuous delivery and defined project completion timeline.

The new contract for the ME Tool integration into MEMS NextGen should be a minimum of base plus 2 option years with funding based upon the phased development as follows:

Phase 1 (FY22 - Base) - Deliver the application “must haves” that includes: State agency access (optional by program), catalog updates to allow the system to house ME/FMR guides, administration for programs to actively manage catalogs, user role functionality, improved reporting capability, initial planning/development for data warehouse, and training at an estimated cost of \$3.7 million.

Phase 2 (FY23 – Option Year 1) – Deliver outstanding State agency access, refine FMR/WIC/SFSP functionality, data migration/archiving, training and retire legacy ME Tool. This work is estimated at \$3.1 million with a cost avoidance of \$450,000 with the elimination of the O&M costs for the ME Tool upon retirement.

Phase 3 (FY24 – Option Year 2) – Deliver requested enhancements to MEMS NextGen for an estimated cost of \$1.8 million.

Table FNS-78. Management Evaluation Tool Modernization/Integration with MEMS NG (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority (SNAP)	\$2.0	\$2.1	\$1.0	\$5.1
Budget Authority (CN)	\$1.0	\$1.1	\$1.1	\$3.2
Budget Authority (WIC)	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$3.0

SNAP

Enhanced Program Operations through the startup of an Innovation Team for Application System Modernization and Cloud Hosting

FNS requires an enhanced user experience that provides for a centralized entry point with a common look-and-feel for “one-stop” services using emerging technologies for increased productivity. The lack of modernization has caused inefficiencies through silos and stovepipe applications resulting in a limited ability to provide accurate, consistent data analytics and data calls for reporting in real-time. Additionally, many of the applications reside on unsupported platforms that place the Agency at risk for an unplanned extended outage.

The application rationalization process is required to strategically identify the replacement, standardization and consolidation of systems for the full utilization of emerging technologies for cloud services, mobile applications, big data, robotic process automation, scalability, disaster recovery protocols, and system security design that can manage business operations. The additional funding will be used on modernization activities to consolidate core services across the application portfolio, enhance our security posture, upgrade hardware and bundle sustainment support. Activities to realize the organizational benefits of the required modernization includes:

Award a contract to upgrade and enhance SharePoint 2016 to SharePoint O365 and Power Applications for the enhancements, integration and decommissioning of multiple MS Access Applications.

Hire a Chief Technology Innovation Officer (CTIO) and contract for 3 IT Systems Administrators to focus on research and development for the IT Strategic Direction with emerging technologies. The team will be responsible for understanding emerging technology and how it aligns the FNS technology vision with business strategy.

Award a contract for the implementation of ServiceNow Software as a Service Platform to rapidly implement scalable internal facing applications using a low code/no code platform.

Procure additional cyber security solutions required following the Solar Winds Eclipse compromise and the requirement to permanently shut down all Solar Winds Servers.

Note: Funding for this initiative is also being requested in CN.

Table FNS-79. Enhanced Program Operations through the startup of an Innovation Team for Application System Modernization and Cloud Hosting (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority (SNAP)	\$5.0	\$2.0	\$1.0	\$8.0
Budget Authority (CN)	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$0.5	\$2.5

SNAP

Increase funding to modernize food ordering and inventory management systems

To improve program integrity, FNS is requesting an additional \$3 million to support enhancements to food ordering and inventory management platforms utilized in multiple FNS programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). These enhancements will allow FNS to migrate its existing food ordering system to commercial cloud hosting and make necessary upgrades to system software, among other changes intended to modernize the systems.

The Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) system is an integrated, internet-based system for commodity acquisition, distribution, and tracking. WBSCM supports domestic and international food and nutrition programs administered by three USDA agencies, including Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Agricultural Marketing Service

(AMS), and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Integrated Food Management System (IFMS) provides real-time inventory maintenance at FDPIR program facilities.

Note: Funding for this initiative is also being requested in CN.

Table FNS-26. Increase funding to modernize food ordering and inventory management systems (millions of dollars)

	2023	2024	2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$3.0	\$3.1	\$3.1	\$32.8

SNAP

Increase funding for FDPIR Nutrition Education

This proposal would modify the existing line for FDPIR administrative funding by \$4 million annually to allow for more dedicated funds to be disseminated to FDPIR ITOs for nutrition related activities.

FDPIR is a food package program which provides nutritious USDA Foods to low-income households living on Indian reservations and to low-income American Indian households residing in approved service areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. FDPIR is administered at the Federal level by FNS. Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) and State agencies administer the program locally and are responsible for storing and distributing the foods, determining applicant eligibility, and providing nutrition education to recipients. Approximately 75,000 participants receive benefits and nutrition-related services through FDPIR on an average monthly basis.

Nutrition education is required in FDPIR but the amount of nutrition education funding available to FDPIR has not increased in 10 years. As tribes increase their focus on nutrition and related activities, such as growing and preserving healthy food and improving health outcome through FDPIRs, this proposal would ensure that funding can meet the demand.

Table FNS-80. Increase funding for FDPIR Nutrition Education Funding (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$4.0	\$4.0	\$4.0	\$40.0

SNAP

Funding for TEFAP distribution research project

FNS requests \$2 million to conduct a comprehensive research study of TEFAP distribution at the State and local level. This funding is in addition to the \$1 million requested in the FY 2022 President's Budget for similar purposes.

TEFAP is administered by State agencies that enter into agreements with local agencies to receive and distribute TEFAP food to qualifying individuals. This study would provide an opportunity to assess State and local level operations including factors such as reach in urban vs. rural areas and assessing barriers to program access to ensure equal access for all eligible participants. FNS would use the data collected to modernize the consumer experience through USDA Foods policy and programmatic decisions.

FNS essentially would gain insight into the TEFAP distribution network to inform program operations and policy decisions. Topics assessed would include program reach in rural areas, barriers to access for eligible participants, and ways to improve the customer experience.

Table FNS-81. Funding for TEFAP distribution research project (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$2.0	0	0	\$2.0

SNAP

Case Management and Communication Portal

For FNS's retailer operations and oversight this proposal seeks an Electronic Communication Portal, a case Management application, E-commerce fraud analytics support, additional retailer compliance and oversight staff and resources.

Essential to FNS retailer support and customer service is the daily contact with over 250,000 participating SNAP retailers. At present, all formal communications are conducted through printed correspondence delivered to retailers via mail

carriers. Associated with this process are a variety of administrative expenses, including supplies and shipping costs. Additionally, the delay of information exchanged through these means of communication come at the detriment of the customer experience and commonly presented as the subject of congressional inquiries to FNS.

The SNAP Online Pilot has rapidly expanded in the last two years in both size (number of participating retailers) and scope (volume of SNAP redemptions) resulting in the repurposing and doubling-up of existing retailer authorization and oversight resources to support the newly admitted Internet Retailers and to monitor their online SNAP transaction activity. FNS does not presently have the means to accept SNAP applications via its online application portal that are submitted by multiple non-corporate stores having the same ownership (MSO's) meal services, or internet retailers. As a result, application information must be submitted in hard copy, and manually entered by FNS staff into the SNAP application STARS. These antiquated processes impact FNS responsiveness to SNAP retailer applications, delaying food access to program recipients.

As a response to the pandemic, the US public adopted new means to secure access to food. Online grocery shopping has spiked over the last year and is projected to exceed \$100 billion in spending for the first time in 2021. By 2023, online purchases are expected to account for over 10% of total grocery sales, with FMI and Nielsen predictions at over \$140 billion by 2025, representing 30% of total US grocery sales. These dramatic increases in online spending will include the SNAP Internet Retailers, directly impacting FNS oversight responsibilities within the scope of e-commerce.

At present, staff use the SNAP application STARS to track and record all retailer associated work products. To amend the SNAP application to meet oversight needs, staff submits numerous system improvement requests. Due to IT and budget factors and processes involved, the existing and ever-expanding list of over 50 application improvements require multiple years and millions of dollars to implement thereby inhibiting program integrity.

An Electronic Communication Portal designed for exchanges with SNAP participating retailers will improve the customer experience. As an alternative to the time and resources associated with printed communication, these new tools and interactive features will enable more immediate correspondence with customers, providing the retailer community the conveniences associated with access and information sharing.

As a result of increase program responsibilities and jurisdictional scope as it relates to the SNAP Online Pilot, this proposal seeks additional Federal staff for the FNS Office of Retailer Operations and Compliance (ROC) to include two new Branches, and three new Work Centers. By adding two new Branches, three new Work Centers and related staffing, the appropriate level of oversight can be dedicated to supporting, monitoring, and administering Internet Retailers. Specifically, this proposal adds: two (2) GS-14 Program Managers, three (3) GS-13 Supervisory Program Specialists, three (3) GS-13 Lead Program Specialists, twelve (12) GS-12 Program Specialists and four (4) GS-7 Program Technicians. These new branches will deliver on mission responsibilities associated with specialized/non-traditional areas and priorities, including; Meal Services, Corporate organizations, and Internet Retailers. In addition, staff will be engaged in enhancing the customer service experience with accessibility by adding “chat” communication capabilities to reduce wait times and expedite the SNAP application process.

As SNAP online sales continue to expand into the next generation of US grocery purchasing the implementation of an e-commerce fraud analytics solution will prepare FNS for monitoring the volume of online transaction data. Fraud analytic resources in this area will further educate oversight processes and present opportunities for innovation within program integrity.

A Case Management application utilizing new technologies and industry standards designed to the specific needs of retailer operations provides FNS with the opportunity to strengthen oversight through improved accountability. As an alternative to dedicating time and resources towards continued changes to an outdated system, a customized application would enhance retailer administrative actions.

This plan to expand existing staff, resources provides FNS the opportunity to strengthen its Federal oversight of SNAP to maintain and bolster integrity, accountability, and customer service.

Table FNS-82. Case Management and Communication Portal (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$15.0	\$10.0	\$10.0	\$105.0

SNAP***SNAP Fraud Framework Information Clearinghouse***

FNS requests the funding for an online information clearinghouse for the SNAP Fraud Framework, for State agencies to identify with each other and share evidence-based practices for preventing fraud.

The clearinghouse will be an online repository of information about recipient integrity activities or initiatives at the State and local levels, describing fully implemented initiatives or pilots that have been assessed to determine whether they are successful. This includes evaluating outcomes from the annual SNAP Fraud Framework grants to State agencies to determine what innovations had an impact and are sustainable. This allows FNS to share fraud prevention best practices identified at the local level among State agencies.

A centralized clearinghouse also provides FNS a forum to share emerging policy issues among States and strengthen FNS's ability to provide fraud prevention technical assistance. The goal is to increase accessibility of information about effective fraud prevention practices.

Table FNS-83. SNAP Fraud Framework Information Clearinghouse (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$10.0

SNAP***Deliver on promoting the Dietary Guidelines and integration into programs***

Secretary Vilsack has called for robust promotion of the DGA and MyPlate among the public. Steady funding is needed to do so, particularly in ways that reflect innovation that engages the public. A one-time appropriation for the Dietary Guidelines in FY 2019-2021 made it possible, for the first time, to release a robust set of innovative, consumer-tested tools that are integrated to encourage behavior change. These tools have generated significant usage by the public, and have been regarded widely among the national programs, regions and local educators (e.g., state WIC programs, Cooperative Extension coordinators) as game changing. CNPP has received requests for continued support like this, particularly to expand to include cultural and language translations to use at the community level. However, no funding has been provided beyond this for continuation of these tools, thus they will remain static.

MyPlate serves as a key resource that SNAP-Ed and local educators, nutrition educators across all the FNS nutrition assistance programs nationally and in the regions, as well as other agencies and departments rely on to translate the DGA into easy-to-use consumer content and tools. CNPP's congressionally mandated, newly expanded work to reevaluate the Thrifty Food Plan every 5 years also means there is now an expanded need for MyPlate consumer translation of the market baskets into DGA-grounded content and innovation to help communities most in need.,

The proposed funding can move USDA from reaching people broadly to tackling health inequities and meeting culturally diverse communities' needs, which takes and deserves a longstanding commitment. As such, the proposed funding will make it possible for the public-particularly low-income communities and communities of color, who disproportionately suffer from diet-related chronic conditions due to systemic inequities-to have easy access to free, credible, consumer-tested and actionable resources that are practical and can be personalized to help them shop and eat healthfully. The work to provide these entails: foundational consumer research to understand current key barriers and motivators to healthy eating for these important audience segments; developing innovative consumer tools and other resources that draw on key learnings from the research, and evolving the tools over time based on user feedback; identifying who or what organizations are valued as credible voices, and working with them to help reach these communities with evidence-based strategies and resources that meet people where they are culturally, financially and personally; expanding CNPP's existing public-private partnership program to reach these communities; and identifying broader systems of support to encourage sustained healthy eating behaviors to protect their health.

CNPP has a successful track record driving innovation in consumer education and outreach to encourage healthy eating behaviors. With the FY 2019-2021 congressional appropriation, CNPP consumer-tested, created and launched simultaneously with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines a suite of digital tools that translate the Guidelines for consumers and are integrated strategically to encourage healthy eating behavior change. The results just the first four months since launching demonstrate their value: There have been close to 500,000 completions of a new healthy eating quiz online, which provides personalized results that can be synced with the Start Simple with MyPlate app (with more than 165,000 net downloads) to help consumers set goals and keep them motivated by celebrating their successes; MyPlate Plan's

calculator has been used close to 6 million times by individuals seeking their personal food group recommendations; and there have been more than 27 million pageviews by people going to the newly overhauled MyPlate.gov for more information. One last tool made possible by the 2019-2021 appropriation-USDA’s first Alexa skill-will launch in just about a month, starting with advice for caregivers of infants and toddlers, with enthusiastic anticipation expressed by organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and 1,000 Days.

With proper, steady funding, CNPP can take a proactive, strategic approach to providing authoritative leadership and bringing together multiple sectors of stakeholders to encourage healthy eating behavior change over time across the diverse public we all serve. No one entity can bring about change in this vastly complex area, but CNPP is looked to as the central source of subject matter expertise and authority that signals priorities and provides though leadership important to collaboration, which is essential.

Table FNS-84. Deliver on promoting the Dietary Guidelines and integration into programs (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority (SNAP)	\$3.0	\$3.0	\$3.0	\$30.0
Budget Authority (NPA)	\$7.0	\$7.0	\$7.0	\$70.0

SNAP

Evaluation/Analysis Support for Thrifty Food Plan Impacts

The department implemented an update to the Thrifty Food Plan, which serves as the basis for SNAP maximum allotments and shapes other nutrition benefits, in FY 2022.

Requested funds will be used for data collection and analysis on the circumstances, shopping patterns and dietary choices of low-income households affected by this update with a focus on SNAP participants and eligible nonparticipants. This proposal also includes funds to acquire and analyze “big data” namely prices for individual foods from broad food categories for TFP planning and for consumer translation. The proposal also includes funds to support systematic reviews related to the TFP and SNAP and evidence gathering and analysis for smaller food distribution programs that are impacted by the TFP change.

The funds will help to ensure that the update of the TFP is as effective as possible in promoting better diets and long-term health for Americans.

Table FNS-85. Evaluation/Analysis Support for Thrifty Food Plan Impacts (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year
Budget Authority (SNAP)	\$17.0	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$17.0
Budget Authority (NPA)	\$1.0	0	0	\$1.0

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND STAFF YEARS*Table FNS-86. SNAP Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years (thousands of dollars, staff years (SY))*

State/Territory/Country	2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Actual	SY	Actual	SY	Estimated	SY	Budget	SY
Alabama	\$482	3	\$590	4	\$605	4	\$630	4
Arizona	80	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arkansas	166	1	144	1	0	1	0	1
California	4,927	31	5,062	32	5,194	32	6,007	43
Colorado	2,876	18	3,180	20	3,263	20	3,996	29
Connecticut	0	0	158	1	162	1	169	1
Delaware	161	1	197	1	202	1	210	2
Florida	1,039	6	1,267	8	1,069	7	1,195	9
Georgia	3,952	25	4,187	26	4,296	26	5,072	36
Hawaii	321	2	165	1	169	1	176	1
Illinois	3,594	22	4,187	26	4,296	26	5,072	36
Indiana	161	1	181	1	186	1	193	1
Kansas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kentucky	321	2	308	2	316	2	329	2
Maryland	857	5	1,202	8	1,233	8	1,284	9
Massachusetts	3,235	20	2,661	17	2,730	17	3,442	25
Michigan	321	2	311	2	319	3	332	2
Minnesota	482	3	415	3	426	3	443	3
Missouri	568	4	311	2	319	2	332	2
New Hampshire	0	0	159	1	163	1	170	1
New Jersey	2,972	19	4,111	26	4,218	26	4,991	36
New York	2,946	18	2,880	18	2,955	18	3,076	22
North Carolina	552	3	461	3	473	3	492	3
Ohio	637	4	773	5	793	5	826	6
Oklahoma	161	1	309	2	317	2	330	2
Oregon	455	3	810	5	831	5	865	6
Pennsylvania	621	4	1,229	8	1,261	8	1,313	10
South Carolina	236	1	482	3	495	3	515	4
South Dakota	161	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	321	2	171	1	175	1	183	1
Texas	3,503	22	3,548	22	3,640	22	4,389	31
Utah	482	3	633	4	649	4	676	5
Virginia	154,779	104	162,381	123	166,603	124	169,234	131
Washington	161	1	148	1	152	1	158	1
Wisconsin	327	2	519	3	532	3	554	4
Total, Available	191,932	335	202,107	374	205,913	376	214,356	462

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

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**Table FNS-87. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)**

Item No.	Item	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022 Estimated	2023 Budget
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$15,966	\$16,721	\$17,173	\$21,948
	Personnel Compensation, Field	23,949	25,082	25,759	32,923
11.0	Total personnel compensation				
12.0	Personal benefits	39,915	41,803	42,932	54,871
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	12,564	17,915	18,399	23,516
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	52,479	59,712	61,331	78,387
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	1,545	1,545	1,545	1,545
22.0	Transportation of things	165	165	165	165
23.3	Communications, utilities and misc. charges	234	234	234	234
24.0	Printing and reproductions	678	678	678	678
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	81,990	81,990	81,990	81,990
26.0	Supplies and materials	447,500	476,250	476,250	502,000
31.0	Equipment	907	952	952	952
41.0	Grants, subsidies and contributions	94,632,993	146,297,440	165,626,126	107,501,288
	Total, other objects	95,218,491	146,918,966	166,249,271	108,167,239
	Reimbursable obligations	55,639	69,000	90,000	95,000
99.9	Total, new obligations	95,274,130	146,987,966	166,339,271	108,262,239

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

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

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

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

Facts in Brief**Program Participation**

SNAP participation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 averaged 41.5 million persons per month, representing a 15.7 percent increase from the average monthly participation in FY 2020.

The following table displays data on benefit costs and participation for FYs 2017 through 2021:

Table FNS-88. SNAP Benefit Costs and Participation

SNAP	2018	2019	2020	2021
Avg. Participation (Millions)	49.81	35.70	35.88	41.50
Benefit Costs (Billions)	\$60.4	\$55.62	\$74.20	\$107.89
Average/Person/Month	\$126.45	\$129.83	\$155.04	\$216.65
% Of Population Participating	12.2	10.8	12.8	12.4
Persons Unemployed (Millions)	6.4	6.1	7.8	7.6

Participation Rates among Eligible People

The most recent figures from *Trends in SNAP Participation Rates for FY 2019* shows that in 2019, 84 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.

Characteristics of SNAP Households

The most recent analysis of household characteristics data, examining 2019 indicates that:

- 81 percent of SNAP households included a child, an elderly (age 60 or older) person, or a person with disabilities;
- The gross income of 80 percent of SNAP households was below the Federal poverty level;
- 36 percent of SNAP households had income at or below 50 percent of poverty;
- 52 percent of SNAP households had income at or below 75 percent of poverty;
- 20 percent of SNAP participants lived in households with earnings.

Program Integrity

Recent data demonstrates that the program integrity efforts of FNS and its State partners are yielding results and continue to trend in the right direction. Trafficking continues to be very low. Trafficking most typically occurs when SNAP benefits are traded for cash or are not used for their intended purpose. In spite of holding trafficking to a low level, more work remains. In FY 2021, FNS again increased efforts to prevent and identify fraud and hold bad actors accountable for misuse of the program.

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

- Continued training of compliance staff;
- Studied authorized stores and data to determine which warrant further investigation: 26,766;
- Imposed sanctions against retailers determined to have committed violations against SNAP: 2,192; and

- Disqualified retailers permanently from SNAP due to trafficking or falsifying an application: 1,144.

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

- Award of five SNAP Fraud Framework Implementation Grants totaling approximately \$2.5 million to fund innovative State projects designed to reduce recipient fraud and enhance integrity using principles from the SNAP Fraud Framework (Indiana, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas and Rhode Island). This assistance is a continuation of FNS' efforts surrounding the SNAP Fraud Framework, a collection of procedures, innovative ideas, and best practices that FNS issued to State agencies in May 2018.
- Worked with the General Service Administration's 18F to design and begin building the nationwide National Accuracy Clearinghouse (NAC). NAC is a real-time database intended to reduce improper payments by preventing duplicate participation across States. The current solution being built will expand the NAC from its current five State pilot to a nationwide system, as required by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill) and will incorporate security measures to protect participants' personally identifiable information. FNS successfully executed a system design change to eliminate the need to retain the most sensitive PII for SNAP participants nationwide. FNS continued working towards publishing regulatory action to mandate NAC data matches nationwide. The NAC is estimated to produce a net reduction in Federal SNAP spending by approximately \$228 million over 5 years, and a decrease in SNAP benefit payments of nearly \$225 million over 5 years due to detection and prevention of duplicate participation.

Participant Characteristics

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

Table FNS-89. Characteristics of SNAP Recipients

Characteristics of SNAP Recipients	2016	2017	2018	2019
Individuals:				
Average Number (in Millions)	43.5	41.5	39.3	35.7
% Children	44.1	43.5	43.6	43.0
% Elderly	11.8	13.1	14.2	16.0
% Disabled Nonelderly Adults	9.1	9.5	9.5	10.0
% Female	56.7	57.2	57.4	57.4
% Nonelderly Adults Registered for Work	30.5	28.9	28.8	28.8
Average Household Size	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Households:				
Average Number (in Millions)	21.5	20.6	19.7	19.7
% Receiving Maximum Benefit	39	37	37	37
% Certified 12 Months or More	71	74	75	75
% with Earned Income	32	31	30	30
% with AFDC/TAFN Income	5	5	4	4
Average Gross Monthly Income	\$814	\$837	\$844	\$844
Average Net Monthly Income	\$374	\$384	\$383	\$383
% With Zero Gross Income	20	19	19	19
% with Zero Net Income	37	36	36	36
% with Gross Monthly Incomes Less than \$400	30	28	28	28
% Gross Income Below Poverty Guidelines	82	81	81	81
% Gross Income Below 50% of Poverty Guideline	40	38	38	38
Average Shelter Deduction	\$398	\$406	\$418	\$418
Average Shelter Expense	\$602	\$622	\$635	\$635
% at Shelter Cap (Maximum shelter deduction)	15	15	14	14

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

General Activities*Regulations Issued in FY 2021*

During FY 2021, four SNAP rulemaking action were published in the *Federal Register*:

- 1) June 10, 2021: Withdrawal of proposed rule; *Revision of Categorical Eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*; *Withdrawal*: Withdraws the proposed rule *Revision of Categorical Eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)* that published in the Federal Register on July 24, 2019. This rule would have refined how receipt of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits may confer categorical eligibility for SNAP. After reviewing and considering the comments received, the proposed rule was withdrawn.
- 2) June 30, 2021: Final Rule; *SNAP Rescission of Requirements for ABAWDS: Notice of Vacatur*: Removes from the Code of Federal Regulations the final rule published on December 5, 2019, titled “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents.” This action responds to a decision of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia that vacated the rule.
- 3) January 5, 2021: Final Rule; *Employment and Training Opportunities in SNAP*: Implements changes made by section 4005 of the 2018 Farm Bill pertaining to the Employment and Training (E&T) program and aspects of the work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs).
- 4) August 13, 2021: Interim Final Rule; *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Non-Discretionary Quality Control Provisions of Title IV of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018*; Codifies statutory requirements enacted by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill). A technical correction to this rule was published September 2, 2021 to correct an error in the rule as previously published.

Online Purchasing Pilot

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

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, FNS expanded SNAP Online Purchasing to additional States and retailers. SNAP online purchasing is currently operational in 47 States and over 97 percent of all households receiving SNAP now have access to online purchasing. The expansion of SNAP online purchasing to independently owned and operated retail stores beyond those included in the original pilot continues to be a priority for the Agency. As such, SNAP is providing customer service and technical assistance to all interested parties and expects numerous additional retailers to stand up online purchasing in FY 2021. The pilot uses technology to improve customer service and food access, so that SNAP participants can shop for food using the internet like all other consumers.

Grants to Improve Program Access and Eligibility Determination

FNS awarded Process and Technology Improvement Grants (PTIG) to local and State SNAP agencies and community partners. The grants are authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, which provides FNS the authority to award \$5 million dollars in funds each year. The FY 2020 awarded projects focused on support efforts to streamline program administration, improve customer service, maintain the highest integrity, and protect the program and American taxpayer dollars.

For FY 2021, FNS awarded seven grants:

- Albany County Department of Social Services (NY) - approximately \$855,000
- Commonwealth of Kentucky – approximately \$915,000
- Kern County Department of Social Services (CA) - approximately \$685,000
- Maine Department of Health and Human Services – approximately \$510,000
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – approximately \$575,000
- Monroe County Department of Social Services (NY) – approximately \$660,000
- SC Thrive (SC) - \$600,000

State Performance Bonuses

The 2018 Farm Bill eliminated performance bonuses, effective beginning in FY 2019 for performance in FY 2018. FNS no longer provides bonus payments to States for any performance measures. While this section removed the authority to

provide bonus payments to States, it did not change the provisions in current law related to State agency liability.

Treasury Offset Program

FNS continues its aggressive efforts to collect debts owed to SNAP. For example, recipients who have not repaid over issuances, by collecting delinquent recipient debts through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP), which 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 \$174 million in delinquent debt was collected through TOP in FY 2021. More than \$3.1 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 FY 2021, 46 States had approved outreach plans.

SNAP Outreach Priorities Memo: In June 2021, FNS issued its first-ever memo outlining priority areas for Fiscal Year 2022 outreach plans. The memo encourages States to target their outreach activities to certain underrepresented or particularly vulnerable populations. Target groups included students, immigrant communities and mixed status families, and veterans. FNS also encouraged States to collaborate with organizations that are both located within and staffed by those from underserved communities.

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 an effort to provide more proactive technical assistance on the front end of new system development, in FY 2018, USDA awarded a 5-year contract on system technical assistance. This work continued in FY 2021. Seven States received technical assistance (Alaska, Hawaii, Nebraska, Minnesota, Missouri, U.S. Virgin Islands, and West Virginia). The contractor focused on strengthening FNS' capacity to ensure that State eligibility systems fully meet SNAP certification policy requirements, direct technical assistance to targeted States in various phases of an eligibility system upgrade and delivered associated trainings to FNS staff.

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

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

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

FY 2020 SNAP-Ed funding is approximately \$441 million, and 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 February 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020.

SNAP-Ed activities are to 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 FY 2022 SNAP-Ed Guidance, released in April 2021, continued policies from the previous year and incorporates new information based on the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill). In alignment with Administration priorities related to advancing opportunities for underserved communities, new in the guidance this year is clarification that FDPIR participants are eligible to receive SNAP-Ed services.

SNAP-Ed Data Improvement: To address provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill, FNS entered into a national agreement with Kansas State University to utilize the Program Evaluation and Reporting Systems (PEARS) for SNAP-Ed electronic data collection and reporting. Through this agreement PEARS will now be available to all State agencies for required annual planning and data reporting. PEARS will improve SNAP-Ed's ability to collect, manage, and aggregate data to measure program effectiveness and accountability at the national level through the development of online modules for the new SNAP-Ed plan submission and annual reporting forms.

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

SNAP-Ed Toolkit: The toolkit is an online, interactive version of the SNAP-Ed Evaluation Framework and a database of nutrition and physical activity interventions. 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 FY 2021, SNAP-Ed began reviewing recipes to make sure they are inclusive and started identifying the recipes for translation into other languages. Approximately 600 SNAP recipes were translated to Spanish and merged into MyPlate Kitchen. This work will continue in FY 2022; the SNAP-Ed Connection team is also reviewing 837 recipes in the MyPlate Kitchen database, to ensure recipes and their names are appropriate and culturally sensitive. New entries to MyPlate Kitchen will be evaluated for authenticity and cultural diversity, in addition to healthfulness, cost and convenience.

SNAP-Ed Equity: In alignment with Administration priorities, FNS facilitated a SNAP-Ed Toolkit training webinar series to SNAP-Ed grantees and stakeholders focused on addressing systemic racism and inequities in program access and implementation. This webinar series for SNAP-Ed grantees and stakeholders continues into FY 2022.

Incentive Programs to Increase Healthy Food Purchases in SNAP

Encouraging SNAP families to purchase more healthy foods remains an important priority for FNS. In FY 2020, FNS continued to work with program partners to provide flexibilities to help improve access to healthy food options for SNAP families through incentive programs.

Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP): The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) program was established by the 2014 Farm Bill to incentivize the purchase of fruits and vegetables by SNAP clients. It replaces the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive pilots initiated by the 2008 Farm Bill. GusNIP is collaboratively administered by FNS and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Under GusNIP, in FY 2019 FNS and NIFA awarded \$41.4 million to 23 organizations in 18 States and the District of Columbia.

FNS works collaboratively with NIFA and the newly formed GusNIP Technical Assistance Center, to support GusNIP grant awardees. *Retailer Incentives:* The 2018 Farm Bill directs FNS to issue guidance for retailers to incentivize a staple food that is identified for increased consumption, consistent with the most recent dietary recommendations. Incentives are often funded by private non-profit organizations, and State governments, and follow a model in which SNAP customers receive a dollar-for-dollar match or discount at the point of sale toward the purchase of SNAP-eligible incentive foods. In FY 2020, FNS approved retailer incentives for the State of Massachusetts, and nonprofit organizations Hunger Free Oklahoma, and Texas Health Resources, to encourage the purchase of more fruits and vegetables among SNAP families.

Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive Project: The 2018 Farm Bill also established a competitive grant(s) for Healthy Fluid Milk Incentives (HFMI) projects to develop and test methods to increase the purchase and consumption of fluid milk by SNAP households by providing an incentive for the purchase of fluid milk at the point of purchase. On July 30, 2020, USDA

awarded \$930,000 to Baylor University Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty. Baylor University Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty will be partnering with South Plains Hunger Solutions Coalition and Lowe’s Supermarkets to develop and test incentives at local Food King grocery stores in Littlefield, Lubbock, and San Angelo, Texas. An additional \$70,000 has been allocated for use by FNS for an independent process evaluation of the HFMI projects. Once the HFMI pilot is operational, shoppers using SNAP benefits at the participating locations to purchase qualifying fluid milk (pasteurized, unflavored and unsweetened cow’s milk - skim or 1 percent) will receive a matching dollar for dollar coupon for additional free milk. The pilot is scheduled to be implemented by May 2021 and will operate for one year.

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 FY 2021, FNS continued operation of three demonstration project types to improve access to the elderly. All FNS approved demonstration projects must maintain cost neutrality and include a rigorous evaluation component.

Combined Application Projects (CAPs) are a partnership between the Social Security Administration (SSA), FNS and State and local agencies to streamline application procedures for individuals receiving SSI benefits. The projects strengthen access to nutrition benefits for the elderly and people with disabilities while improving the administration of SNAP. The combination of standardized benefits or standardized shelter deductions, reduced recertification requirements and eliminating the need for SSI recipients to visit the local SNAP office has significantly increased participation among the elderly and people with disabilities.

In FY 2021, 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 FY 2021, Arkansas implemented a new ESAP. In addition, 12 other States continued to operate ESAPs: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Vermont, and Washington).

Standard Medical Deductions are demonstration projects that ease verification requirements for senior and disabled households with out-of-pocket medical expenses over \$35 per month. In FY 2021, 22 States operated Standard Medical Deduction projects (Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, and Wyoming).

Payment Accuracy

FNS did not issue national or State SNAP payment error rates for FY 2020 due to incomplete data. Appropriations legislation provided State agencies the option to suspend certain Quality Control (QC) regulatory requirements from March 2020 until June 30, 2021 in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. As a result of States opting to suspend the QC regulatory requirements, FNS has only 5 months of validated data for FY 2020, covering October 2019 through February 2020, and expects to have only 3 months of validated data for FY 2021, covering July 2021 through September 2021. Because of incomplete data sets that do not reflect the full fiscal year value of allotments issued by States, FNS cannot determine underpayment and overpayment error rates. Section 16(c)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, defines “overpayment error rate” and “underpayment error rate” in terms of the value of all allotments issued in a fiscal year. FNS therefore has determined the agency cannot establish National and State level payment error rates for Fiscal Year 2020 and 2021, and as such, cannot assess liability amounts for those Federal Fiscal Years.

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

FNS Regional Offices work directly with State agencies to assist them in developing effective corrective action plans to reduce payment errors. Regional Offices provide technical assistance to States through data analysis, policy interpretation,

training, development and monitoring of corrective action plans, facilitating the information exchange with and among States through annual payment accuracy conferences, and State exchange funding. Regional Offices review and validate that States complete corrective actions as required.

Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP)

FNS' role in D-SNAP operations includes 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 waiver 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 FY 2021:

Table FNS-90. SNAP Disaster Assistance

State	Disaster	Total Households (New cases and ongoing HHs)	Total Issuance (D-SNAP benefits and supplements)
Iowa (January)	Severe Storm	36	\$14,670
California (Oct, Nov)	Wildfires	136	58,979
Oregon (October)	Wildfires	162	75,123
Alabama (October)	Hurricane Sally	17,607	7,119,070
California (November)	Wildfires	168	87,773
Louisiana (Oct, Nov, Jan)	Hurricane Delta	50,693	20,475,241
Alabama (Jan, Feb)	Hurricane Zeta	25,776	9,721,624
Louisiana (February)	Hurricane Zeta	26,824	9,639,698
Louisiana (April)	Winter Storms	23,433	10,386,526
Kentucky (June)	Severe Storms	321	160,773
West Virginia (June)	Severe Storms	12	5,745
Louisiana (June)	Severe Storms	5,718	2,514,026
Tennessee (August)	Severe Storms	29	11,966
Michigan (August)	Flooding	21,667	11,077,803
Tennessee (September)	Severe Storms	35	14,634
Louisiana (Sept, Oct)	Hurricane Ida	154,394	67,717,489
TOTAL		327,011	\$139,081,140.00

Employment and Training (E&T)

Background

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

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

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

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

In FY 2019, States reported that approximately 9.7 million participants were subject to SNAP work requirements and registered for work. A majority of SNAP participants are exempt from work requirements due to age, disability, caregiver responsibilities, or because they are already working or participating in a work training program.

SNAP E&T is a Federally funded, State administered program. States use flexible E&T funding to serve lower-skilled, vulnerable adults that might not otherwise receive job training or employment services. The program fills a critical gap in workforce services for this population. In FY 2020, States served an estimated 295,000 participants through their E&T programs.

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 FY 2019, FNS entered a contract with Mathematica for an assessment of the collection, analysis, validation and reporting of SNAP E&T data. Under this project, Mathematica will (1) identify and describe the current State and Federal systems that collect, validate, and analyze E&T data; (2) assess the current and future E&T data needs of Federal, Regional, and State staff; and (3) recommend a plan to improve how Federal, Regional, and State staff collect and use data for E&T program improvement and reporting. The project began in July 2019 and will continue through at least December 2022, due to some delays in scheduling State site visits as a result of COVID-19.

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

Table FNS-91. SNAP E&T Funding Streams

Budget Item	Description	2021 Obligations (Thousands)
100 Percent Federal Grant	Base funding for E&T administration, allocated annually to States based on the percentage of work registrants and ABAWDs in each State	\$110,684
ABAWD 100 Percent Federal Grant	Additional grants for States that guarantee certain activities aimed at the ABAWD population.	2,464
Federal 50 percent Administrative Grants	50 percent reimbursement for States that exceed their 100 percent Federal grant	370,058
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	66,950
TOTAL		\$550,156

Employment and Training (E&T) Pilot Grants: The Agricultural Act of 2014 provided \$200 million for up to ten 3-year individuals who enrolled by December 2017. Key findings include:

- The 10 pilots implemented diverse service models and served various target groups.
- Grantees faced steep implementation challenges such as hiring staff and developing partnerships.
- Both pilot engagement and exit rates were high during the 12-month follow-up period.
- The pilots had few impacts on employment and did not decrease SNAP participation during the fourth quarter.

FNS anticipates receiving the final evaluation reports in FY 2022.

DATA and National Partnership Grants: FNS awarded SNAP E&T Data and Technical Assistance (DATA) grants to four State agencies in FY 2021. The purpose of the DATA Grants is to support the development of State SNAP E&T data collection and reporting systems and are intended to help States better report outcome measures for SNAP E&T participants, meet reporting expectations, and, thereby, support improved, data driven programs. The Grantees are Minnesota, Indiana, Louisiana, Arkansas, and the total amount awarded was \$2,920,839.

In FY2021, FNS awarded approximately \$2.5 million in three-year SNAP E&T National Partnership Grants to two grantees: Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies and Local Initiatives Support Corporation. Grantees will use the funds to develop materials, train subject matter experts, and work with member or affiliate organizations to expand SNAP E&T.

Technical Assistance: Since FY 2015, FNS has operated the *SNAP to Skills Project (S2S)*, a technical assistance (TA) effort that provides States tools and resources to develop employer-driven SNAP E&T programs. Through S2S, FNS offers direct TA to States annually to help them design and build job-driven SNAP E&T programs. In FY 2020-21, the Project worked with seven States, using behavioral science insights to increase participation and engagement in E&T among SNAP households. The participating States were Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. This technical assistance is central to FNS’ efforts to improve the quality of State SNAP E&T programs so more SNAP clients can obtain economic self-sufficiency.

In addition to this direct technical assistance, S2S creates new tools and resources each year for all States. All of these resources are housed on the S2S website, <https://snaptoskills.fns.usda.gov>. The website is designed to be a “one-stop shop” for States interested in building employer-driven programs and expanding their 50/50 program. In FY21, FNS released a new SNAP to Skills resource, *The Road to Engagement: A Toolkit for SNAP E&T Programs*, that provide a framework and approach to identifying and addressing potential engagement challenges in SNAP E&T.

Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems

Electronic benefit transfer (EBT) systems, which replaced the coupon-based method for providing SNAP benefits, were implemented nationwide in June 2004. Each recipient household is issued a plastic benefit card with a magnetic stripe to make food purchases. The cards are associated with benefit accounts, which are debited when food purchases are made. 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.

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

Anti-fraud Locator using EBT Retailer Transactions (ALERT): During FY 2021, FNS released several updates to ALERT, the system for fighting SNAP retailer fraud. The updates ensure continuity of system operations as well as enhancements using the best-suited prevalent architectures and technologies available in the IT industry. These updates enhance FNS’s ability to identify fraudulent activity by implementing updates to existing scans; updating algorithms and Watch List qualifications; creating new patterns to identify suspect retailers; and data mining studies using various statistical tools to identify suspicious behavior.

STARS: Four releases of STARS were completed in FY 2021. STARS is the system used by FNS to manage retailer participation in SNAP. Several system enhancements were made in FY 2021 to ensure the system remains aligned with the needs of end-users and supports financial reconciliation activities.

Electronic benefit transfer (EBT) systems, which replaced the coupon-based method for providing SNAP benefits, were implemented nationwide in June 2004. Each recipient household is issued a plastic benefit card with a magnetic stripe to make food purchases. The cards are associated with benefit accounts, which are debited when food purchases are made. 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.

Studies and Evaluations

FNS published four major reports related to SNAP during FY 2021. The reports are available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/research-analysis>. These include:

- **Expanding Opportunities and Reducing Barriers to Work: Interim Summary Report (Evaluation of SNAP Employment & Training Pilots)** presents short-term findings drawn from the 10 pilot-specific interim evaluation reports. The pilot-specific interim reports and issue briefs on early implementation lessons are also available.
- **The Extent of Trafficking in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: 2015-2017** examines the rate of benefit trafficking SNAP, annualized amount of benefits trafficked, and store violation rate.

- **Barriers that Constrain the Adequacy of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Allotments** identifies the barriers that SNAP participants face when trying to achieve a healthy diet through a nationally representative survey of SNAP participants.
- **The Impact of SNAP Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit Reinstatement in Nine States** examines on how reinstatement of time limits impacted ABAWD employment, annual wages, and program participation.
- **Understanding the Use of SNAP Online Applications** presents information from 46 States about online application features, protocols and procedures used for processing online applications, and perceived advantages and challenges with using online applications.

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 FY 2015. This grant program is administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Farmers' Markets and Direct-Marketing Farmers

In FY 2021, FNS continued work through a grant to a non-profit organization to increase the participation of farmers and markets in SNAP; and thereby improve access to fresh fruits and vegetables by SNAP recipients. This grant was awarded in FY 2020 and a maximum of \$4 million will be provided to the grantee over 4 years. FNS's goal is to gradually move farmers and markets from a subsidized equipment program to a more cost-efficient application-based solution that enables processing via smart devices that are owned by a farmer or market.

In FY 2021, FNS also awarded a grant to a non-profit organization to support the participation of farmers online. This multi-year grant will provide a subsidized ecommerce platform for use by SNAP authorized farmers, The goal is to assist farmers in their ability to accept online SNAP payments.

In FY 2021, FNS also continued working with States to provide SNAP-authorized farmers/markets with SNAP-only equipment (i.e., equipment that can only process SNAP transactions, but not debit/credit transactions), at no cost to the farmers/markets. Twenty-nine States asked for and received such funding in FY 2019 and several States extended access to these funds for one final fiscal year in FY 2022.

As of September 30, 2020, the number of SNAP-authorized farmers markets and direct marketing farmers totaled 1,930. These farmers/markets had SNAP redemptions over \$14,153,343 million in FY 2020.

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.

Beginning in 2001, NAP program rules provided that 75 percent of NAP benefits were redeemable for eligible food items at certified NAP retailers through EBT; the remaining 25 percent of benefits were available as cash and intended food purchases. Section 4025 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 requires the Secretary to review cash nutrition assistance benefits in Puerto Rico by studying the history of cash benefits, barriers to redemption with non-cash benefits, usage of cash benefits for the purchase of nonfood items, and other factors. The provision also restricts the Secretary from approving any nutrition assistance plan for FY 2017 that provides more than 20 percent of benefits in cash. Due to disasters, there was a temporary hold at 20 percent into FY 2018, which ended on December 31, 2017. In FY 2018, cash was limited to 15 percent of benefits; in FY 2019, cash is limited to 10 percent of benefits; in FY 2020, cash is limited to 5 percent; and in FY 2021, no benefits shall be in the form of cash. The Secretary may make exemptions if discontinuation of cash

benefits will have significant adverse effects.

Due to the disasters, Puerto Rico received the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017, which delivered an additional \$1.27 billion. These funds allowed Puerto Rico to expand assistance to additional households and increase the benefit amount for current and new participants on a temporary basis. From this appropriation, Puerto Rico submitted a Comprehensive Plan, which was approved by FNS, and expanded eligibility standards and increased NAP benefits. Within the regular NAP block grant, the maximum allotment for a family of four was \$410; with the addition of the disaster funds, the max allotment for a four-person household is \$649. Puerto Rico anticipates being able to serve households up to nearly 100 percent of poverty (net income limit) under the expanded eligibility criteria. An additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief was approved by Congress on June 6, 2019, which granted an additional \$600 million to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for disaster nutrition assistance. These funds were available until September 30, 2020.

Facts in Brief

- On average, an estimated 1.53 million people were served monthly during FY 2021.
- In FY 2021, total benefit costs were \$1.98 billion for the Regular NAP, and \$2.1 billion for the NAP Relief Grant, for nutrition assistance program recipients.
- Puerto Rico spent an estimated \$39 million of Federal funds on administrative activities in FY 2021, which are matched by an equivalent amount of State funds.

Federal Responsibilities of the Block Grant

Puerto Rico proposes its annual program plan that estimates the costs of benefits, administration, and other projects in July for the fiscal year beginning on the following October 1. FNS must review and approve the Commonwealth's annual plan and monitor program operations to ensure program integrity. These monitoring activities include reviewing financial reports of obligations and expenditures and on-site management reviews of selected program operations. The actual cost of these components for FYs 2018 through 2021 are as follows:

Table FNS-92. Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico Summary of Funding

	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual
Benefits Costs	\$1,869,360	\$1,889,307	\$1,906,371	\$1,977,156
Administrative Costs	31,242	29,229	28,760	31,224
Nutrition Education Program	58	45	35	35
Total Federal Funds	1,900,602	1,918,537	1,935,132	2,008,400
State Administrative Costs	31,242	29,229	28,760	31,224
Total Program Costs	1,900,602	1,947,766	1,963,892	2,039,644

NAP Relief Grant

Table FNS-93. NAP 2020 and 2021 Supplemental Relief

	20/21 FFCRA CARES	2021 ARPA	2021 NAP PEBT
Benefit Costs	\$294,051	\$250,459	\$716,095
Administrative Costs	2,743	50	1,777
Nutrition Education Program	0	0	0
Total Federal Funds	296,794	250,509	717,872
State Administrative Costs	0	0	0
Total Program Costs	296,794	250,509	717,872

Participation

From its inception, the NAP in Puerto Rico served a much higher proportion of the total population than the United States as a whole, due to the significantly lower living standards in Puerto Rico. This continues to be the case under the block grant program. An average of 1.53 million persons were served monthly or about 54 percent of Puerto Rico's total estimated population of 2.8 million participated in the program in FY 2021. Average monthly participation for FYs 2018 through 2021 actual is as follows:

Table FNS-94. Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico Summary of Participation

	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual
Average Number of Person (million)	1.28	1.34	1.43	1.53
Average Number of Households	689,873	726,387	758,367	858,333
Average Household Size (persons)	1.86	1.84	1.88	1.90
Average Benefit per Household	\$315	\$299	\$294	\$292

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICAN SAMOA**Program Mission**

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

- A monthly average of 4,163 persons, or about 7.3 percent of American Samoa’s total estimated population of 55,519 was served during FY 2021.
- In FY 2021, average monthly benefits cost \$567,569 or \$136.34 per person. American Samoa spent \$1,218,173 for administrative activities for FY 2021. The block granting provides for 100 percent of administrative and benefit costs.
- In FY 2021, American Samoa received \$7,920,085 for P-EBT, \$500,000 for the administration of the program and \$7,920,085 for benefits.
- The program serves the low-income elderly, blind, and disabled population.
- American Samoa utilizes printed food coupons.

In June 2019, Congress appropriated additional \$18 million in Supplemental Disaster Recovery Food Assistance funds, pursuant to the authorities contained in the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019 – H.R. 2157, which authorized disaster nutrition assistance to American Samoa in response to the presidentially declared major disasters and emergency funds, to continue providing nutrition assistance benefits. American Samoa used these funds in FY 2020 to temporarily expand assistance to additional households and increased the benefit amount for current and new participants through September 30, 2020. American Samoa submitted a comprehensive plan, which was reviewed and approved by FNS. The period of performance for the cooperative agreement began on September 30, 2019 and ended on September 30, 2020. The funds were provided in a separate account in the existing AS NAP Letter of Credit.

- Benefit expenditures of \$17,494,718
- Number of Participants served 17,750
- Administrative Cost of \$487,678

On April 17, 2020, the President declared that another disaster exists in American Samoa and authorized a total of \$1,197,532 in funds from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (FFCRA) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) for nutrition assistance. This was in response to a COVID-19 public health emergency pursuant to section 251(b) (2)(AXi) of the Balance Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. The Department of Health and Human Services of American Samoa (ASHHS) proposed to implement a plan to provide nutrition assistance for American Samoa’s low-income individuals who experience economic impact from the Novel Coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) pandemic. ASHHS estimated that 1000 individuals will be served and benefits will be provided in the form of coupons and will be capped at \$139 per household. American Samoa provided benefits to 4,402 individuals impacted by COVID, for a total of \$2,178,120 in benefit issuance, the administrative cost was \$221,880.

For FY 2021, American Samoa had an operating budget, including benefits and administrative expenditures of \$18,138,744. The budget consisted of the following:

FY 2021 \$8,185,00 (2021 Consolidated Appropriation Bill)

- Benefit expenditures of \$6,818,227
- Number of Participants served monthly 4,324
- Administrative costs of \$1,223,068

For FY 2021, \$2,400,000 COVID Relief funding

- Benefit expenditures of \$2,178,120

- Number of Participants served monthly 4,471
- Administrative costs of \$221,880

For FY 2021, \$7,553,744 PEBT funding

- PEBT Benefit expenditures \$7,420,085
- Number of students served 12,888
- Administrative costs of \$133,659

For FY 2022, American Samoa's block grant increased to \$10,047 million.

Federal Responsibilities of the Block Grant

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

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Program Mission

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

Section 4031 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 authorizes a feasibility study on implementing SNAP (in a manner similar to SNAP in the States) or an appropriate alternative in CNMI. In August 2016, the feasibility study was completed and published. CNMI opted to use the additional funding appropriated under the Agricultural Act of 2014 to enhance their existing Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP), which was an authorized option. CNMI's enhanced NAP called E-NAP increases the income eligibility limits, increases the allotment benefits for each of the islands, implements a new eligibility system with Electronic Benefit Transfer interface capabilities, and adjusts resources (staffing and administrative costs) as needed. CNMI was approved to receive funding for the E-NAP as follows: \$13.5 million (FY 2016) and \$8.5 million (for each of FYs 2017 and 2018), for a total of \$30.5 million. CNMI signed a grant agreement (FNS 529) that allows CNMI to use the funding during the period of performance. These funds were fully utilized for benefit expenditures of \$26,777,180 and administrative costs of \$3,722,820.

Facts in Brief

- In FY 2021, CNMI had a total operating budget including administrative expenditures and benefits of \$46,557,902. This amount included the P-EBT administration of \$485,997 and \$11,114,699 for benefits. The carry over amount from FY 2020 was \$8,809,206.
- In FY 2021, CNMI NAP spent \$5,458,407 in the administration of the program and \$32,402,288 in benefits, totaling \$37,860,696.
- In FY 2021, average monthly benefits were \$2,198,134 with an average of \$494 per household
- The remaining funding of E-NAP is approximately \$3 million that has been obligated to be expended by the end of FY 2021.
- CNMI NAP is allowed to set its eligibility standards within the capped block grant.
- CNMI NAP utilizes food coupons.
- CNMI NAP utilizes a new modernized eligibility system that was fully completed in June 2020.
- CNMI NAP is currently working on the specifications for an RFP for procurement of an EBT system.

In June 2019, Congress appropriated additional \$25.2 million in Supplemental Disaster Recovery Food Assistance funds. CNMI used these funds to provide nutrition assistance benefits to current and new participants through September 30, 2020. CNMI expects to provide nutrition assistance to approximate 3,624 households. CNMI submitted a comprehensive plan that was reviewed and approved by FNS. For FY 2022, CNMI's block grant will increase to \$30 million, this includes the current \$12,148 million, pending approval by Congress are the remaining \$17,852 million. Additionally, another \$30 million was received from the ARPA funds and will be utilized to provide benefits and to hire additional

personnel.

Federal Responsibilities of the Block Grant and Enhanced Funds

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

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

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (FDPIR)

Program Mission

FDPIR is an alternative nutrition assistance program to SNAP for income-eligible households residing on Indian reservations and income-eligible Indian tribal households in designated service areas near reservations or 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 over 100 products including a wide selection of fresh produce as well as offerings of traditional foods. The variety of foods available in the FDPIR food benefit package includes:

- Beef, chicken, pork, fish, and bison
- Fresh, frozen, canned, and dried fruits, bottled juices and vegetables
- Pasta, cereal, rice, flour, bakery mix, yellow cornmeal, blue cornmeal and other grains
- Canned soups and dried beans
- Dried egg mix and shell eggs, cheese, low-fat milk, nonfat dry and evaporated milk, vegetable oil and butter
- Peanut butter and peanuts

Federal administrative funding is provided to ITOs and State agencies to support the administrative cost of operating the program. 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. During FY 2020, FNS worked to implement FDPIR-specific provisions included in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Facts in Brief

Federal administrative funding is provided to ITOs and State agencies to support the administrative cost of operating the program. 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. During FY 2021, FNS worked to implement a program specific demonstration project included in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Table FNS-95. FDPIR Participation and Costs

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

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

Self-Determination Demonstration Project: During FY 2021, FNS began implementation of the FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration Project authorized under the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L 115-334, the 2018 Farm Bill). The demonstration project allows for FNS to enter self-determination contracts with Tribes to purchase food for distribution to their FDPIR participants in lieu of USDA purchasing the food. FNS received a total of \$6 million in FY 2020 and FY 2021 appropriations combined to carry out this demonstration project. Contracts were awarded to 8 Tribal Organizations to participate in the demonstration project with some contracts expected to last up to three

years. Participating Tribal Organizations proposed to purchase a variety of products including meats, fish, grains and fresh produce. During FY 2021, FNS also entered into a formal agreement with the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to support and manage the contract execution of the demonstration project. BIA has longstanding experience and expertise in self-determination and, through the partnership, assisted FNS in drafting, negotiating, managing, and executing self-determination contracts for the selected Tribal Organizations.

Food Package: FNS continues its commitment to improve the food package offered under FDPIR through the FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group. The Work Group, consisting of National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (NAFDPIR)-appointed representatives, including nutritionists, and FNS and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) staff, is focusing on ways to better meet the nutritional needs and food preferences of program participants nationwide. The Work Group seeks to enhance the food package by exploring ways to increase the variety, flexibility and acceptability of products offered. In FY 2021, as a result of Work Group feedback, FNS implemented a Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Food Package for program participants that consists of up to an additional 21 units of food across food groups and added four new produce items (red peppers, jalapeno peppers, iceberg lettuce, and spinach) to the package. Since FY 2015, FNS and its procurement partner, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), have awarded contracts to deliver a selection of traditional foods including blue cornmeal, ground bison, frozen wild salmon, catfish, traditionally harvested wild rice, and in FY2021, walleye.

Nutrition Education Activities: In FY 2021, FNS awarded \$992,960 in FDPIR Nutrition Education Grants to 14 grantees benefiting FDPIR participants across nine States. The grants promote the healthy foods offered in FDPIR and align with the goals of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025*. In FY 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 FY 2021. FNS continues to work with OKTEP on finalizing the curriculum. FNS will follow safety protocols in determining when in-person training will commence.

FDPIR Automated Inventory System: In FY 2018, FNS began to replace the Automated Inventory System (AIS), an old, non-web-based system used by most Indian Tribal Organizations to manage inventory and food issuance for FDPIR. FNS initiated work on the new Integrated Food Management System (IFMS), an updated food ordering and inventory system, which will provide enhanced security and improved business processes that support FDPIR operations. During FY 2020, FNS worked closely with the FDPIR Tribal community on requirements for IFMS and provided web-based demos training to show its functionality while it is under development. The first deployment of IFMS was successfully completed in October 2020 to five ITOs. Implementation of IFMS to additional ITOs continued during the year with a total of 72 ITOs using the system by the end of FY 2021.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**Table FNS-96. Summary of Benefit Costs, Participation and State Administrative Funding FY 2021**

State or Territory	Persons	Households	Total Value of Benefits Issued	Average Monthly Benefit per Person	State Administrative, Nutrition Education, and Employment & Training Funding
Alabama	850	454	\$2,318,081	\$227.24	\$55,532
Alaska	86	43	302,800	294.82	14,456
Arizona	1,147	599	3,183,084	231.31	71,836
Arkansas	404	224	1,005,895	207.73	45,507
California	4,777	2,824	14,025,864	244.70	1,127,757
Colorado	578	306	1,630,590	234.98	70,165
Connecticut	441	265	1,284,912	242.91	67,387
Delaware	154	83	426,013	231.00	17,647
District of Columbia	172	107	504,793	244.28	24,638
Florida	3,822	2,088	9,003,228	196.31	109,336
Georgia	1,641	795	4,092,149	207.86	111,346
Hawaii	211	122	1,085,414	429.27	24,030
Idaho	139	67	285,326	170.85	9,988
Illinois	2,481	1,593	6,873,888	230.85	158,924
Indiana	858	434	2,202,476	214.03	55,331
Iowa	420	276	932,576	184.91	25,140
Kansas	214	104	544,509	211.97	29,136
Kentucky	805	462	2,373,023	245.73	75,309
Louisiana	1,062	567	2,975,979	233.45	94,115
Maine	276	113	449,881	135.86	17,486
Maryland	1,052	575	2,851,137	225.92	91,252
Massachusetts	1,442	859	3,126,343	180.63	70,649
Michigan	1,563	978	4,411,128	235.16	154,401
Minnesota	556	331	1,356,160	203.09	75,513
Mississippi	418	206	1,069,660	213.02	27,792
Missouri	727	359	1,932,238	221.44	57,765
Montana	120	64	274,306	191.18	13,316
Nebraska	192	96	438,670	189.98	24,065
Nevada	486	260	1,268,562	217.66	25,808
New Hampshire	81	43	213,881	221.38	9,978
New Jersey	953	515	2,829,785	247.42	175,435
New Mexico	684	381	1,609,248	196.13	28,267
New York	2,906	1,713	8,702,534	249.60	341,631
North Carolina	2,048	1,160	5,273,129	214.61	134,938
North Dakota	56	28	126,908	188.72	13,506
Ohio	2,741	1,429	4,814,585	146.39	120,028
Oklahoma	753	423	1,639,517	181.37	51,395
Oregon	800	512	2,366,079	246.59	138,357
Pennsylvania	2,137	1,325	6,647,193	259.22	188,798
Rhode Island 2/	198	129	476,366	200.12	19,290
South Carolina	820	505	2,043,473	207.70	29,065
South Dakota	76	36	192,709	210.10	8,993
Tennessee	1,307	787	3,792,747	241.79	94,134
Texas	3,732	1,713	12,661,458	282.76	189,050
Utah	228	104	558,925	204.12	19,614
Vermont	75	44	201,116	222.74	12,065
Virginia	1,273	671	1,644,834	156.65	156,858
Washington	1,114	716	3,270,420	244.68	150,357
West Virginia	419	263	1,050,159	208.93	20,006
Wisconsin	821	440	2,175,175	220.73	68,452
Wyoming	29	13	73,339	209.84	7,379
American Samoa 1/	0	0	0	0.00	0
CNMI 1/	0	0	0	0.00	0
Guam	42	16	168,228	334.61	1,796
Virgin Islands	26	13	96,223	306.79	3,635
Anticipated Adjustment	0	0	-137,450	0.00	907,024
TOTAL	50,411	28,232	\$135,995,935	\$225.04	\$5,635,677

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

1/ These entities receive a fixed grant and do not report participation.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**Table FNS-97. Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Participation and Funding FY 2021**

State or Territory	Average Monthly Participation	Food Costs 1/	Admin Funding 2/	CARES Act Facility & Improvement Equipment Grants	CARES Act Supplement Administrative Grants	Total
Alaska	339	\$ 299,407	\$168,948	0	0	\$ 468,355
Arizona	4,407	4,238,165	3,319,065	0	0	7,557,230
California	2,349	2,033,708	3,101,111	\$18,186	\$23,788	5,176,793
Colorado	242	214,471	235,506	0	0	449,977
Idaho	879	777,680	714,554	0	0	1,492,234
Kansas	452	395,367	237,047	0	0	632,414
Michigan	1,088	990,400	1,361,874	0	0	2,352,275
Minnesota	1,148	1,088,665	1,983,329	0	51,550	3,123,544
Mississippi	727	642,284	341,768	0	0	984,052
Montana	1,726	1,580,593	3,471,437	0	0	5,052,030
Nebraska	628	507,521	610,829	0	100,362	1,218,712
Nevada	794	527,577	519,441	0	14,580	1,061,598
New Mexico	1,686	1,380,369	1,872,946	0	70,643	3,323,958
New York	206	152,013	276,939	13,958	26,877	469,787
North Carolina	642	510,206	427,182	40,750	0	978,138
North Dakota	3,608	3,142,846	4,083,457	912,088	810,751	8,949,142
Oklahoma	17,650	17,939,064	11,489,156	172,849	251,510	29,852,579
Oregon	306	288,094	683,862	0	0	971,956
South Dakota	5,123	4,899,969	4,496,014	0	771,672	10,167,655
Texas	29	19,918	184,011	0	0	203,929
Utah	240	217,073	83,199	0	0	300,272
Washington	1,692	1,422,133	2,279,865	94,606	249,111	4,036,715
Wisconsin	1,679	1,373,874	2,094,779	0	69,113	3,537,766
Wyoming	344	292,553	326,179	0	0	618,732
AMS/WBSCM/Comp Payment	0	856,801	0	0	0	856,801
Undistributed	0	20,527,259	12,890,605	14,909,491	0	48,327,355
TOTAL	47,983	\$66,318,011	\$57,244,103	\$16,161,928	\$2,439,957	\$142,164,000

SOURCE: FPRS FNS-152 data – Food distributed to participants in fiscal year 2021.

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**Table FNS-98. Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations *Quantity and Value of Commodities FY 2021***

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
Beans, Canned, Black, Low-Sodium	35,573	16,570
Beans, Canned, Green, Low-Sodium	493,290	323,870
Beef, Fine Ground, 85/15 Frozen	624,000	2,330,447
Beef, Rounds Roast, Frozen	120,000	499,504
Blueberries, Highbush, Frozen	39,600	53,737
Butter, Salted	41,040	75,103
Buttery spread, Light, Zero Grams Trans Fat	121,095	149,599
Cereal, Corn Flakes	19,440	25,221
Cereal, Corn Squares	183,456	377,784
Cereal, Oat Circles	14,112	18,204
Cereal, Rice Crisps	22,680	32,573
Cereal, Wheat Bran Flakes	21,802	22,565
Cheese, American	633,600	1,174,774
Cheese, Blended, American, Reduced Fat	277,200	446,763
Chicken, Boneless Breast, Frozen	39,000	107,640
Corn, Canned, Cream, Low-Sodium	36,450	24,057
Corn, Canned, No Salt Added	513,958	577,136
Cornmeal, Blue	38,016	40,297
Cornmeal, Yellow	128,520	43,504
Crackers, Unsalted	22,680	49,896
DOD Fresh Produce	0	5,606,254
Egg Mix, Dried	36,000	289,004
Flour, All Purpose, Enriched	42,840	11,031
Flour, 100% White Whole Wheat	80,000	21,600
Fruit/Nut Mix, Dry	34,944	91,480
Juice, Orange, Unsweetened	107,010	59,040
Macaroni and Cheese, Dry	356,265	187,958
Milk, Evaporated, Canned, Skim	111,537	77,786
Milk, UHT, 1%	619,200	266,349
Mixed Fruit, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	911,250	773,048
Mixed Vegetables, Canned, Low-Sodium	291,600	195,017
Macaroni	71,040	45,466
Oats Rolled	151,200	113,194
Peaches, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	291,600	289,688
Peanut butter	241,920	329,709
Pears, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	255,150	215,282
Peas, Canned, Low-Sodium	182,250	130,847
Pork Chops, Frozen	114,000	294,500
Potatoes, Canned, Low-Sodium	183,600	98,609
Rice, Wild	48,000	911,520
Salmon, Fillets, Frozen	180,000	1,937,196
Soup, Cream of Mushroom, Reduced Sodium	34,690	27,280
Spaghetti	36,800	17,075
Spinach, Canned, Low-Sodium	576,555	518,900
Tomatoes, Canned, No Salt Added	211,410	192,164
Tortilla, Whole Grain-Rich	36,000	27,360
Walleye, Fillets, Frozen	43,800	466,904
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expenses	0	856,801
Anticipated Adjustment	0	11,571,785
Total Commodity Entitlement	6,648,446	\$30,213,450
<i>BONUS COMMODITIES</i>		

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
Bison, Ground, Lean, Frozen	80,000	\$552,400
Peaches, Cups, Frozen	60,480	138,348
Total Bonus Commodities	140,480	\$690,748
<i>FOOD PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM COMMODITIES</i>		
Juice, Orange, Individual, Frozen, Unsweetened	437,760	\$193,229
Pork, Patty, Cooked Frozen	456,000	1,024,480
Pork, Pulled, Cooked, Frozen	480,000	1,138,000
Strawberry, Whole, Unsweetened, Frozen	475,200	560,683
Total Food Purchase and Distribution Program Commodities	1,848,960	\$2,916,392
<i>CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT (CARES) COMMODITIES</i>		
Applesauce Cups, Unsweetened	229,320	\$189,644
Apricots, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	36,450	44,210
Four, Bakery Mix, Low-fat	177,500	214,493
Beans, Canned, Black, Low-Sodium	71,145	39,857
Beans, Canned, Green, Low-Sodium	898,493	598,068
Beans, Canned, Light Red Kidney, Low Sodium	106,718	60,701
Beans, Canned, Pinto, Low-Sodium	142,290	78,561
Beans, Canned, Refried, Low-Sodium	257,040	172,444
Beans, Canned, Vegetarian, Low-Sodium	73,440	41,325
Beans, Dry, Great Northern, No Salt Added	80,640	46,435
Beans, Dry, Pinto, No Salt Added	161,280	93,304
Beef Fine Ground, 85/15, Frozen	968,000	3,127,027
Beef, Rounds Roast, Frozen	680,000	3,089,832
Beef, Stew, Canned	612,000	1,361,765
Blueberries, Highbush, Frozen, Unsweetened	118,800	171,930
Butter, Salted	225,720	464,726
Buttery Spread, Light, Zero Grams Trans Fat	242,190	323,044
Carrots, Canned, Low-Sodium	182,250	112,590
Cereal, Corn Flakes	174,960	209,847
Cereal Corn Squares	90,720	185,985
Cereal, Oat Circles	84,672	93,704
Cereal, Rice Crisps	79,380	110,736
Cereal, Wheat Bran Flakes	87,208	94,780
Cereal, Wheat Shredded	132,840	137,711
Cheese, American, Reduced Fat	435,600	682,411
Cheese, American	1,188,000	2,165,154
Chicken, Boneless Breast, Frozen	507,000	1,229,670
Chicken, Whole, Frozen	237,600	287,243
Corn, Canned, No Salt Added	665,703	480,405
Cornmeal, Blue	76,032	106,825
Cornmeal, Yellow	214,200	75,608
Crackers, Unsalted	272,160	676,998
Cranberry Sauce, Canned	73,440	62,914
DOD Fresh		1,015,000
Egg Mix, Dried	108,000	844,175
Egg Noodles	92,160	68,959
Flour All-Purpose, Enriched	1,199,520	351,438
Flour, 100% White Whole Wheat	80,000	27,980
Fruit/Nut Mix, Dry	139,776	377,060
Hominy, Canned	107,865	92,167

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
Juice, Apple, Unsweetened	1,012,158	520,992
Juice, Cherry Apple, Unsweetened	642,060	436,578
Juice, Cranberry Apple, Unsweetened	447,250	266,969
Juice, Grape Concord, Unsweetened	356,700	236,785
Juice, Orange, Unsweetened	1,159,988	603,759
Juice, Tomato, Unsweetened	178,350	65,631
Macaroni	261,180	106,549
Macaroni and Cheese	427,521	280,133
Milk, Sim, Evaporated, Canned	371,790	306,645
Milk, Nonfat Dry	119,808	390,364
Milk 1% UHT	3,947,400	1,793,095
Mixed Fruit, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	162,450	150,805
Mixed Vegetables, Canned, Low-Sodium	145,800	113,724
Oil, Vegetable	261,954	226,467
Peaches, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	300,713	329,824
Peanut Butter	311,040	431,734
Peanuts, Roasted	51,840	75,168
Pears, Canned, Extra Light Syrup	193,388	170,347
Peas, Canned, Low-Sodium	546,750	385,106
Plums, Dried	36,000	96,000
Pork Chops, Frozen	494,000	1,458,961
Pork, Ham, Frozen	1,756,800	4,611,405
Potatoes, Canned, Low-Sodium	367,200	212,364
Potatoes, Dehydrated	270,000	401,433
Pumpkin, Canned, Low-Sodium	255,150	261,857
Raisins	166,640	168,672
Rice, White	9,000	4,116
Rotini, Whole Grain	64,800	35,958
Soup, Cream of Mushroom, Reduced Sodium	173,448	138,732
Soup, Canned, Tomato, Low-Sodium	35,475	22,264
Soup, Canned, Vegetable, Low-Sodium	35,475	34,518
Spaghetti	414,460	191,761
Spaghetti Sauce, Canned, Low-Sodium	309,893	201,144
Spinach, Canned, Low-Sodium	67,830	79,813
Tomatoes, Canned, No Salt Added	717,663	586,358
Tortilla, Whole Grain-Rich	108,000	100,080
Walleye, Fillets, Frozen	29,200	310,980
TOTAL CARES COMMODITIES	27,467,284	\$35,413,813
Grand Total FDPIR	34,256,209	\$66,318,011

Source: WBCSM—Sales Order and contract information.

ACCOUNT 4: COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

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

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, [\$442,070,000] \$464,210,000, to remain available through September 30, [2023] 2024: 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 [2022] 2023 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, [2023] 2024: 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. Note. -- A full-year 2022 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (Division A of P.L. 117-43, as amended). The amounts included for 2022 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT***Table FNS-99. Lead-Off Tabular Statement***

Item	Amount
Budget Estimate, 2022	\$426,700,000
Change in Appropriation	<u>+37,510,000</u>
Budget Estimate, 2023	<u><u>464,210,000</u></u>

PROJECT STATEMENT**Table FNS-100. Appropriations Project Statement (thousands of dollars, Full Time Equivalents)**

Item	2020		2021		2022		2023		Inc/ Dec	Chg Key
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE		
Discretionary Appropriations:										
Commodity Supplemental Food Program	\$245,000	-	\$325,000	-	\$325,000	-	\$338,640	-	\$+13,640	(1)
Farmer's Market	18,548	-	21,000	-	21,000	-	24,500	-	+3,500	(2)
TEFAP Admin	79,630	-	79,630	-	79,630	-	100,000	-	+20,370	(3)
Nuclear Affected Islands	574	-	574	-	574	-	574	-	-	
Disaster Assistance	496	-	496	-	496	-	496	-	-	
Total Regular Appropriations	344,248	3	426,700	3	426,700	3	464,210	3	37,510	
Mandatory Appropriation/Transfer:										
TEFAP Farm Bill Projects	3,764	-	3,772	-	3,772	-	3,772	-	-	
Sequestration	236	-	228	-	228	-	228	-	-	
Total Direct Appropriations	4,000	3	4,000	3	4,000	3	4,000	3	-	
Supplemental Appropriations:										
TEFAP Trade Mitigation Reimbursable FFCRA	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TEFAP FFCRA Food Supplemental	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TEFAP FFCRA Admin Supplemental	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
CARES Act										
TEFAP Food CARES Act	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TEFAP Admin CARES Act	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Emergency Supplemental (Division N)										
TEFAP COVID	-	-	400,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
CSFP COVID	-	-	13,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
American Rescue Plan										
CSFP Rescue Plan Supplemental	-	-	37,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	851,000	3	450,000	3	-	3	-	3	-	
Total Adjusted Appropriations	1,199,248	3	880,700	3	430,700	3	468,210	3	37,510	
Transfers In:										
Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program ¹	19,385	-	19,426	-	19,426	-	19,426	-	-	
Sequestration	1,215	-	1,174	-	1,174	-	1,174	-	-	
Nutrition Services Incentive Program ²	1,381	-	1,348	-	1,438	-	-	-	-1,438	
Total Transfers In	21,981	-	21,948	-	22,038	-	20,600	-	-1,438	
Total Adjusted Appropriation	1,221,229	3	902,648	3	452,738	3	488,810	3	36,072	
Less:										
Transfers, Trade Mitigation & TEFAP Farm Bill	-25,981	-	-25,948	-	-26,038	-	-24,600	-	1,438	
Total CAP Appropriation	1,195,248	3	876,700	3	426,700	3	464,210	3	37,510	

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

² Section 311(d)(3) of the Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. 3030a) authorizes the transfer of NSIP funds from HHS for the purchase of USDA Foods and related expenses for the elderly. The NSIP amounts for FY 2023 will be determined at a later date.

PROJECT STATEMENT**Table FNS-101. Obligations Project Statement (thousands of dollars, Full Time Equivalents)**

Item	2020		2021		2022		2023		Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE	
Discretionary Obligations:									
Commodity Supplemental Food Program	\$244,518	-	\$330,779	-	\$325,000	-	\$338,640	-	\$13,640
Farmer's Market	19,579	-	29,641	-	21,000	-	24,500	-	3,500
TEFAP Admin	80,175	-	88,657	-	79,630	-	100,000	-	20,370
Nuclear Affected Islands	574	-	574	-	574	-	574	-	-
Disaster Assistance	462	-	322	-	496	-	496	-	-
Total Regular Discretionary Obligations	344,720	3	449,973		426,700	3	464,210	3	37,510
Mandatory Direct Obligations:									
TEFAP Farm Bill Projects	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-
Sequestration	-245	-	-236	-	-228	-	-228	-	-
Total Regular Mandatory Obligations	3,755		3,764		3,772		3,772		
Supplemental Obligations:									
TEFAP Trade Mitigation Reimbursable	1,012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEFAP Supplemental (Hurricane Maria)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FFCRA									
TEFAP FFCRA Food Supplemental	116,609	-	183,391	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEFAP FFCRA Admin Supplemental	87,535	-	12,465	-	-	-	-	-	-
CARES Act									
TEFAP Food CARES Act	256,145	-	43,855	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEFAP Admin CARES Act	132,052	-	965	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Supplemental (Division N)									
TEFAP Commodity COVID Supplemental	-	-	326,387	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEFAP Admin COVID Supplemental	-	-	73,280	-	-	-	-	-	-
CSFP Commodity COVID Supplemental	-	-	10,400	-	-	-	-	-	-
CSFP Admin COVID Supplemental	-	-	2,600	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Rescue Plan									
CSFP Food Rescue Plan Supplemental	-	-	35,484	-	-	-	-	-	-
CSFP Admin Rescue Plan Supplemental	-	-	1,516	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Supplemental Obligations	609,874	3	691,009	3	-	3	-	3	-
Obligations from Transfers In:									
Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program	22,375	-	24,908	-	19,426	-	19,426	-	-
Sequestration	-1,215	-	-1,174	-	1,174	-	1,174	-	-
Total Senior Farmer's Market Obligations	21,160	-	23,734	-	20,600	-	20,600	-	-
Nutrition Services Incentive Program	1,448	-	1,348	-	1,438	-	-	-	-1,438
Subtotal Transfers In	22,608	-	25,082	-	22,038	-	20,600	-	-1,438
Total Adjusted Obligations	980,957	3	1,169,162	3	452,510	3	488,582	3	36,072
Recoveries (non-add)*	11,397	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Lapsing (non-add)*	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, SOY (non-add)*	4,467	-	247,474	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, EOY (non-add)*	249,710	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total CAP Obligations	980,957	3	1,169,162	3	452,510	3	488,582	3	36,072

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

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The numbered justifications items are keyed to the Change Key (Chg Key) column on the Project Statement.

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

The FY 2023 request for the Commodity Assistance Program (CAP) reflects an increase of \$37,510,000.

- (1) An increase of \$13,640,000 for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (\$325,000,000 and 3 staff years available in FY 2022).

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

According to the Census Bureau, the elderly population in the United States has been growing over the past several years and will continue to grow by an additional 27 percent by 2050. SNAP data shows that, of the proportion of the elderly population who are eligible, only about 41 percent currently receive SNAP benefits. This means that 59 percent of the low-income, elderly population must rely on other sources of food assistance through food banks and food pantries, and programs such as CSFP.

- (2) An increase of \$3,500,000 in the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (\$21,000,000 available in FY 2022).

The WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) provides a direct link between nutrition and the Nation's small resource farmers by providing women, older infants, and children participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), special coupons to purchase and consume fresh local 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 and become a major income source. The FMNP is available in 49 State agencies, U.S. Territories and federally recognized ITOs.

USDA FNS has identified approximately \$3.5 million in unmet funding need based on a review of FMNP State agency expansion requests. In addition to maintaining caseload levels for FY 23, the funding will be used to expand the size of State agency programs and add new FMNP State agencies, promoting access to fresh, local fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Funds will be used for administrative and food costs, the latter to include increases to benefits per participant within currently established limits.

FMNP State agencies may provide an annual benefit to participants which may not be less than \$10 per year nor more than \$30 per year. FMNP benefits are separate and distinct from WIC cash-value benefit.

- (3) An increase of \$20,370,000 in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (\$79,630,000 available in FY 2022).

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

The Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983, as amended, authorizes \$100 million annually for TEFAP administrative funding; however, despite the ongoing demand for additional administrative funds, administrative appropriations have never reached this level. In FY 2020 and FY 2021 TEFAP administrative funding appropriations were set at \$79.63 million. In order to fund the operational resources necessary to operate TEFAP, States divert resources from food funding and other programs. In FY 2021 State agencies were permitted to convert up to 20 percent of their TEFAP food funds into administrative funds in order to meet operational needs and opted to convert almost the full amount (\$54.73 million) of TEFAP food funds into administrative funds.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN***Table FNS-102. Geographic Breakdown by State (thousands of dollars)***

Commodity Assistance Program – Federal Salaries, Benefits & All Other Expenses								
State/Territory/Country	2020 Actual	SY	2021 Actual	SY	2021 Estimated	SY	2023 Estimated	SY
Virginia	\$2,278	3	\$2,063	3	\$2,117	3	\$2,148	3
Undistributed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Available	2,278	3	2,063	3	2,117	3	2,148	3

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS***Table FNS-103. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)***

Item No.	Item	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated	2023 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$107	\$133	\$123	\$128
	Personnel Compensation, Field	160	199	185	193
11	Total personnel compensation	267	332	308	321
12	Personal benefits	94	143	132	137
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	361	475	440	458
	Other Objects:				
26.0	Supplies and materials	582,097	904,063	283,236	302,267
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	398,499	264,264	169,274	186,315
99.9	Total, new obligations	980,957	1,169,162	452,510	488,582

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

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

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Program Mission

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

In FY 2021, the program was administered in parts of all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and through 6 Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs). The foods provided are purchased by USDA with funds appropriated for the program each year. CSFP participants receive monthly food packages that include foods such as canned fruits packed in extra light syrup, low-sodium or no salt added canned vegetables, dry beans, unsweetened juices, canned meats, poultry, and fish that are lower in sodium and fat, peanut butter, whole grain cereals and pasta, and reduced fat or nonfat dairy products. FNS also provides administrative grants to States from the appropriated funds.

Facts in Brief

In calendar year 2021, a total of 760,634 monthly caseload slots were allocated to participating States and ITOs (CSFP caseload is assigned by calendar year). An initial 2021 caseload allocation of 736,110 slots was provided in February 2021 under the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 (PL 116-260) and in April 2021, an additional allocation of 24,524 caseload slots were allocated under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2, ARPA).

For FY 2021, total program participation averaged 662,064 monthly.

Program Participation and Caseload Utilization

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

Table FNS-104. CSFP Average Monthly Participation

Participation¹	2018	2019	2020	2021
Women	0	0	0	0
Infants	0	0	0	0
Children under 6	72	18	1	0
<i>Total WIC Type</i>	72	18	1	0
Elderly	675,926	702,546	692,466	662,064
<i>Total, CSFP</i>	675,998	702,564	692,467	662,064

¹ Based on National Databank version 8.2 data through August 2021. Due to rounding, the sum of the average participation by women, infants, children, and elderly may not equal the total average participation.

Administrative Funding

Section 4201 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill, P.L. 107-171) established the method for calculating administrative funds for State agencies in CSFP. State agencies are provided an administrative grant per assigned caseload slot, adjusted each year for inflation. For FY 2021, \$82.43 was the legislatively mandated administrative grant per assigned caseload slot, up from \$81.15 in FY 2020. In FY 2021, CSFP also received administrative funding through two coronavirus response bills: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (PL 116-260, Covid Relief Bill) and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2, ARPA). Allowable administrative costs include nutrition education, warehousing, food delivery, participant certification, and other costs associated with State and local administration of the program.

Technical Assistance

FNS continues to maintain a CSFP Sharing Gallery on the FNS website to provide a way for State and local partners to find

nutrition education resources appropriate for seniors. Stakeholders may submit resources for inclusion on the nutrition education Sharing Gallery.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program

Program Mission

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) supplements the diets of needy Americans through donations of nutritious USDA Foods to States. States provide the food to local agencies for distribution to households for home consumption and to organizations that prepare meals for needy people. Recipients of household food packages must meet program eligibility criteria set by the States. USDA also provides TEFAP administrative funding to States to support the storage and distribution of USDA Foods and foods from other sources, including private donations.

Facts in Brief

TEFAP foods and administrative funds are allocated to States based on a formula that considers the number of unemployed people in each State and the number of persons in each State with incomes below the poverty level.

States may direct their TEFAP foods to: 1) distribution to needy households, 2) provision of meals to the needy at emergency feeding sites, or 3) a combination of the two.

Each State is responsible for selecting organizations to participate in the program, allocating foods and administrative funds among such organizations, and establishing eligibility criteria. Many local TEFAP agencies are faith-based organizations, and many depend significantly on volunteers.

Administrative Funding

TEFAP administrative funds are provided to States under the CAP account to help defray State and local costs associated with the transportation, processing, storage, and distribution of USDA Foods or foods secured from other sources, including the private sector. FY 2021 appropriations also permitted each State to convert up to twenty percent of TEFAP food funds to administrative funds. Additionally, unless expressly prohibited by appropriations legislation, States can convert any amount of their administrative funds to food funds to purchase additional USDA Foods. States can also use administrative funds to support food rescue activities such as gleaning and other food recovery efforts. In these ways, administrative funds are efficiently leveraged to increase the total flow of food, from all sources, through the TEFAP network. In FY 2021 TEFAP also received administrative funding through The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260).

Entitlement Foods

A variety of healthful foods were purchased specifically for distribution in TEFAP in FY 2020 including fresh, frozen, and canned fruits and vegetables; protein items such as meat, fish, eggs, nuts, and beans; whole grain and enriched grains; and dairy products such as milk and cheese.

Bonus Food

In FY 2021, USDA purchased additional food items under its market support authorities and donated them for distribution through TEFAP. The total amount of bonus products purchased in FY 2021 for distribution through TEFAP outlets was \$701 million. Bonus USDA Foods included: asparagus, beans, peas, lentils, butter, milk, cheese, eggs, orange juice, grapefruit juice, fish, shrimp, chicken, turkey, bison, beef, pork, grapes, raisins, cherries, fig pieces, plums, apricots, dates, cranberries, blueberries, peaches, walnuts, pistachios and almonds.

Farm to Food Bank Projects

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334) 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). During the second year of the Farm to Food Bank Projects FNS allocated \$3.76 million among 24 TEFAP State agencies that submitted plans to implement Farm to Food Bank Projects. Projects included diverting unused agricultural products at risk of going to waste to emergency feeding organizations for distribution to people in need, streamlining the processes for gleaning leftover produce for donation to EFOs and increasing the capacity of EFOs to distribute fresh produce.

FY 2021 TEFAP Spending

In FY 2021, \$79.63 million was appropriated for TEFAP administrative funds. In addition, the Secretary was authorized to make available up to twenty percent of TEFAP food funds to support administrative costs. The FY 2021 appropriation for TEFAP entitlement food, provided in the SNAP account, was \$342 million, which included the funding authorized by Section 27(a)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 as amended by Section 4027 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill).

In FY 2021, Congress appropriated additional funding for TEFAP via supplemental funding bills in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (COVID Third Supplemental; P.L. 116-260), signed into law as part of the 2021 Appropriations Act, provided an additional \$400 million in food

funding for TEFAP in FY 2021. Of that \$400 million, up to 20 percent, or \$80 million, was available for conversion to administrative funding. TEFAP State agencies chose to accept a total of \$323.97 million as food funds and \$73.28 million as administrative funds.

Table FNS-105. TEFAP Summary

(in millions)	2018	2019	2020	2021
State Administrative Expenses	90.7	148.6	137.2	158.4
Bonus Foods ¹	308.9	403.0	716.2	701.0
Entitlement Foods ²	287.5	254.9	92.2	319.9
Trade Mitigation Foods	0.0	1,059.3	1,193.3	0.0
TOTAL	\$687.1	\$1,865.8	\$2138.9	\$1,179.3
Supplemental Funding for Hurricanes and Wildfires in 2017 (Food and Admin funds)	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplemental Funding via the FFCRA (Food and Admin funds)	0.0	0.0	214.3	0.0
Supplemental Funding via the CARES Act (Food and Admin funds)	0.0	0.0	392.2	0.0
COVID Division N Funding (Food and Admin funds)	0.0	0.0	0.0	397.3
<i>Total, Including Disaster Funding</i>	<i>\$711.1</i>	<i>\$1,865.8</i>	<i>\$2,745.4</i>	<i>\$1,576.6</i>

1/ Includes barter foods

2/ From SNAP Account

The State Administrative Expenses shown in the table above include administrative funds, food funds converted to administrative funds, and administrative funds recovered from the previous year. In FY 2021, of the \$68.4 million eligible for conversion, States chose to convert \$54.7 million into administrative funds.

Section 27(a)(2)(C) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 required that, starting in FY 2010, the authorized level of TEFAP entitlement food funds provided under the SNAP account be adjusted annually by the percentage change in the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP), which is also used to adjust the benefit level in SNAP. The entitlement foods line also includes administrative funds that States chose to use instead to increase their food entitlements. In FY 2021, no administrative funds were converted to food funds.

WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

The WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) provides a direct link between nutrition and the Nation's small resource farmers by providing women, infants older than 4 months, and children up to the age of five participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), coupons to purchase and consume fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs directly from farmers, farmers' markets and roadside stands. As a result, the FMNP has enhanced local agricultural economies by promoting the development of farmers' markets, which has increased the customer base for small local farmers. During FY 2021, the FMNP was operated by 50 State agencies, including U.S. Territories and federally recognized ITOs.

In FY 2020, the last year for which data is available, the FMNP provided coupons to 1,181,314 WIC participants. The participants redeemed their coupons at 4,612 authorized farmers' markets and roadside stands, providing revenue to 15,110 farmers.

Table FNS-106. WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Funding (\$ in thousands)	\$22,950	\$22,309	\$22,597	\$29,829
WIC Recipients	1,687,234	1,560,475	1,181,314	*
Farmers' Markets**	5,762	4,815	4,612	*
Farmers	16,901	15,069	15,110	*

NOTE: Funding includes new authority and prior year resources.

* Data not yet available

** Farmers' Markets data includes roadside stands.

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) awards grants to States, U.S. Territories, and federally recognized Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) to provide low-income seniors with coupons that can be exchanged for fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey directly from farmers, farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs (CSAs).

Farmers' markets play a key role in developing local and regional food systems that support farmers and help grow rural economies. In FY 2021, the SFMNP was operated by 55 State agencies, including U.S. Territories and ITOs. In FY 2020, the last year for which data is available, the SFMNP provided coupons to 725,687 low-income older Americans. The participants redeemed their coupons at 4,788 authorized farmers markets, roadside stands and CSAs providing revenue to 14,767 farmers. The SFMNP benefits 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-107. SFMNP Summary

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Funding (\$ in thousands)	\$20,912	\$20,991	\$21,083	\$23,718
SFMNP Recipients	838,190	832,111	725,687	*
Farmers	19,284	19,203	14,767	*
Farmers' Markets	3,167	3,292	2,401	*
Roadside Stands	3,297	2,363	2,316	*
Community Supported Ag Programs	100	124	71	*

NOTE: Funding includes new authority and prior year resources.

*/ Data not yet available

Pacific Islands

Certain islands in nuclear-affected zones of the Republic of the Marshall Islands receive nutrition assistance as authorized by the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-188). Under the terms of a memorandum of understanding between USDA and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the assistance is currently provided as cash in-lieu of USDA Foods and administrative funds. USDA previously provided nutrition assistance under this account to the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Disaster Assistance

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288) assigns certain responsibilities relating to disaster food assistance to the Secretary of Agriculture. Other duties have been assigned to the Secretary by Executive Order #12673. These include using, pursuant to the authority of the Act, funds appropriated under Section 32 to purchase USDA Foods for assistance in major disasters or emergencies when other food supplies are not readily available.

In FY 2021, wildfires continued to cause extensive damage in Oregon and USDA Foods were used for disaster household distribution and congregate feeding. Louisiana was impacted by widespread damage and power outages caused by Hurricane Delta in October and Hurricane Zeta in November and USDA Foods were used for disaster household distribution in parishes impacted by these hurricanes. In May, USDA Foods were distributed to households in Buckland, Alaska impacted by flooding caused by ice jams. In FY 2021, FNS also published an update to the USDA Foods Disaster Manual to provide support to states and Indian Tribal Organizations based on information learned during the COVID-19 response and other recent disasters.

Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)

NSIP provides cash and USDA Foods to States and Indian Tribal Organizations for distribution to local organizations that prepare nutritionally sound meals served through meals-on-wheels programs or in senior citizen centers and similar settings where the elderly participate in social and rehabilitative activities. The program promotes good health through nutrition assistance and by reducing the isolation experienced by the elderly.

In 2003, Congress transferred NSIP funding and the allocation of resources in this program from USDA to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). However, State Units on Aging, which include Indian Tribal Organizations, could still choose to receive all or part of their NSIP allotments in the form of USDA Foods. They are also eligible to receive bonus food, as available. USDA's role is to purchase and deliver food to States that elect to receive it. DHHS provides funding to USDA for purchases of USDA Foods and related administrative expenses. FNS and DHHS' Administration for Community Living enter into an agreement annually to ensure the effective provision of USDA Foods to State Units on Aging.

CSFP PROJECTS, PARTICIPATION AND FOOD COST FY 2021 (CSFP)**Table FNS-108. CSFP Projects, Participation and Food Costs**

State or Territory	Projects	Elderly	Food Cost \$ ¹	Admin Cost \$ ²	CARES Act	Total Food, Admin and CARES Act
					Supplemental Admin. Grants and ARPA Admin. Grants	
Alabama	4	6,042	\$2,019,647	\$503,629	0	\$2,523,276
Alaska	2	2,557	820,729	226,353	0	1,047,082
Arizona	2	18,186	5,961,378	1,657,532	0	7,618,910
Arkansas	6	6,992	2,482,928	574,313	0	3,057,241
California	10	97,585	31,054,440	8,711,986	0	39,766,426
California, Shingle Spring Band	1	119	57,113	18,609	0	75,722
Colorado	6	13,630	4,475,907	1,123,610	0	5,599,517
Connecticut	2	2,516	820,304	223,160	0	1,043,464
Delaware	1	1,669	547,410	175,083	0	722,493
District of Columbia	1	5,107	1,709,760	446,031	0	2,155,791
Florida	7	7,868	2,712,568	638,361	0	3,350,929
Georgia	2	6,293	2,155,780	513,382	0	2,669,162
Hawaii	4	3,672	1,258,590	298,017	\$12,625	1,569,232
Idaho	1	2,085	688,129	182,761	7,779	878,669
Illinois	3	12,542	4,329,429	1,283,857	0	5,613,286
Indiana	6	4,869	1,607,494	441,800	0	2,049,294
Iowa	1	2,743	958,027	275,153	0	1,233,180
Kansas	4	4,826	1,659,890	449,325	0	2,109,215
Kentucky	6	28,884	9,478,835	2,646,634	0	12,125,469
Louisiana	1	37,781	13,066,764	3,881,771	0	16,948,535
Maine	5	7,815	2,842,482	721,905	0	3,564,387
Maryland	4	3,689	1,217,550	310,433	0	1,527,983
Massachusetts	1	2,370	754,266	210,672	6,739	971,677
Michigan	22	67,022	22,379,304	6,176,922	0	28,556,226
Minnesota	5	10,333	3,492,115	969,190	0	4,461,305
Minnesota, Red Lake	1	84	25,926	6,924	0	32,850
Mississippi	1	13,028	4,646,815	1,074,068	0	5,720,883
Missouri	5	22,579	7,552,151	1,985,379	0	9,537,530
Montana	12	4,822	1,497,808	483,455	0	1,981,263
Nebraska	8	6,225	2,081,164	597,906	0	2,679,070
Nevada	3	5,145	1,694,912	534,431	0	2,229,343
New Hampshire	1	3,079	1,019,225	253,111	0	1,272,336
New Jersey	4	6,669	2,270,526	561,482	0	2,832,008
New Mexico	5	11,768	3,985,757	1,184,772	0	5,170,529
New York	3	31,067	10,186,436	2,808,403	0	12,994,839
North Carolina	6	11,934	4,375,003	995,121	0	5,370,124
North Dakota	5	1,561	506,218	153,094	0	659,312
North Dakota, Spirit Lake Tribe	1	139	44,980	19,412	0	64,392
Ohio	13	28,663	9,775,221	2,520,330	0	12,295,551
Oklahoma	2	4,298	1,435,420	353,317	0	1,788,737
Oklahoma, Seminole Nation	1	177	55,565	0	0	55,565
Oklahoma, Wichita Tribe	0	37	11,396	0	0	11,396
Oregon	1	2,254	737,245	203,500	0	940,745
Pennsylvania	17	30,796	10,144,905	2,985,464	0	13,130,369
Puerto Rico	1	1,225	446,385	42,308	0	488,693
Rhode Island	1	1,682	542,833	139,308	0	682,141
South Carolina	4	5,628	1,856,524	454,274	0	2,310,798
South Dakota	2	3,291	1,080,485	307,063	0	1,387,548
South Dakota, Oglala Sioux	1	348	95,952	35,609	0	131,561
Tennessee	4	7,932	2,804,138	795,865	0	3,600,003
Texas	12	62,487	19,973,293	5,679,125	0	25,652,418
Utah	1	2,875	970,139	262,829	0	1,232,968
Vermont	1	2,065	672,104	187,261	0	859,365
Virginia	6	9,727	3,329,671	878,069	0	4,207,740
Washington	13	5,411	1,666,187	504,186	0	2,170,373
West Virginia	2	6,151	2,186,879	483,949	0	2,670,828
Wisconsin	4	10,602	3,269,627	928,305	0	4,197,932
Wyoming	0	174	61,366	17,557	0	78,923
Anticipated Adjustment	0	0	0	581,477	0	581,477
TOTAL³	248	661,112	\$219,553,096	\$60,677,843	\$27,143	\$280,258,082

¹ Total value of FNS funded entitlement foods. Costs do not include free or bonus commodities, food losses, storage and transportation for certain items, or the value of food used for nutrition education.

² Total outlays and unliquidated obligations

³ Totals may not add due to rounding

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

COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP)**Table FNS-109. FY 2021 CSFP Quantity and Value of Commodities**

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
APPLESAUCE, CANNED, UNSWEETENED	2,363,760	\$2,111,522
APRICOTS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	473,850	576,056
BEANS, CANNED, GREEN	7,633,157	6,413,776
BEANS, CANNED, GREEN & POTATOES	370,500	341,042
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK, LOW-SODIUM	2,755,823	1,487,942
BEANS, CANNED, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, LOW-SODIUM	2,082,665	1,217,651
BEANS, CANNED, PINTO, LOW-SODIUM	3,023,663	1,596,237
BEANS, CANNED, VEGETARIAN, LOW-SODIUM	2,448,240	1,472,037
BEANS, DRY, BABY LIMA, NO SALT ADDED	483,840	441,250
BEANS, DRY, GREAT NORTHERN, NO SALT ADDED	1,693,440	1,083,223
BEANS, DRY, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, NO SALT ADDED	1,249,920	1,105,904
BEANS, DRY, PINTO, NO SALT ADDED	1,733,760	1,069,794
BEEF, CANNED	3,419,460	14,451,759
BEEF, CANNED, CHILI	3,011,040	4,933,126
BEEF, CANNED, STEW	3,348,000	6,602,641
CARROTS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	546,750	339,665
CEREAL, CORN AND RICE	756,000	1,206,083
CEREAL, CORN FLAKES	1,224,720	1,448,912
CEREAL, CORN SQUARES	967,680	2,005,339
CEREAL, OAT CIRCLES	1,995,336	2,415,984
CEREAL, RICE CRISPS	923,654	1,299,319
CEREAL, WHEAT BRAN FLAKES	970,177	1,087,005
CEREAL, WHEAT SHREDDED	747,225	784,016
CHEESE, AMERICAN, REDUCED FAT	14,077,800	24,854,041
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED	3,649,500	6,532,099
CORN, CANNED	4,136,088	3,616,006
FARINA	1,644,750	1,482,425
GREENS, CANNED, COLLARD	1,333,344	1,578,146
GREENS, CANNED, KALE	338,762	382,820
GREENS, CANNED, MIXED	846,906	957,049
GRITS	1,907,712	879,650
HOMINY, CANNED	647,190	534,643
JUICE, APPLE, UNSWEETENED	10,496,620	5,195,469
JUICE, CRANAPPLE, UNSWEETENED	10,147,088	5,802,339
JUICE, GRAPE, UNSWEETENED	7,639,888	4,656,519
JUICE, ORANGE, UNSWEETENED	6,865,762	3,588,670
JUICE, TOMATO, UNSWEETENED	2,639,580	1,056,349
LENTILS, DRY	1,169,280	594,679
MACARONI	4,061,520	2,178,939
MILK, 1%, UHT	20,596,140	9,853,388
MILK, NONFAT DRY	3,714,048	11,728,370
MIXED FRUIT, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	2,781,135	2,499,897
MIXED VEGETABLES, CANNED	2,067,199	2,434,234
OATS	2,691,360	2,168,834
OKRA, CANNED	84,825	113,750
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	3,070,913	3,130,379
PEANUT BUTTER	8,236,896	11,797,932
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	2,515,455	2,179,850
PEAS, CANNED	3,695,546	2,700,953
PLUMS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	182,250	153,884
POTOATES, CANNED	6,329,921	3,800,668
POTATOES, FLAKES, DEHYDRATED	2,334,000	3,494,236

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
RAISINS	758,475	\$1,048,533
RICE, BROWN	1,848,000	1,776,386
RICE, WHITE	5,040,000	2,186,562
ROTINI, WHOLE GRAIN	1,393,200	1,071,863
SALMON, CANNED	2,000,985	6,102,093
SOUP, CANNED, VEGETABLE, LOW-SODIUM	3,614,903	3,099,605
SPAGHETTI	6,288,240	3,291,195
SPAGHETTI SAUCE	6,438,563	3,873,512
SPINACH, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	2,212,959	2,319,372
SWEET POTATOES, CANNED, LIGHT SYRUP	7,818,750	9,206,559
TOMATOES, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED	4,377,949	3,831,041
TOMATOES & OKRA, CANNED	43,875	56,875
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	<i>215,960,034</i>	<i>\$213,300,095</i>
AMS/WBSCM/Comp Payment	0	2,140,877
Anticipated Adjustment	0	54,660,203
<i>TOTAL COMMODITY ENTITLEMENT</i>	<i>215,960,034</i>	<i>\$270,101,175</i>
BONUS COMMODITIES		
MILK, NONFAT DRY	1,617,408	5,332,037
<i>TOTAL BONUS COMMODITIES</i>	<i>1,617,408</i>	<i>\$5,332,037</i>
CSFP ARPA COMMODITIES		
APPLESAUCE, CANNED, UNSWEETENED	400,950	\$374,674
APRICOTS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	646,988	792,156
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK, LOW-SODIUM	889,313	468,366
BEANS, CANNED, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, LOW-SODIUM	426,870	249,421
BEANS, CANNED, PINTO, LOW-SODIUM	747,023	381,521
BEANS, CANNED, VEGETARIAN, LOW-SODIUM	330,480	184,304
BEANS, DRY, GREAT NORTHERN, NO SALT ADDED	282,240	188,857
BEANS, DRY, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, NO SALT ADDED	403,200	363,985
BEANS, DRY, PINTO, NO SALT ADDED	282,240	225,727
CEREAL, CORN AND RICE	226,800	364,758
CEREAL, CORN FLAKES	233,280	273,249
CEREAL, CORN SQUARES	302,400	610,329
CEREAL, OAT CIRCLES	363,888	424,585
CEREAL, RICE CRISPS	328,860	461,544
CEREAL, WHEAT BRAN FLAKES	466,860	514,777
CEREAL, WHEAT SHREDDED	265,680	256,098
CHEESE, AMERICAN, REDUCED FAT	2,772,000	4,684,819
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED	1,181,250	2,770,335
JUICE, APPLE, UNSWEETENED	1,909,928	998,262
JUICE, GRAPE, UNSWEETENED	1,427,218	1,031,201
JUICE, ORANGE, UNSWEETENED	2,211,540	1,308,741
LENTILS, DRY	241,920	132,038
MILK, 1%, UHT	4,334,400	1,942,199
MIXED FRUIT, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	1,239,300	1,071,760
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	820,125	820,117
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	774,563	670,263
PEAS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	72,900	58,190
PLUMS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	218,700	217,112
POTATOES, FLAKES, DEHYDRATED	270,000	388,175
RAISINS	272,160	423,396
SALMON, CANNED	3,302,599	10,364,846
SOUP, CANNED, VEGETABLE, LOW-SODIUM	1,988,374	\$1,704,298

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	803,250	509,283
SWEET POTATOES, CANNED, LIGHT SYRUP	206,550	249,742
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	<i>30,643,846</i>	<i>\$35,479,126</i>
Anticipated Adjustment	0	1,493,992
<i>TOTAL CSFP ARPA COMMODITIES</i>	<i>30,643,846</i>	<i>\$36,973,118</i>
CSFP COVID SUPPLEMENTALCOMMODITIES (Division N)		
APRICOTS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	437,400	\$532,494
BEANS, CANNED, GREEN, LOW-SODIUM	1,937,925	1,336,711
CARROTS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	255,150	158,468
CEREAL, CORN AND RICE	15,120	23,350
CEREAL, CORN FLAKES	19,440	22,364
CEREAL, CORN SQUARES	166,320	354,810
CEREAL, OAT CIRCLES	29,232	33,265
CEREAL, RICE CRISPS	11,340	15,197
CEREAL, WHEAT BRAN FLAKES	34,580	39,301
CEREAL, WHEAT SHREDDED	22,140	22,361
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED	135,000	322,731
CORN, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED	525,555	408,969
MIXED FRUIT, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	746,460	681,862
MIXED VEGETABLES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	619,650	500,710
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	1,038,825	1,021,212
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	653,265	614,382
PEAS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,704,038	1,425,244
POTATOES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,046,520	701,230
POTATOES, FLAKES, DEHYDRATED	191,700	278,566
SWEET POTATOES, CANNED, LIGHT SYRUP	757,350	920,678
TOMATOES, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED	1,461,426	986,770
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	<i>11,808,436</i>	<i>\$10,400,671</i>
Anticipated Adjustment	0	2,588,165
<i>TOTAL CSFP COVID SUPPLEMENTAL COMMODITIES (Division N)</i>	<i>11,808,436</i>	<i>\$12,988,836</i>
<i>TOTAL - ALL COMMODITIES</i>	<i>260,029,724</i>	<i>\$325,395,167</i>

WIC FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM, PARTICIPATION AND PROGRAM COSTS FY 2020 AND 2021**Table FNS-110. Participation and Program Financing for FY 2020 and 2021**

State or Territory	Women	Infants	Children	Total	FY 2020 Grant	FY 2021 Grant
Alabama	1,574	0	4,569	6,143	\$110,090	\$131,722
Alaska	1,385	973	3,424	5,782	180,059	215,440
Arizona	0	0	577	577	188,320	225,325
Arkansas	2,935	0	4,738	7,673	152,105	181,993
California	55,385	25,735	165,338	246,458	2,030,288	2,429,230
Colorado	0	0	0	0	0	418,773
Connecticut	11,171	4,398	25,479	41,048	290,642	347,752
Delaware	1,835	0	4,478	6,313	254,571	304,593
District of Columbia	3,955	2,161	7,458	13,574	274,995	329,031
Florida	9,651	0	18,669	28,320	303,299	362,896
Georgia	4,842	2,738	11,964	19,544	1,409,233	1,686,141
Guam 3/	0	0	0	0	76,646	91,707
Illinois	5,038	2,224	8,942	16,204	353,216	422,622
Indiana	3,126	924	8,307	12,357	257,540	308,146
Iowa	3,693	0	22,106	25,799	454,754	544,111
Kentucky	2,767	954	7,011	10,732	180,041	215,418
Louisiana	317	55	388	760	20,500	28,577
Maine	1,018	393	4,033	5,444	75,000	139,587
Maryland	5,446	3,081	14,516	23,043	348,335	416,782
Massachusetts	5,450	3,335	18,782	27,567	598,254	797,918
Michigan	7,025	0	21,183	28,208	437,839	523,873
Minnesota	10,584	6,442	26,911	43,937	365,000	436,721
Mississippi 2/	2,054	163	4,451	6,668	113,641	135,971
Montana	620	0	1,880	2,500	74,782	89,476
Nebraska	1,037	0	2,128	3,165	75,000	89,737
Nevada	625	239	2,718	3,582	334,241	399,918
New Jersey	19,500	0	14,584	34,084	1,026,619	1,228,345
New Mexico 2/	2,015	663	4,320	6,998	258,923	309,800
New York	51,235	20,167	121,414	192,816	3,896,611	5,858,776
North Carolina	4,782	0	6,457	11,239	226,896	271,480
Ohio	6,412	2,595	15,628	24,635	447,916	551,484
Oklahoma Chickasaw	690	552	1,731	2,973	75,000	89,737
Oklahoma Osage Tribe	164	140	590	894	51,325	61,410
Oklahoma Choctaw Nation	527	297	1,251	2,075	75,000	89,737
Oregon	15,609	6,641	34,823	57,073	752,194	1,642,249
Pennsylvania	45,431	0	91,539	136,970	2,003,234	2,396,860
Puerto Rico	1	0	0	1	1,510,160	1,806,900
Rhode Island	1,869	0	6,112	7,981	122,177	146,184
South Carolina	2,810	0	5,244	8,054	123,257	147,477
Tennessee	2,551	0	5,299	7,850	121,412	145,268
Texas	1,936	0	6,167	8,103	1,024,377	1,225,662
Vermont	527	234	1,904	2,665	75,558	87,489
Virginia	1,149	499	2,366	4,014	63,766	82,278
Virgin Islands	466	0	965	1,431	73,121	90,404
Washington	9,418	0	21,901	31,319	802,584	960,288
West Virginia 3/	0	0	0	0	74,965	89,696
Wisconsin	14,186	3,005	37,550	54,741	833,633	1,274,617
Anticipated Adjustment	0	0	0	0	0	-187,686
TOTAL	322,811	88,608	769,895	1,181,314	\$22,597,119	\$29,641,915

^{1/} Participation data reflects Fiscal Year 2020. Participation data for Fiscal Year 2021 is not due until February 2022.

^{2/} Includes Tribal Organizations.

^{3/} Did not operate the program in FY 2020. The grant funds were recovered.

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

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COSTS FY 2021 (TEFAP)**Table FNS-111. Entitlement and Bonus Commodities**

State or Territory	Entitlement Commodities	CARES Act Commodities	FFCRA Commodities	Bonus	COVID Supplemental Funds (Division N)	Total Food
Alabama	\$5,213,005	\$2,001,825	\$4,623,158	\$2,320,973	\$4,830,496	\$18,989,457
Alaska	1,010,458	141,204	233,023	11,121,878	711,539	13,218,102
Arizona	9,319,940	459,014	2,047,521	9,421,348	7,326,296	28,574,119
Arkansas	3,111,183	328,083	1,358,554	21,455,175	3,101,378	29,354,373
California	34,820,613	8,111,580	18,584,334	70,293,633	38,381,703	170,191,863
Colorado	5,249,934	744,369	1,462,613	11,324,221	4,548,969	23,330,106
Connecticut	2,369,160	964,740	2,577,762	5,103,024	3,093,147	14,107,833
Delaware	1,261,184	65,226	415,886	480,208	1,005,435	3,227,939
District of Columbia	793,330	191,208	919,574	5,880,538	813,262	8,597,912
Florida	21,538,939	2,844,837	11,843,390	52,865,168	19,932,211	109,024,545
Georgia	14,307,345	637,918	2,578,400	20,385,996	9,437,668	47,347,326
Hawaii	1,966,233	639,693	282,535	727,488	2,214,824	5,830,774
Idaho	1,045,402	344,697	901,445	1,320,259	1,467,465	5,079,269
Illinois	8,766,618	2,428,285	8,271,449	4,985,056	12,255,778	36,707,186
Indiana	5,664,601	1,339,186	3,019,212	3,484,295	6,019,887	19,527,180
Iowa	3,143,731	294,472	1,075,420	27,364,631	2,583,128	34,461,382
Kansas	3,321,397	1,526,736	2,076,127	15,635,430	2,405,524	24,965,216
Kentucky	4,249,620	2,123,895	2,373,130	5,872,554	4,712,033	19,331,233
Louisiana	2,745,296	1,048,471	4,225,542	10,847,098	5,697,914	24,564,322
Maine	927,968	246,379	494,223	15,211,473	1,113,617	17,993,660
Maryland	2,486,499	906,824	3,456,148	8,739,626	3,710,810	19,299,907
Massachusetts	3,591,589	2,185,118	2,918,447	1,186,759	7,877,781	17,759,694
Michigan	11,444,512	2,425,808	3,848,993	5,187,321	10,581,444	33,488,078
Minnesota	3,397,205	293,694	2,139,764	28,020,505	4,131,945	37,983,113
Mississippi	4,943,718	1,811,131	3,474,175	7,082,774	4,314,493	21,626,291
Missouri	8,676,176	1,037,024	1,232,313	13,316,447	5,529,428	29,791,388
Montana	457,986	139,553	550,123	8,137,031	953,203	10,237,896
Nebraska	1,753,363	265,816	50,387	1,676,763	1,396,655	5,142,983
Nevada	2,722,249	763,883	2,199,252	22,664,435	3,674,694	32,024,513
New Hampshire	1,037,148	243,642	610,096	1,383,032	1,115,615	4,389,533
New Jersey	8,581,649	771,429	3,177,077	2,966,519	7,944,968	23,441,642
New Mexico	3,356,009	222,888	164,025	1,589,649	2,521,844	7,854,416
New York	23,538,877	4,229,072	15,463,488	16,079,821	20,987,484	80,298,742
North Carolina	12,113,311	577,395	6,800,078	6,692,602	9,913,883	36,097,268
North Dakota	494,825	158,365	0	12,099,464	588,153	13,340,807
Ohio	12,270,166	3,091,934	9,333,989	39,703,321	11,629,975	76,029,384
Oklahoma	2,846,251	2,990,645	3,540,419	28,716,809	4,119,038	42,213,163
Oregon	2,066,243	1,523,695	2,472,879	9,708,047	4,036,020	19,806,884
Pennsylvania	8,908,036	3,209,675	9,255,983	9,751,753	12,860,674	43,986,121
Rhode Island	529,538	799,777	1,152,618	28,376,304	1,154,721	32,012,958
South Carolina	7,343,822	650,057	3,926,901	5,058,396	5,586,504	22,565,680
South Dakota	805,142	286,271	559,394	1,231,581	840,357	3,722,744
Tennessee	6,757,945	2,077,898	5,264,868	10,237,665	6,437,568	30,775,944
Texas	40,491,764	3,117,050	13,680,149	1,953,003	29,467,830	88,709,795
Utah	2,885,666	494,227	1,445,293	14,075,826	2,183,199	21,084,212
Vermont	522,590	104,454	402,608	71,947,266	523,112	73,500,030
Virginia	6,294,032	645,504	2,923,255	5,053,428	6,477,406	21,393,625
Washington	7,398,245	1,732,000	4,883,504	9,952,095	7,045,463	31,011,307
West Virginia	2,136,981	507,804	1,185,504	181,245	2,136,100	6,147,635
Wisconsin	3,117,393	2,778,170	2,459,921	669,177	4,871,647	13,896,307

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

State or Territory	Entitlement Commodities	CARES Act Commodities	FFCRA Commodities	Bonus	COVID Supplemental Funds (Division N)	Total Food
Wyoming	576,861	99,195	104,244	15,697,096	455,623	16,933,018
Northern Mariana Islands *	173,524	0	0	9,248,568	205,409	9,627,501
Guam	344,811	96,853	360,184	5,132,165	686,250	6,620,263
Puerto Rico	6,404,150	1,675,165	5,922,108	1,561,578	7,705,920	23,268,921
Virgin Islands	113,502	181,135	0	0	109,679	404,316
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expense	29,157,631	0	0	0	0	29,157,631
Anticipated Adjustment	-25,006,599	-23,299,307	11,505,389	0	73,866,616	37,066,096
TOTAL	\$335,558,763	\$45,275,660	\$195,826,878	\$701,178,517	\$399,293,785	\$1,677,133,603

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

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

Source: WBSCM – Sales Order and contract information

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COSTS FY 2021 (TEFAP)**Table FNS-112. Administrative Funds/Entitlement and Bonus Commodities**

State or Territory	TEFAP Admin	FFCRA Administrative Funds	CARES Act Administrative Funds	COVID Supplemental Funds (Division N)	Total Administrative Funding
Alabama	\$2,234,566	\$23,669	\$48,775	\$1,207,629	\$3,514,639
Alaska	306,209	3,226	6,653	165,485	481,573
Arizona	3,597,725	54,338	1,279,574	1,830,698	6,762,335
Arkansas	1,093,312	15,135	31,190	772,190	1,911,827
California	19,074,789	4,300,561	2,230,255	9,843,126	35,448,731
Colorado	2,007,123	21,873	45,100	1,120,738	3,194,834
Connecticut	812,829	0	0	481,833	1,294,662
Delaware	328,618	4,481	9,241	229,681	572,021
District of Columbia	275,960	0	0	184,281	460,241
Florida	12,451,135	97,309	200,591	4,976,317	17,725,352
Georgia	4,502,732	0	0	2,405,354	6,908,086
Hawaii	330,543	31,776	0	181,523	543,842
Idaho	513,793	192,864	68,002	347,995	1,122,654
Illinois	8,519,937	59,997	123,713	2,660,011	11,363,658
Indiana	3,287,341	153,061	1,243,410	1,531,152	6,214,964
Iowa	1,415,720	10,261	0	652,905	2,078,886
Kansas	1,264,294	0	0	607,252	1,871,546
Kentucky	2,183,373	23,116	47,638	1,179,962	3,434,089
Louisiana	2,705,277	28,633	59,010	1,462,015	4,254,935
Maine	341,519	5,258	10,839	268,945	626,561
Maryland	2,078,752	409,319	1,641,309	1,123,422	5,252,802
Massachusetts	1,806,376	30,595	63,103	20,015	1,920,089
Michigan	5,017,072	52,913	102,547	2,711,381	7,883,913
Minnesota	1,924,715	0	0	1,040,176	2,964,891
Mississippi	860,210	1,184,755	1,384,214	200,000	3,629,179
Missouri	1,372,169	25,517	48,072	1,378,545	2,824,303
Montana	590,306	75,000	0	236,229	901,535
Nebraska	634,915	0	0	343,128	978,043
Nevada	886,010	0	0	820,803	1,706,813
New Hampshire	407,010	99,275	0	120,000	626,285
New Jersey	3,708,953	39,036	80,511	2,004,433	5,832,933
New Mexico	1,157,065	12,233	25,192	623,952	1,818,442
New York	9,408,430	99,277	204,691	4,531,581	14,243,979
North Carolina	4,611,381	48,762	100,509	2,492,133	7,252,785
North Dakota	339,386	87,925	0	142,839	570,150
Ohio	7,080,356	58,144	119,875	2,976,698	10,235,073
Oklahoma	990,107	18,259	0	985,579	1,993,945
Oregon	1,792,909	18,919	39,007	968,943	2,819,778
Pennsylvania	7,485,328	63,494	130,927	3,254,600	10,934,349
Rhode Island	376,449	18,475	0	100,000	494,924
South Carolina	1,690,848	0	0	500,000	2,190,848
South Dakota	277,042	0	12,012	100,000	389,054
Tennessee	2,496,557	167,618	0	1,674,877	4,339,052
Texas	12,498,157	1,599,603	285,124	5,095,566	19,478,450
Utah	1,472,686	10,369	21,375	530,336	2,034,766
Vermont	241,897	2,551	5,260	119,875	369,583
Virginia	3,678,337	0	64,482	1,600,565	5,343,384
Washington	3,853,732	946,797	67,939	1,689,965	6,558,433
West Virginia	938,220	9,821	20,243	501,931	1,470,215
Wisconsin	3,239,638	23,855	49,185	1,221,809	4,534,487

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

State or Territory	TEFAP Admin	FFCRA Administrative Funds	CARES Act Administrative Funds	COVID Supplemental Funds (Division N)	Total Administrative Funding
Wyoming	150,000	2,184	4,502	111,779	268,465
Northern Mariana Islands	41,175	0	0	0	41,175
Guam	107,011	1,133	88,156	57,832	254,132
Puerto Rico	3,557,178	1,230,000	1,250,000	1,865,807	7,902,985
Virgin Islands	85,264	3,504	50,000	26,000	164,768
Anticipated Adjustment	13,913	0	0	0	13,911
TOTAL	\$154,116,347	\$11,364,891	\$11,262,226	\$73,279,891	\$250,023,355

**Includes \$60.5M provided for ERA costs and \$3M for State costs associated with the storage and distribution of Trade Mitigation Program foods.

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

Source: Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) – Sales Order and contract information

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)***Table FNS-113. FY 2021 TEFAP Quantity and Value of Commodities***

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
ALASKA POLLOCK, FILLETS, FROZEN	418,000	\$1,184,886
ALASKA POLLOCK, BREADED STICKS, FROZEN	1,254,000	2,858,877
APPLES, FRESH	782,628	454,085
APPLES, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	198,000	270,798
APPLESAUCE, CANNED, UNSWEETENED	5,544,428	5,046,592
APPLESAUCE, CUPS, UNSWEETENED	2,457,000	1,976,170
APRICOTS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	2,225,858	2,656,631
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK, LOW-SODIUM	3,953,151	2,117,419
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK-EYED PEA, LOW-SODIUM	2,916,875	2,269,384
BEANS, CANNED, GARBANZO, LOW-SODIUM	1,067,175	548,104
BEANS, CANNED, GREEN, LOW-SODIUM	10,262,194	7,240,872
BEANS, CANNED, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, LOW-SODIUM	3,445,301	2,036,175
BEANS, CANNED, PINTO, LOW-SODIUM	5,282,516	2,848,624
BEANS, CANNED, REFRIED, LOW-SODIUM	1,872,720	1,328,246
BEANS, CANNED, VEGETARIAN, LOW-SODIUM	2,398,800	1,457,615
BEANS, DRY, BLACK-EYED PEA, NO SALT ADDED	161,280	247,614
BEANS, DRY, GREAT NORTHERN, NO SALT ADDED	1,975,680	1,238,854
BEANS, DRY, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, NO SALT ADDED	1,128,960	1,001,314
BEANS, DRY, LIMA, NO SALT ADDED	645,120	709,811
BEANS, DRY, PINTO, NO SALT ADDED	5,866,560	3,641,945
BEANS, FROZEN, GREEN, NO SALT ADDED	311,040	271,026
BEEF, CANNED	2,664,540	12,018,346
BEEF, CANNED, STEW	6,731,568	13,044,777
BEEF, CANNED, CHILI WITHOUT BEANS	1,164,600	1,705,830
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN	4,208,000	14,973,686
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN, LFTB OPTIONAL	130,680	531,200
BLUEBERRIES, Highbush, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	316,800	511,658
CARROTS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	984,150	633,663
CARROTS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	622,080	419,013
CATFISH, FILLETS, FROZEN	760,000	5,486,440
CEREAL, CORN FLAKES	583,200	685,017
CEREAL, CORN RICE BISCUITS	30,240	46,508
CEREAL, CORN SQUARES	45,360	91,660
CEREAL, OAT CIRCLES	1,695,960	2,101,073
CEREAL, RICE CRISP	453,600	688,899
CEREAL, SHREDDED WHEAT	1,023,975	1,094,555
CEREAL, WHEAT BRAN FLAKES	1,260,526	1,564,109
CEREAL, WHEAT FARINA	1,071,000	977,754
CHEESE, AMERICAN	126,300	263,559
CHEESE, AMERICAN, REDUCED FAT	2,225,400	3,855,784
CHEESE, CHEDDAR	33,600	80,808
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, INDIVIDUAL, LOW MOISTURE , PART SKIM	37,800	88,339
CHICKEN, BONELESS BREAST, FROZEN	327,600	862,446
CHICKEN, BREAST FILLETS, COOKED, FROZEN	195,000	710,834
CHICKEN, SPLIT BREAST, FROZEN	1,611,480	4,507,395
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED	5,139,825	10,437,262
CHICKEN, WHOLE, FROZEN	8,454,120	9,396,774
CORN, CANNED, CREAM, LOW-SODIUM	1,057,050	668,299
CORN, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED	6,105,209	4,059,985
CORN, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	1,283,040	1,167,543
CRACKERS, UNSALTED	816,480	2,019,733
CRANBERRIES, DRIED	163,125	461,985

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
EGG NOODLES	2,234,880	\$2,105,762
EGGS, FRESH	4,286,250	2,578,368
EGG MIX, DRIED	576,000	4,512,478
FLOUR, ALL-PURPOSE, ENRICHED	4,026,960	1,332,543
FLOUR, BAKERY MIX, LOWFAT	702,000	852,425
FLOUR, 100% WHITE WHOLE WHEAT	2,400,000	726,152
FRUIT AND NUT MIX, DRIED	1,048,320	3,179,860
GRITS	787,968	413,148
JUICE, APPLE, UNSWEETENED	4,983,464	2,615,837
JUICE, CHERRY APPLE, UNSWEETENED	2,603,910	1,660,021
JUICE, CRANBERRY APPLE, UNSWEETENED	1,676,142	1,024,901
JUICE, GRAPE, CONCORD, UNSWEETENED	2,525,645	1,639,954
JUICE, GRAPEFRUIT, UNSWEETENED	71,340	36,070
JUICE, ORANGE, UNSWEETENED	1,926,180	998,383
JUICE, TOMATO, LOW-SODIUM	107,010	42,702
LENTILS, DRY	282,240	148,848
MACARONI AND CHEESE	10,506,251	7,616,499
MILK, 1% FRESH	740,889	238,482
MILK, SKIM FRESH	481,554	142,037
MILK, 1% UHT	8,718,088	5,099,582
MIXED PRODUCE, FRESH	829,843	6,092,605
MIXED FRUIT, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	9,395,505	8,620,358
MIXED VEGETABLES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,348,650	1,068,617
OATS, ROLLED	30,240	25,798
OIL, VEGETABLE	6,865,742	6,215,616
ORANGES, FRESH	973,674	494,296
PASTA, ENRICHED	14,093,600	7,619,061
PASTA, WHOLE GRAIN	7,457,760	4,742,135
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	7,818,525	7,668,350
PEANUT BUTTER	15,227,493	21,282,340
PEANUTS, ROASTED, NO SALT ADDED	440,640	648,622
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	7,682,243	7,009,806
PEARS, FRESH	906,820	637,828
PEAS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	5,970,105	4,750,352
PEAS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	1,372,260	1,412,998
PEAS, DRY, SPLIT	40,320	21,974
PLUMS, DRIED	1,368,000	3,563,868
PORK, CANNED	3,006,000	7,204,297
PORK CHOPS, FROZEN	1,584,800	4,838,213
PORK, HAM, FROZEN	1,713,600	3,688,632
PORK, LOIN ROAST, FROZEN	131,852	384,905
PORK, PULLED, COOKED	656,000	1,988,585
POTATOES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	5,171,472	3,074,024
POTATOES, DEHYDRATED, NO SALT ADDED	3,684,300	5,391,672
POTATOES, FRESH	1,280,000	339,431
PUMPKIN, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED	874,800	982,174
RAISINS	656,901	1,027,762
RICE, BROWN	2,620,800	2,487,981
RICE, WHITE	19,621,800	8,192,237
SALMON, CANNED, PINK	2,095,016	6,608,409
SOUP, CREAM OF CHICKEN, REDUCED SODIUM	3,876,675	4,178,266
SOUP, CREAM OF MUSHROOM, REDUCED SODIUM	2,532,341	1,957,895
SOUP, TOMATO, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	3,476,550	2,288,863
SOUP, VEGETABLE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	6,241,826	5,304,974

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	8,512,695	\$5,398,093
SPINACH, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	635,901	683,672
SWEET POTATOES, FRESH	1,066,000	491,965
TOMATO SAUCE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	4,884,908	3,309,987
TOMATOES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	6,374,207	4,920,391
TORTILLAS, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH	1,188,000	1,093,129
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	<u>319,882,547</u>	<u>\$331,234,207</u>
Anticipated Adjustment	0	-25,006,599
Cash-In-Lieu of Commodities – CNMI	0	173,524
AMS/WBSCM/Comp Payment	0	29,157,631
<i>TOTAL ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES</i>	<i>319,882,547</i>	<i>\$335,558,763</i>

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)**Table FNS-114. FY 2021 TEFAP Quantity and Value of Commodities Continued**

BONUS COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
ALASKA POLLOCK, BREADED NUGGETS, FROZEN	1,216,000	\$3,742,787
ALASKA POLLOCK, BREADED STICKS, FROZEN	1,596,000	5,373,941
ALASKA POLLOCK, FILLETS, FROZEN	266,000	939,246
ALMONDS, WHOLE	5,839,680	14,912,097
APRICOTS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	911,250	1,079,649
APRICOTS, DRIED	103,680	577,382
ASPARAGUS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	877,500	1,061,712
ASPARAGUS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	864,000	1,362,276
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK, LOW-SODIUM	9,035,415	4,945,589
BEANS, DRY, GARBANZO, NO SALT ADDED	11,894,400	9,956,611
BEANS, DRY, NAVY, NO SALT ADDED	4,556,160	2,721,431
BEANS, DRY, PINTO, NO SALT ADDED	15,321,600	9,922,460
BEEF, CANNED	5,004,000	19,566,875
BEEF, CANNED, CHILI WITHOUT BEANS	4,896,000	7,225,312
BEEF, CANNED, STEW	4,968,000	10,260,482
BISON, GROUND, LEAN, FROZEN	2,280,000	16,202,400
BLUEBERRY, HIGHBUSH, DRIED	561,792	2,445,606
BLUEBERRY, HIGHBUSH, FROZEN	5,227,200	7,522,891
BUTTER, SALTED	42,763,680	86,451,172
CHEESE, AMERICAN	2,851,200	5,434,316
CHEESE, CHEDDAR	12,306,600	27,953,838
CHERRIES, DRIED	1,714,176	8,456,315
CHICKEN, BONELESS BREAST, FROZEN	1,287,000	3,113,760
CHICKEN, BREAST FILLETS, COOKED, FROZEN	2,262,000	6,358,560
CHICKEN, CANNED, WHITE MEAT	540,000	861,948
CHICKEN, DRUMSTICKS, FROZEN	5,510,000	4,167,985
CHICKEN, FAJITA STRIPS, COOKED, FROZEN	3,783,000	9,305,010
CHICKEN, LEG QUARTERS, FROZEN	22,646,400	14,554,834
CHICKEN, THIGHS, FROZEN	1,634,000	1,193,280
CHICKEN, UNSEASONED STRIPS, COOKED, FROZEN	3,198,000	8,435,497
CHICKEN, WHOLE, FROZEN	1,782,000	1,949,045
CRANBERRIES, DRIED	8,870,625	21,679,702
CRANBERRY SAUCE, CANNED	73,440	83,798
DATES, WHOLE, DRIED	3,096,000	4,923,585
EGGS, FRESH	11,043,000	7,058,153
EGGS, LIQUID WHOLE, FROZEN	8,371,200	8,599,296
EGGS, HARD COOKED	1,315,076	4,262,823
FIG PIECES, DRIED	2,547,072	5,983,370
GRAPES, FRESH	27,898,650	29,699,546
JUICE, GRAPEFRUIT, UNSWEETENED	37,845,870	21,143,644
JUICE, ORANGE, UNSWEETENED	16,194,180	8,252,320
JUICE, ORANGE, UNSWEETENED, INDIVIDUAL, FROZEN	3,787,008	1,726,170
LENTILS, DRY	13,466,880	9,928,645
MILK, 1% FRESH	15,699,606	5,179,503
MILK, 2% FRESH	80,543,556	27,571,948
MILK, NONFAT DRY	7,278,336	24,272,989
MILK, WHOLE FRESH	49,385,070	18,670,733
PACIFIC ROCKFISH, FILLETS, FROZEN	936,000	3,882,661
PACIFIC SALAD SHRIMP, FROZEN	792,000	3,703,649
PACIFIC WHITING, FILLETS, FROZEN	3,132,000	8,888,308
PEACHES, CUPS	816,480	1,912,268
PEACHES, CUPS, FROZEN	2,882,880	5,072,746

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

BONUS COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
PEAS, DRY, SPLIT, GREEN	6,935,040	\$3,977,749
PEAS, DRY, SPLIT, YELLOW	2,580,480	1,741,025
PEAS, DRY, WHOLE, GREEN	6,128,640	4,249,395
PISTACHIO, ROASTED	8,580,480	39,892,164
PLUMS, DRIED	2,484,000	4,861,175
PORK, CANNED	8,964,000	22,451,562
PORK, HAM, FROZEN	2,800,000	6,378,800
PORK, PATTY, COOKED	2,470,000	6,553,632
PORK, PULLED, COOKED	1,560,000	4,327,632
RAISINS	13,621,824	19,955,817
SALMON, RED, CAN	1,647,870	8,002,086
SHRIMP, FROZEN	3,285,000	24,777,000
TURKEY BREAST, COOKED, FROZEN	1,516,200	3,439,669
TURKEY BREAST, DELI, FROZEN	2,160,000	6,176,400
TURKEY HAM, FROZEN	1,400,000	3,872,000
WALNUTS	8,505,216	19,972,251
<i>TOTAL BONUS COMMODITIES</i>	<i>548,310,412</i>	<i>\$701,178,517</i>

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)***Table FNS-115. FY 2021 TEFAP Quantity and Value of Commodities Continued***

CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
ALASKA POLLOCK, FILLETS, FROZEN	76,000	\$204,983
ALASKA POLLOCK, BREADED STICKS, FROZEN	228,000	494,760
APPLES, FRESH	247,254	143,170
APPLESAUCE, CANNED, UNSWEETENED	2,540,588	2,239,978
APPLESAUCE, CUPS, UNSWEETENED	680,400	510,454
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK, LOW-SODIUM	2,027,633	1,059,471
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK-EYED PEA, LOW-SODIUM	213,435	164,276
BEANS, CANNED, GARBANZO, LOW-SODIUM	249,008	135,283
BEANS, CANNED, GREEN, LOW-SODIUM	1,620,810	1,093,842
BEANS, CANNED, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, LOW-SODIUM	675,878	366,052
BEANS, CANNED, PINTO, LOW-SODIUM	1,494,045	758,015
BEANS, CANNED, REFRIED, LOW-SODIUM	367,200	264,611
BEANS, CANNED, VEGETARIAN, LOW-SODIUM	452,328	258,851
BEANS, DRY, GREAT NORTHERN, NO SALT ADDED	322,560	205,501
BEANS, DRY, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, NO SALT ADDED	80,640	69,754
BEANS, DRY, LIMA, NO SALT ADDED	362,880	294,869
BEANS, DRY, PINTO, NO SALT ADDED	2,177,280	1,192,539
BEEF, CANNED	468,000	1,873,008
BEEF, CANNED, CHILI	36,000	52,369
BEEF, CANNED, STEW	1,813,032	3,758,307
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN	980,000	2,891,148
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN, LFTB OPTIONAL	240,000	661,754
BLUEBERRIES, Highbush, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	79,200	104,610
CATFISH, FILLETS, FROZEN	76,000	372,400
CEREAL, CORN FLAKES	670,680	812,274
CEREAL, CORN SQUARES	136,080	277,760
CEREAL, OAT CIRCLES	633,024	771,586
CEREAL, RICE CRISP	187,667	267,455
CEREAL, SHREDDED WHEAT	177,120	187,063
CEREAL, WHEAT BRAN FLAKES	109,008	119,135
CEREAL, WHEAT FARINA	76,500	70,847
CHEESE, AMERICAN	16,050	32,766
CHEESE, AMERICAN, REDUCED FAT	505,344	874,792
CHICKEN, SPLIT BREAST, FROZEN	826,020	2,062,533
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED	577,613	1,088,249
CHICKEN, WHOLE, FROZEN	1,623,600	1,485,590
CORN, CANNED, CREAM, LOW-SODIUM	437,400	274,946
CRACKERS, UNSALTED	158,760	343,829
CRANBERRIES, DRIED, INDIVIDUAL PORTION	97,875	253,905
EGG MIX, DRY	122,400	974,133
EGG NOODLES	1,100,160	944,107
EGGS, FRESH	1,316,250	730,460
FLOUR, ALL-PURPOSE	599,760	173,146
FLOUR, BAKERY MIX, LOWFAT	35,100	42,285
FLOUR, 100% WHITE WHOLE WHEAT	80,000	24,060
FRUIT AND NUT MIX, DRIED	244,608	641,310
GRITS	341,352	122,819
JUICE, APPLE, UNSWEETENED	1,498,140	780,220
JUICE, CHERRY APPLE, UNSWEETENED	535,050	320,528
JUICE, CRANBERRY APPLE, UNSWEETENED	731,218	414,545
JUICE, GRAPE, CONCORD, UNSWEETENED	998,760	500,682

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
JUICE, GRAPEFRUIT, UNSWEETENED	35,670	23,309
JUICE, ORANGE, UNSWEETENED	713,400	\$378,102
LENTILS, DRY	40,320	18,228
MACARONI AND CHEESE	1,531,940	1,178,657
MILK, 1% FRESH	352,989	116,511
MILK, 1% UHT	1,405,863	774,317
MIXED FRUIT, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	2,150,550	1,806,171
MIXED PRODUCE, FRESH	7,200	59,700
OATS, ROLLED	1,028,160	830,070
ORANGES, FRESH	411,939	177,601
OIL, VEGETABLE	1,534,302	1,064,050
PASTA, ENRICHED	4,975,680	2,676,892
PASTA, WHOLE GRAIN	430,800	264,408
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	2,004,750	1,826,700
PEANUT BUTTER	2,237,760	3,535,158
PEANUTS, ROASTED, NO SALT ADDED	233,280	323,099
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	1,129,950	1,008,366
PEARS, FRESH	70,560	67,568
PEAS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,713,150	1,241,408
PLUMS, DRIED	72,000	176,895
PORK, CANNED	850,428	1,919,995
PORK CHOPS, FROZEN	276,000	833,747
PORK, HAM, FROZEN	576,000	1,237,320
PORK, LOIN ROAST, FROZEN	128,832	361,393
POTATOES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,211,760	637,647
POTATOES, DEHYDRATED, NO SALT ADDED	690,000	1,035,125
POTATOES, FRESH	1,480,000	415,560
RAISINS	323,424	539,908
RICE, BROWN	42,000	38,342
RICE, WHITE	5,586,000	2,389,556
SALMON, CANNED, PINK	504,450	1,545,460
SOUP, CREAM OF CHICKEN, REDUCED SODIUM	337,755	419,312
SOUP, CREAM OF MUSHROOM, REDUCED SODIUM	728,482	594,195
SOUP, TOMATO, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,099,725	724,207
SOUP, VEGETABLE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	851,400	736,583
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	2,187,000	1,392,682
SPINACH, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	610,470	624,553
SWEET POTATOES, FRESH	152,000	75,600
TOMATO SAUCE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,308,150	866,898
TOMATOES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	810,405	741,134
TORTILLAS, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH	180,000	137,513
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	<i>73,358,249</i>	<i>\$68,574,967</i>
Anticipated Adjustment	0	-23,299,307
<i>TOTAL CARES ACT COMMODITIES</i>	<i>73,358,249</i>	<i>\$45,275,660</i>

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)***Table FNS-116. FY 2020 TEFAP Quantity and Value of Commodities Continued***

FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT (FFCRA) COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
ALASKA POLLOCK, FILLETS, FROZEN	494,000	\$1,329,639
ALASKA POLLOCK, BREADED STICKS, FROZEN	798,000	1,748,228
APPLES, FRESH	1,628,760	909,027
APPLESAUCE, CANNED, UNSWEETENED	5,613,300	4,862,851
APPLESAUCE, CUPS, UNSWEETENED	1,171,800	893,690
APRICOTS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	72,900	90,785
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK, LOW-SODIUM	2,575,449	1,343,086
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK-EYED PEA, LOW-SODIUM	1,294,909	1,009,904
BEANS, CANNED, GARBANZO, LOW-SODIUM	71,145	36,873
BEANS, CANNED, GREEN, LOW-SODIUM	1,127,520	789,302
BEANS, CANNED, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, LOW-SODIUM	2,241,068	1,290,690
BEANS, CANNED, PINTO, LOW-SODIUM	2,543,434	1,300,362
BEANS, CANNED, REFRIED, LOW-SODIUM	697,680	479,248
BEANS, CANNED, VEGETARIAN, LOW-SODIUM	1,615,680	999,640
BEANS, DRY, GREAT NORTHERN, NO SALT ADDED	1,693,440	1,069,026
BEANS, DRY, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, NO SALT ADDED	1,128,960	983,628
BEANS, DRY, LIMA, NO SALT ADDED	322,560	280,236
BEANS, DRY, PINTO, NO SALT ADDED	4,032,000	2,315,034
BEEF, CANNED	2,823,948	11,448,441
BEEF, CANNED, CHILI WITHOUT BEANS	23,400	34,719
BEEF, CANNED, STEW	5,280,696	10,939,999
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN	4,810,000	14,075,832
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN, LFTB OPTIONAL	976,000	2,858,050
CARROTS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	36,450	24,057
CARROTS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	77,760	75,931
CATFISH, FILLETS, FROZEN	266,000	1,294,660
CEREAL, CORN FLAKES	1,163,160	1,413,800
CEREAL, CORN RICE BISCUITS	226,800	365,481
CEREAL, CORN SQUARES	408,240	829,093
CEREAL, OAT CIRCLES	1,358,784	1,610,320
CEREAL, RICE CRISP	929,880	1,303,289
CEREAL, SHREDDED WHEAT	885,600	928,383
CEREAL, WHEAT BRAN FLAKES	953,942	1,098,042
CEREAL, WHEAT FARINA	382,500	318,397
CHEESE, AMERICAN	55,650	117,708
CHEESE, AMERICAN, REDUCED FAT	3,389,880	5,878,106
CHICKEN, BREAST FILLET, COOKED, FROZEN	29,250	106,470
CHICKEN, SPLIT BREAST, FROZEN	1,306,500	3,379,079
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED	2,202,150	4,276,048
CHICKEN, WHOLE, FROZEN	6,114,800	5,600,210
CORN, CANNED, CREAM, LOW-SODIUM	36,450	22,356
CRACKERS, UNSALTED	453,600	999,961
CRANBERRIES, DRIED, INDIVIDUAL PORTION	65,250	182,355
EGG MIX, DRY	345,600	2,731,775
EGG NOODLES	927,360	675,990
EGGS, FRESH	2,792,205	1,587,030
FLOUR MIX, BAKERY, LOW-FAT	245,700	297,325
FLOUR, ALL-PURPOSE	2,527,560	745,879
FLOUR, 100% WHITE WHOLE WHEAT	760,000	215,382
FRUIT AND NUT MIX, DRIED	489,216	1,297,823
GRITS	2,563,992	976,525

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT (FFCRA)		
COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
JUICE, APPLE, UNSWEETENED	2,924,940	1,461,368
JUICE, CHERRY APPLE, UNSWEETENED	642,060	\$403,532
JUICE, CRANBERRY APPLE, UNSWEETENED	1,337,642	766,101
JUICE, GRAPE, CONCORD, UNSWEETENED	1,462,470	823,793
JUICE, ORANGE, UNSWEETENED	1,426,800	780,486
JUICE, TOMATO, LOW-SODIUM	321,030	142,260
LENTILS, DRY	241,920	133,022
MACARONI AND CHEESE	3,936,728	2,849,210
MILK, 1% FRESH	69,822	25,324
MILK, 1% UHT	4,677,406	2,519,110
MILK, SKIM FRESH	34,952	12,031
MIXED FRUIT, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	692,550	598,525
MIXED PRODUCE, FRESH	14,858	115,475
OATS, ROLLED	2,479,680	1,965,249
OIL, VEGETABLE	5,201,658	3,671,344
ORANGES, FRESH	112,347	46,437
PASTA, ENRICHED	9,442,080	5,329,701
PASTA, WHOLE GRAIN	1,701,600	952,413
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	1,348,650	1,217,589
PEANUT BUTTER	8,310,600	12,414,803
PEANUTS, ROASTED, NO SALT ADDED	155,520	221,020
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	1,057,050	912,076
PEARS, FRESH	1,044,000	933,171
PEAS, CANNED	255,150	200,783
PEAS, DRY, SPLIT	120,960	56,213
PLUMS, DRIED	216,000	373,860
PORK, CANNED	2,160,000	4,597,877
PORK, CHOPS, FROZEN	1,193,200	3,595,587
PORK, HAM, FROZEN	1,922,400	4,153,608
PORK, LOIN ROAST, FROZEN	11,712	35,019
POTATOES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	477,360	269,647
POTATOES, DEHYDRATED, NO SALT ADDED	2,070,000	3,140,258
POTATOES, FRESH	1,640,000	414,964
PUMPKIN, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED	765,450	801,382
RAISINS	1,032,336	1,574,847
RICE, BROWN	1,008,000	948,385
RICE, WHITE	11,319,072	4,389,689
SALMON, CANNED, PINK	1,446,090	4,466,535
SOUP, CREAM OF CHICKEN, REDUCED SODIUM	1,030,920	1,256,635
SOUP, CREAM OF MUSHROOM, REDUCED SODIUM	1,144,757	930,163
SOUP, TOMATO, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,383,525	909,411
SOUP, VEGETABLE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	2,731,575	2,423,667
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	8,583,975	5,438,680
SPINACH, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	2,204,475	2,326,020
TOMATO SAUCE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	3,304,800	2,159,840
TOMATOES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,092,285	944,533
TORTILLAS, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH	1,260,000	1,180,080
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	<i>171,041,332</i>	<i>\$184,321,489</i>
Anticipated Adjustment	0	11,505,389
<i>TOTAL FFCRA COMMODITIES</i>	<i>171,041,332</i>	<i>\$195,826,878</i>

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)**Table FNS-117. FY 2021 TEFAP Quantity and Value of Commodities Continued**

COVID SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS UNDER CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS (Division N)	POUNDS	VALUE
ALASKA POLLOCK, FILLETS, FROZEN	1,520,000	\$4,347,021
ALASKA POLLOCK, BREADED NUGGETS, FROZEN	2,394,000	5,667,576
ALASKA POLLOCK, BREADED STICKS, FROZEN	1,292,000	2,991,397
ALMONDS, ROASTED, WHOLE	1,515,360	4,510,983
APPLES, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	198,000	279,972
APPLESAUCE, CANNED, UNSWEETENED	3,256,425	2,958,263
APPLESAUCE, CUPS, UNSWEETENED	642,600	519,344
APRICOTS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	298,305	368,986
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK, LOW-SODIUM	3,059,235	1,663,666
BEANS, CANNED, BLACK-EYED PEA, LOW-SODIUM	1,693,251	1,359,904
BEANS, CANNED, GARBANZO, LOW-SODIUM	426,870	232,009
BEANS, CANNED, GREEN, LOW-SODIUM	4,791,960	3,433,493
BEANS, CANNED, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, LOW-SODIUM	2,084,549	1,258,693
BEANS, CANNED, PINTO, LOW-SODIUM	1,636,335	863,653
BEANS, CANNED, REFRIED, LOW-SODIUM	2,790,720	2,004,733
BEANS, CANNED, VEGETARIAN, LOW-SODIUM	1,824,312	1,089,395
BEANS, DRY, BLACK-EYED PEA, NO SALT ADDED	120,960	162,506
BEANS, DRY, GARBANZO NO SALT ADDED	120,960	69,048
BEANS, DRY, GREAT NORTHERN, NO SALT ADDED	887,040	557,726
BEANS, DRY, LIGHT RED KIDNEY, NO SALT ADDED	1,491,840	1,348,135
BEANS, DRY, LIMA, NO SALT ADDED	1,088,640	1,325,270
BEANS, DRY, PINTO, NO SALT ADDED	4,213,440	2,681,073
BEANS, FROZEN, GREEN, NO SALT ADDED	660,960	612,911
BEEF, CANNED	2,504,052	10,626,046
BEEF, CANNED, CHILI WITHOUT BEANS	612,000	905,688
BEEF, CANNED, STEW	5,646,600	10,780,459
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN	7,650,000	34,655,509
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN, LFTB OPTIONAL	1,413,320	6,259,604
BLUEBERRIES, Highbush, FROZEN, UNSWEETENED	356,400	477,510
CARROTS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	619,650	397,969
CARROTS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	194,400	122,666
CATFISH, FILLETS, FROZEN	1,596,000	11,431,920
CEREAL, CORN FLAKES	550,800	690,612
CEREAL, OAT CIRCLES	979,776	1,254,902
CEREAL, RICE CRISP	124,740	189,605
CEREAL, SHREDDED WHEAT	287,820	315,553
CEREAL, WHEAT BRAN FLAKES	705,981	875,851
CEREAL, WHEAT FARINA	306,000	284,301
CHEESE, AMERICAN	396,000	816,135
CHEESE, AMERICAN, REDUCED FAT	2,492,376	4,384,415
CHEESE, CHEDDAR	2,553,600	5,894,422
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, LOW MOISTURE PART SKIM	1,243,200	2,394,459
CHEESE, MOZZARELLA, INDIVIDUAL, LOW MOISTURE PART SKIM	869,400	2,109,437
CHEESE, SWISS	1,247,490	3,918,362
CHICKEN, BONELESS BREAST, FROZEN	179,400	457,704
CHICKEN, BREAST FILLETS, COOKED, FROZEN	789,750	2,810,379
CHICKEN, SPLIT BREAST, FROZEN	2,067,000	5,974,537
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED	3,188,663	6,609,982
CHICKEN, WHOLE, FROZEN	7,327,400	8,863,843
CORN, CANNED, CREAM, LOW-SODIUM	109,350	70,389
CORN, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED	2,662,812	1,772,689

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

COVID SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS UNDER CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS (Division N)	POUNDS	VALUE
CORN, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	3,191,760	2,812,442
CRACKERS, UNSALTED	1,020,600	\$2,471,666
CRANBERRIES, DRIED	750,375	2,109,866
EGG NOODLES	852,480	1,103,694
EGGS, FRESH	2,936,250	1,763,905
EGG MIX, DRIED	468,000	3,653,507
FLOUR, ALL-PURPOSE. ENRICHED	2,313,360	798,246
FLOUR MIX, BAKERY, LOW-FAT	421,200	500,961
FLOUR, 100% WHITE WHOLE WHEAT	2,400,000	703,220
FRUIT AND NUT MIX, DRIED	1,188,096	3,403,342
GRITS	1,552,248	769,160
JUICE, APPLE, UNSWEETENED	3,570,550	1,977,709
JUICE, CHERRY APPLE, UNSWEETENED	1,783,500	1,229,026
JUICE, CRANBERRY APPLE, UNSWEETENED	1,640,820	1,026,035
JUICE, GRAPE, CONCORD, UNSWEETENED	1,819,170	1,395,825
JUICE, GRAPEFRUIT, UNSWEETENED	321,030	159,418
JUICE, ORANGE, UNSWEETENED	3,067,620	1,733,589
JUICE, TOMATO, LOW-SODIUM	35,670	13,458
LENTILS, DRY	1,451,520	759,461
MACARONI AND CHEESE	5,971,006	4,603,467
MILK, 1% FRESH	10,034,973	2,896,860
MILK, 1% UHT	1,922,306	1,341,020
MILK, SKIM FRESH	34,952	11,998
MIXED FRUIT, DRIED	1,188,096	2,935,223
MIXED PRODUCE, FRESH	870,281	6,797,335
MIXED FRUIT, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	6,123,600	5,734,145
MIXED VEGETABLES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	692,550	537,710
OATS, ROLLED	2,026,080	1,691,381
OIL, VEGETABLE	4,997,032	4,783,433
ORANGES, FRESH	973,674	484,682
PASTA, ENRICHED	6,353,480	3,531,283
PASTA, WHOLE GRAIN	1,941,840	1,199,273
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	3,389,850	3,501,118
PEANUT BUTTER	7,602,216	10,479,028
PEANUTS, ROASTED, NO SALT ADDED	77,760	116,199
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	2,542,388	2,407,670
PEARS, FRESH	1,003,520	643,009
PEAS, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	2,843,100	2,459,759
PEAS, DRY, SPLIT	604,800	295,344
PEAS, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	1,201,740	1,113,905
PLUMS, DRIED	180,000	445,834
PORK, CANNED	3,055,572	7,711,418
PORK CHOPS, FROZEN	3,216,000	9,866,156
PORK, HAM, FROZEN	972,000	2,145,672
PORK, LOIN ROAST, FROZEN	4,334,325	12,922,480
PORK, PULLED, COOKED	104,000	320,431
POTATOES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,817,640	1,172,141
POTATOES, DEHYDRATED, NO SALT ADDED	2,910,000	4,211,600
PUMPKIN, CANNED, NO SALT ADDED	874,800	1,002,618
RAISINS	1,032,336	1,721,033
RICE, BROWN	781,200	735,091
RICE, WHITE	10,000,128	4,622,518
SALMON, CANNED, PINK	3,867,494	12,242,410
SOUP, CREAM OF CHICKEN, REDUCED SODIUM	1,264,725	1,624,382

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

COVID SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS UNDER CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS (Division N)	POUNDS	VALUE
SOUP, CREAM OF MUSHROOM, REDUCED SODIUM	1,526,342	1,189,408
SOUP, TOMATO, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	2,731,575	\$1,818,254
SOUP, VEGETABLE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	3,586,523	3,094,023
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	4,574,475	2,868,202
SPINACH, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	33,915	37,161
SWEET POTATOES, FRESH	760,000	334,050
TOMATO SAUCE, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	2,860,718	1,946,726
TOMATOES, CANNED, LOW-SODIUM	1,233,225	865,760
TORTILLAS, WHOLE GRAIN-RICH	720,000	725,314
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	<u>232,298,225</u>	<u>\$325,221,761</u>
Anticipated Adjustment	<u>0</u>	<u>73,866,595</u>
Cash-In-Lieu of Commodities - CNMI		<u>205,429</u>
<i>TOTAL COVID SUPPLEMENTAL (Division N) COMMODITIES</i>	<i>232,298,225</i>	<i>\$399,293,785</i>
ALL COMMODITIES		
Entitlement Commodities	319,882,547	335,558,763
Bonus Commodities	548,310,412	701,178,517
CARES Act Commodities	73,358,249	45,275,660
FFCRA Commodities	171,041,332	195,826,878
COVID Supplemental Division N	232,298,225	399,293,785
GRAND TOTAL – TEFAP	1,344,890,765	\$1,677,133,603

NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM (NSIP)**Table FNS-118. FY 2021 NSIP Quantity and Value of Commodities**

ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES	POUNDS	VALUE
APPLES, CANNED, UNSWEETENED	17,784	\$16,165
APRICOTS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	36,936	40,256
BEANS, CANNED, GARBANZO, LOW-SODIUM	34,992	16,165
BEANS, GREEN, FROZEN, NO SALT ADDED	34,656	18,276
BEANS, CANNED, VEGETARIAN, LOW-SODIUM	34,992	16,710
BEEF, FINE GROUND, 85/15, FROZEN	91,200	269,290
BLUEBERRIES, FROZEN, HIGHBUSH, UNSWEETENED	3,420	4,707
CHICKEN, WHITE MEAT, CANNED	28,125	75,938
CHICKEN, CUT UP, FROZEN	76,000	93,890
CHICKEN, UNSEASONED STRIPS, COOKED, FROZEN	19,500	67,100
MIXED FRUIT, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	108,756	85,655
PEACHES, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	108,756	88,610
PEARS, CANNED, EXTRA LIGHT SYRUP	72,048	57,091
PORK, LEG ROAST, FROZEN	20,000	45,800
TOMATO SAUCE, CANNED/POUCH, LOW-SODIUM	8,427	4,634
TURKEY, ROAST, FROZEN	90,000	286,560
SUBTOTAL	785,592	\$1,186,847
Anticipated Adjustment	0	-29,092
AMS/WBSCM/Comp Payment	0	174,159
TOTAL ENTITLEMENT COMMODITY	785,592	\$1,331,914
GRAND TOTAL NSIP	785,592	\$1,331,914

NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM (NSIP)**Table FNS-119. FY 2021 NSIP Entitlement and Bonus**

State or Territory	Entitlement	Bonus	TOTAL
Delaware	\$221,250	\$0	\$221,250
Kansas	201,339	0	201,339
Massachusetts	351,737	0	351,737
Montana	299,094	0	299,094
Nevada	113,428	0	113,428
AMS/WBSCM Admin Expense	174,159	0	174,159
Anticipated Adjustment	-29,092	0	-29,092
TOTAL	\$1,331,914	\$0	\$1,331,914

DISASTER ASSISTANCE FEEDING (DA)**Table FNS-120. FY 2021 DA Feeding Quantity and Value of Commodities**

State or Territory	Disaster Name	Disaster Type	People Served	Pounds	TOTAL
Alaska	Buckland Flood	Flood	500	6,404	\$8,359
Louisiana	Hurricane Delta	Hurricane	44,801	748,571	668,510
Louisiana	Hurricane Zeta	Hurricane	5,540	290,647	275,707
Oregon	Oregon Wildfires	Wildfire	179,632	37,932	58,441
Oregon	Oregon Wildfires	Wildfire	3,678	22,865	27,386
Anticipated Adjustment					-716,862
TOTAL			234,151	1,106,419	\$321,541

ACCOUNT 5: NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

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

For necessary administrative expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service for carrying out any domestic nutrition assistance program, [\$156,805,000] \$238,670,000: *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.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**Table FNS-121. Lead-Off Tabular Statement**

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2022	\$156,805,000
Change in Appropriation	<u>+81,865,000</u>
Budget Estimate, 2023	<u>238,670,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENT**Table FNS-122. NPA Project Statement (thousands of dollars, Full Time Equivalents)**

Item	2020		2021		2022		2023		Inc. or		Chg Key FTE
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Budget	FTE	Dec.		
Discretionary Appropriations:											
FNS Salaries and Expenses	\$135,935	737	\$142,525	709	\$138,917	819	\$181,125	927	\$41,208	(1,5-11)	108
Rev. of Nat. Aca of Sciences Rpt. On DGA's	0	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Ensuring Sci. Integ. of DGA's and Food Plans	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,210	0	15,210	(2)	0
Nutrition Security, Education and Racial Equity	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,000	0	23,000	(3)	0
Cross Program Tech. Assist. for Tribal Comm	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	2,000	(4)	0
Congressional Hunger Center	2,000	0	2,000	0	2,000	0	2,000	0	0		0
Dec. GSA Rent & DHS Sec. Payments	14,749	0	13,463	0	14,888	0	15,335	0	447	(12)	0
Risk Reduction and IT Modernization	3,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Subtotal Direct Appropriations	156,184	737	157,988	709	156,805	819	238,670	927	81,865		108
Total Available Appropriation	156,184	737	157,988	709	156,805	819	238,670	927	81,865		108

PROJECT STATEMENT**Table FNS-123. NPA Project Statement (thousands of dollars, Full Time Equivalents)**

Item	2020		2021		2022		2023		Inc. or	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Budget	FTE	Dec.	FTE
Discretionary Obligations:										
FNS Salaries and Expenses	\$130,079	737	\$133,311	709	\$139,917	819	\$181,125	927	+\$41,208	108
Dietary Guidelines for Americans Dev.	5,444	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rev. of Nat. Aca. of Sciences Rpt. on DGA's	0	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ensuring Sci. Integ. of DGA's and Food Plans	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,210	0	+15,210	0
Cross Program Tech. Assist. for Tribal Comm	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	+2,000	0
Nutrition Security, Education and Racial Equity	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,000	0	+23,000	0
Congressional Hunger Center	2,000	0	2,000	0	2,000	0	2,000	0	0	0
Dec. GSA Rent & DHS Sec. Payments	14,749	0	13,463	0	14,888	0	15,335	0	+447	0
Risk Reduction and IT Modernization	3,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Park Office Center Rel./Ren. (Direct Approp)	1,048	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Direct Appropriations	156,820	737	149,774	709	156,805	819	238,670	927	+81,865	108
Transfers In:										
Congressional Relations	-180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Reimbursements	-113	0	-1,183	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Transfers In	-293	737	-1,183	709	156,805	819	238,670	927	81,865	108
Total, Discretionary Funding	156,527	737	148,591	709	156,805	819	238,670	927	81,865	108
Obligations from Prior Years										
X Year Funds	8,656	0	158	0	4,236	0	4,236	0	0	0
2019/2021 Funds	823	0	823	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Carryover	9,479	0	981	0	4,236	0	4,236	0	0	0
Transfers Out (Working Capital Fund Cont.)	2,000	0	800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Available	168,006	737	150,372	709	161,041	819	242,906	927	81,865	108
Balances Lapsing	5,924	0	7,334	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balances Available, EOY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Obligations	173,930	730	157,706	709	161,041	819	242,906	927	81,865	108

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The numbered justifications items are keyed to the Change Key (Chg. Key) column on the Project Statement.

The Nutrition Programs Administration (NPA) funds operating expenses for administering the nutrition assistance programs of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). In addition, funds support the Agency's rent, working capital fund charges, shared cost charges, audit, human resources systems, and more than half of the Agency's staff. It also includes the work of the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP). CNPP is an organization within USDA's FNS mission area.

In addition to the activities and functions specifically described in the budget request, current year and budget year base funds will be used to carry out activities and functions consistent with the full range of authorities and activities delegated to the Agency.

A net increase of \$81,865,000 for Nutrition Programs Administration (\$156,805,000 available in FY 2022) consisting of:
The numbers of the following listing relate to the values in the Chg. Key column of the Project Statement:

- 1) 2022 Pay and FERS. An increase of \$18,778,000. In addition to adding 108 staff years, this increase supports the pay increase which went into effect January 1, 2022, of a 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increases for civilian employees, and a 1.1 percent increase to cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA's contribution to FERS.

2023 Pay. This increase will support the annualization of the 2022 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increase and the 2023 4.6 percent Cost of Living pay increase. Without the increase the Agency will have to absorb these costs.

- 2) An increase of \$15,210,000 including 20 staff years for Ensuring Scientific Integrity of Dietary Guidelines and Food Plans. Funding and additional staff years requested for CNPP will ensure FNCS' ability to execute core Administration priorities in the nutrition and nutrition assistance arenas, including executing the Secretary's priorities on addressing nutrition security and conducting more expansive communications and implementation of the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) as well as a re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP). \$3,300,000 including 20 staff years is in the FNS Salaries and Expenses line. Please refer to the current law proposal on page 35-162 for more details.
- 3) An increase of \$23,000,000 for Nutrition Security, Education and Racial Equity. Please refer to the current law proposal on page 35-164 for more details.
- 4) An increase of \$2,000,000 for Cross Program Technical Assistance for Tribal Communities. See the current law proposal on page 34-165.
- 5) An increase of \$6,000,000 and 4 staff years for Cross-Program Customer Service and Integration. This investment would seek to build state capacity to connect programs, processes, and systems more holistically. While FNS provides tools, training, and resources to help state and local operators deliver specific programs, this proposal would build on this work to integrate service delivery across programs, both within and beyond USDA. See current law proposal on page 35-166.
- 6) An increase of \$3,300,000 and 20 staff years for Enhanced Staffing for Critical Policy and Cross-Program Support Processes. FNS programs continue to grow both in size and in complexity. This expansion has accelerated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, expectations for customer and stakeholder engagement, public transparency and communications, and cross-governmental dialogue and collaboration, and adherence to Federal requirements to protect the interests of the public in policymaking are increasing. As the functional entity that connects across the program and policy organizations within FNS to a wide array of external audiences, an increased investment in a number of these functions is essential to continued mission success. See current law proposal on page 35-166.
- 7) An increase of \$5,630,000 and 35 staff years for Office of Management Expanded Staffing. Over the past several years, as FNS programs have grown, the staff available for critical functions within the Agency have shrunk. Program dollars have nearly doubled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while staffing within the financial management, contracts and human resources areas of the agency have dropped. This increase would add critical staffing in key areas. See current law proposal on page
- 8) An increase of \$1,800,000 and 10 staff years for CAP account increase for FNS Administrative Expenses. Currently, there is no CSFP program funding available for Federal administrative expenses so all staff focused on CSFP must be supported through the NPA account. This proposal would add 10 staff years to focus on providing technical assistance to States as well as on actual food purchasing and inventory management. See current law proposal on page 35-167.
- 9) An increase of \$1,700,000 and 9 staff years for Civil Rights Division Staffing. The Administration's focus on equity will put a larger emphasis on the work of the Civil Rights Division. The current staffing structure for the Civil Rights Division (CRD) is inadequate to meet the challenges of this renewed focus. As it currently stands, the CRD has only one technical advisor in Headquarters and one Regional Civil Rights Officer in each of the 7 regional offices. Building CRD staff is essential to meeting already demanding requirements and is essential to moving forward the administration's priorities in this area. See current law proposal on page 35-168.
- 10) An increase of \$3,000,000 and 2 staff years for Consolidated Translation Services for FNS. FNS must ensure that Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons have meaningful access to USDA's programs and activities pursuant to the *Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency"* (August 11, 2000) (*USDA DR 4330-005*). Currently, each program office within FNS obtains its services for translations, individually utilizing contractors and Spanish-speaking employees to translate documents. FNS is currently finalizing a blanket purchase agreement (BPA), under which FNS programs and the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion may issue call orders for translation, design, and 508-remediation services to support the development of publications and communication materials in languages other than English. This increase would provide continued support for the BPA and allow its use across all FNS programs

and activities. The request includes 2 staff years in the Civil Rights Division to focus on this cross-Agency effort. See current law proposal on page 35-168.

- 11) An increase of \$1,000,000 for Evidence Act Implementation. The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (“Evidence Act”) calls on federal agencies to ensure they are making policy decisions based on evidence, and to be building the evidence base to inform their decisions. Additional resources and flexibility are needed to enhance our capacity to meet the requirements of the Act. This \$1 million investment would provide dedicated funding within NPA to focus on the Commodity Assistance Programs, which currently has no program funds available for evaluation purposes. See current law proposal on page 35-168.
- 12) An increase of \$447,000 for rent and security.

Table FNS-124. Summary of FY 2022 and FY 2023 Current Law Proposals for NPA

Proposal	Amount (millions)
Ensure Evidence-Based Foundation to Integrate into and to Promote Healthy Diets Across FNCS Nutrition Policies, Programs and Consumer Education	\$15.21
Nutrition Security, Education and Racial Equity	23.0
Cross Program Technical Assistance for Tribal Communities	2.0
Cross Program Customer Service Integration	30.0
Enhanced Staffing for Critical Policy and Cross-Program Support Processes	3.30
Enhanced Staffing for Critical Financial, Data Analytics, Human Resources, and Contracts Functions	5.63
Increase for FNS administrative expenses for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program	1.80
Increase Civil Rights Staffing to address the Administration’s focus on Equity	1.70
Consolidated Translation Services for FNS	3.0
Evidence Act Implementation	1.0

Current Law Proposals

Ensure Evidence-Based Foundation to Integrate into and to Promote Healthy Diets Across FNCS Nutrition Policies, Programs and Consumer Education

Funding and additional staff years requested for CNPP will ensure FNS’ ability to execute core Administration priorities in the nutrition and nutrition assistance arenas, including ongoing re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) as required by the 2018 Farm Bill and the Secretary’s priorities of addressing nutrition security and conducting more expansive communications and implementation of the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA). Currently, Americans only score a 59 out of 100 on the Healthy Eating Index, which measures alignment with DGA. Further, COVID-19’s impact on hunger and health status has hit communities of color and other under-served communities particularly hard, serving as a real-time example of the urgency of advancing equity. Significant work is needed to help communities in need and to promote healthy eating to the public, as well as reflect it in FNS programs. Yet recent substantial expansions in the congressional mandates for the TFP and DGA have placed significantly more strain on CNPP’s very limited staff and funding each year.

In order to meet the mandates to publish the TFP and DGA every five years to remain current, the work on each is ongoing, not cyclical. Each has far-reaching influence and impact. The TFP, which provides the cost and market baskets for a minimal-cost, nutritious diet that aligns with the DGA, serves as the basis for the maximum SNAP allotment. The DGA is the standard by which all Federal nutrition policies and programs adhere. Within FNS alone, this includes the TFP and the SNAP maximum benefit, the WIC basket, Child Nutrition’s foods and beverages in school meals and summer feeding, what goes into Food Distribution’s packages to older adults and Native American tribes, and MyPlate as the consumer translation and central portal for consumer resources that national programs, FNS regions and local educators use. (Across Federal agencies and departments, the DGA is the nutrition standard for food service for the military, the basis for the Nutrition Facts label and FDA’s definition of “healthy,” and more.) Additionally, meeting Secretary Vilsack’s charge of driving *nutrition* security (not just food security) requires CNPP’s translation of the TFP and the DGA into evidence-based MyPlate consumer resources that meet people where they are and encourage consumers to select/purchase, prepare and consume *healthy* foods and beverages.

The funding and additional staff years will help ensure the following:

- ***Build basic CNPP infrastructure and capacity to be able to support Administration priorities and respond to congressional requirements*** – Central to meeting congressional requirements is the need to evolve and advance

with the science, and to translate the science for the public to promote healthier eating behavior, all of which requires dedicated expert staff and state-of-the-art resources. CNPP’s staff levels have been static since the 1990’s, while congressional mandates have greatly expanded. Additional funds and staff for CNPP will ensure the level of nutrition and data scientists, economists and other specialists needed for delivery of both the TFP and DGA, key evidence-based resources that are foundational to so many significant, national food and nutrition policies.

- **Deliver on promoting the Dietary Guidelines and integration into programs** – The DGA serves the public – first and foremost, our Federal nutrition programs and their participants. Nutrition education and promotion of the DGA is crucial to help achieve nutrition security and improve health outcomes. Backed by decades of science, the DGA and its consumer translation MyPlate, can help the vast majority of the public, especially people living with high blood pressure, high cholesterol, pre-diabetes, overweight and obesity, and help prevent progression of diseases like diabetes and heart disease.
 - MyPlate serves as a key resource relied on by SNAP-Ed and local educators, nutrition educators across all the FNS nutrition assistance programs nationally and in the regions, as well as other agencies and departments to give the consumers they serve free, practical, personalized and actionable resources that help them eat healthfully. One-time funding for the Dietary Guidelines provided for FYs 2019-2021 made it possible, for the first time, to release a robust set of innovative, consumer-tested tools that are integrated to encourage behavior change. These tools have been regarded widely among the national programs, regions and local educators (e.g., Cooperative Extension Coordinators) as game changing and CNPP has received requests for continued support like this, particularly cultural and language translations to use at the community level.
 - Additional funding to actively promote the DGA and MyPlate would allow USDA to not just reach people broadly, but to tackle health inequities by meeting the individual needs of culturally diverse communities. Doing this takes and deserves a longstanding commitment to help bring about much-needed change. The work entails understanding key barriers and motivators to healthy eating; lifting up credible voices and working with those trusted partners to help reach these communities with evidence-based strategies and resources that meet people where they are culturally, financially and personally; and identifying systems of support to encourage sustained healthy eating behaviors to protect their health.
 - With proper funding, CNPP can take a proactive, strategic approach to providing authoritative leadership in coordinating FNS consumer nutrition education and bringing together multiple sectors of stakeholders to encourage healthy eating behavior change across the diverse public we serve. No one entity can bring about change in this vastly complex area, but CNPP is looked to as a central source of subject matter expertise and authority that signals priorities and provides thought leadership important to collaboration, which is essential.

The budget estimate below includes \$3.3 million for additional staff in FY 2023 and \$7.0 million for additional contract work.

Table FNS-125. Ensure Evidence-Based Foundation Across FNCS Nutrition Policies, Programs and Consumer Education (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$15.21	\$10.60	\$10.80	\$117.00

Nutrition Security, Education, and Racial Equity to Improve Nutrition Security and Health Outcomes for all Americans

USDA nutrition assistance programs touch the lives of one in four American consumers in the course of a year, and the nutrition education and promotion efforts linked to or integrated within our programs are a powerful opportunity to better mobilize our Department’s nutrition education and promotion assets to help *all* Americans lead healthier lives. All nutrition education and promotion efforts across USDA are grounded in the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* (DGAs). USDA, along with the Department of Health and Human Services, updates the DGAs every five years in addition to translates the DGAs into a variety of nutrition education and promotion activities across the Department that are crucial to achieve nutrition security and improved health outcomes.

Dietary behaviors are complex and are motivated by the combined influence of many factors, including personal (e.g., attitudes, values, knowledge, and skills), cultural, and environmental (e.g., family, workplace, school, grocery stores, community, and mass media). Nutrition interventions must deal with the full range of these complex influences. Effectively measuring the impact of nutrition education and promotion is an area where more investment is needed. And our programs, such as SNAP-Ed, have undergone comprehensive redesigns to shift to allow comprehensive multi-level and/or public health approaches that may involve social marketing and policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) change strategies and interventions. Other FNS supported nutrition education and promotion programs, like WIC and Team Nutrition, are adopting approaches to address the co-existence of food insecurity and diet-related chronic diseases and disparities. Part of this work includes responding to the President’s Executive Order on DEIA to better apply an equity lens to our programs including but not limited to our administration, reach, delivery, and evaluation. This is critical because the COVID-19 pandemic brought health disparities and the vital need for access to healthy food to the forefront. One study estimated that Americans who had obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and heart failure were much more likely to be hospitalized due to COV-19. It is imperative that we prioritize nutrition education and strive to ensure that those who qualify for our programs have no barriers to information which can help them make choices to improve their health and well-being.

Mounting evidence supports the effectiveness of USDA nutrition education and promotion efforts to improve knowledge and catalyze healthier behaviors. USDA is committed to tackling food and nutrition insecurity and advancing racial equity. Still, USDA faces multiple challenges in its efforts to deliver effective and cohesive nutrition education across programs such as programs with authorities defined by statute and regulation that reach different populations and limit the ability to operate in a holistic structure as well as limited resources and staff. This initiative seeks to build and broaden FNS capacity to deliver effective nutrition education and promotion to *all* Americans within existing program structures by:

- **Supporting research and evaluation of effective strategies:** The bulk of the investment will be here. Specific efforts will be made to stimulate State, Tribal, and local government innovations and ensure we provide support for research and evaluation so we can understand impacts and ideally help disseminate success stories across the nation. We will utilize research and evaluation support via grants and contracted services towards better understanding and advancing the dissemination of the most promising strategies to help us tackle food and nutrition security and improve health outcomes for *all* Americans. Specific focus areas include data modernization, metric development, and applying an equity lens to program access and delivery and with the potential to strengthen the public health impacts of our programs.
- **Leveraging partnerships with States, local, and nongovernmental organizations:** We will enhance staff capacity to engage stakeholders and develop innovative partnerships with State, Tribal, and local governments, non-government organizations, and potentially the private sector – leveraging and building beyond our SNAP-Ed network. This will facilitate dissemination and amplification of nutrition education materials. The goal will be to provide technical assistance and training on evidence-based approaches as well as on building and diversifying the workforce. This includes conducting assessments on our current engagement strategies and relevant workforce, garnering input on our existing and potential partnerships, and stimulating innovative initiatives with key partners.
- **Targeting underserved communities with culturally appropriate resources and interventions:** Efforts will be made to modernize our data on key socio-demographics so we better understand our targeted underserved communities and our progress going forward in better reaching them. We will develop a roadmap for data modernization most relevant to our nutrition education and promotion activities in collaboration with REE. We will utilize grants to stimulate innovations through State, Tribal, and local governments.
- **Improving public access to USDA nutrition education resources:** We will make improvements in the accessibility and quality of our existing and planned web-based nutrition education resources by bringing them together in a more coordinated fashion to ensure we are reaching historically underserved populations that may or may not have current access to FNS programs.

Table FNS-126. Nutrition Education Initiative (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority				
NPA	\$23	\$16	\$16	\$160

Cross Program Technical Support for Tribal Communities

This proposal supports the Secretary’s commitment to increasing tribal self-governance of federal nutrition programs as well as FNS’s capacity to source food from tribes. USDA needs to expand its ability to support tribes’ successful

management of federal food programs. This proposal would provide staff dedicated to expanding technical assistance to help tribes and tribal members access our programs effectively; helping them develop proposals for grant funding; supporting integration of culturally appropriate foods into our programs; and assisting in developing FNCS and Office of Tribal Relations resources to engage with tribes in a self-governance process within a time-compressed period. The \$2 million in NPA funds would provide 8 staff years as well as travel funds for this purpose.

Table FNS-127. Evaluation/Analysis Support for Thrifty Food Plan Impacts (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority				
NPA	\$2	\$2	\$2	\$20

Cross-Program Customer Service Integration

Federal nutrition assistance programs are designed to be administered at the state level so that program delivery can be tailored to specific needs and circumstances in local communities. At the same time, they are designed to be accessible to eligible people across the Nation no matter where they live. Furthermore, many other Federal programs are intended to serve portions of the same eligible population.

This investment would seek to build state capacity to connect programs, processes, and systems more holistically. While FNS provides tools, training, and resources to help state and local operators deliver specific programs, this proposal would build on this work to integrate service delivery across programs, both within and beyond USDA. The objective is to deliver strong performance and great customer service focused on the circumstances of potential participants their needs, the challenges they must overcome, and the full range of benefits and services that can help them – not on program boundaries.

The proposal would promote best practices and models, target technical assistance to improve performance, shape a better service experience, and promote benefit coordination across Federal programs. Funds would be used to augment functions that carry out this work—guidance and technical assistance, business process and systems design, performance management and accountability—to strengthen connections, coordination, and best practices across programs, as well as to coordinate between them to synergize delivery improvements. Potential strategies and initiatives could include.

Expanded technical assistance and best-practice sharing to improve key functions and services Support and guidance for systems planning that integrates cross-program functionality Strengthened operational process, technology support and communication to improve operational resiliency to manage risk in the face of emerging challenges. Model performance standards for program operations, and related performance metrics for customer service across FNS, USDA, and other Federal programs, and related outcomes. Helping non-State partners mature operational capacity to enable transition to major programs. The additional work funded by this request would result in easier access to benefits for those that need them, reduced application burdens, and restored dignity and customer service for current and potential participants.

Table FNS-128. Cross-Program Customer Service Integration (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year Total
NPA Budget Authority	\$6.0	\$6.2	\$6.3	\$68.2
SNAP Budget Authority	3.0	3.1	3.2	34.1
CN Budget Authority	3.0	3.1	3.2	34.1
WIC Budget Authority	3.0	3.1	3.2	34.1
Total Budget Authority	15.0	15.4	15.9	170.5

Enhanced Staffing for Critical Policy and Cross-Program Support Processes

FNS programs continue to grow both in size and in complexity. This expansion has accelerated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, expectations for customer and stakeholder engagement, public transparency and communications, and cross-governmental (Federal/State/Tribal/local, executive and legislative) dialogue and collaboration, and adherence to Federal requirements to protect the interests of the public in policymaking are increasing. As the functional entity that connects across the program and policy organizations within FNS to a wide array of external audiences, an increased investment in a number of these functions is essential to continued mission success.

*Specific needs by function include:***Table FNS-129. Critical Policy and Cross-Program Support Processes**

FNS Function	Proposed SY Increase	Requirement
External and Governmental Affairs	8	Program Analysts and Public Affairs Specialists to: Support more effective governmental affairs engagement Re-establish a centralized stakeholder relations/engagement function Enhance Tribal consultation capacity
Communications	4	Public Affairs Specialists to enhance FNS’s public digital communications presence.
Regulatory Affairs	2	Regulatory Affairs Specialists and Information Collection (IC) Specialists to support regulatory/IC/guidance clearance
Research and Analysis	6	More Social Science Policy Analysts to develop budget, regulatory, and other program analysis to support policy innovation and improvement (See also Evidence Act request to support Social Science Research Analysts)

Table FNS-130. Enhanced Staffing for Critical Policy and Cross-Program Support Processes (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$3.3	\$3.4	\$3.5	\$37.5

Enhanced Staffing for Critical Financial, Data Analytics, Human Resources, and Contracts Functions

Over the past several years, as FNS programs have grown, the staff available for critical functions within the Agency have shrunk. Program dollars have nearly doubled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while staffing within the financial management, contracts and human resources areas of the agency have dropped.

In 2016, the amount of the NPA account available for salaries and expenses totaled about \$135 million. In 2021, that amount is \$139 million – an increase of \$4 million. However, during that same 5-year time period, pay increases as well as increasing FERS contributions have added \$2 to \$3 million per year to the cost of maintaining the same staffing level. Therefore, the number of staff supported by the NPA account has dropped from 966 staff years in FY 2016 to 819 staff years in FY 2021. Areas where staffing has suffered the most have been in some of the core functions of the Agency that serve all programs.

This proposal would add critical staff in the following categories:

Table FNS-131. Staffing for Critical Policy and Cross-Program Support Processes

FNS Function	Proposed SY Increase	Requirement
Data Analytics	4	The passage of the Federal Data Strategy creates a new set of requirements for all Federal agencies. This proposal establishes a dedicated centralized team of four data analysts at the National Office responsible for establishing a core group for data management policy coordination, training, and tool development.
Human Resources	5	The Human Resources Division (HRD) regained its delegated hiring authority in 2019 after more than a decade and currently relies on contractor support for several critical services to include: staffing and classification, PAR processing, employee and labor relations, and performance management. This proposal would add permanent staff to the Human Resources Division to help the Agency regain its ability to keep up with the staffing requirements of the Agency. Some contractor staff will be exchanged for Federal staff. This will result in a minor reduction in costs.
HR Training	4	The proposal would establish four (4) new curriculum and training positions to conduct training and technical support, including the Employee Development Program (EDP) activities and initiatives across the Agency. The EDP is focused on technical versus soft skills training with emphasis on Management Evaluations, program policies and regulations. The staff will be responsible for curriculum development, course development and maintenance, coordinating training instances, instructing, and collaborating with Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) ensure that the information contained in nearly 500 separate EDP modules is reviewed, updated and current.
Contracts Management	5	The proposal would add 5 contract specialists/contract administrators in the Contracts Management Division (CMD). CMD services the entire acquisition life cycle needs of the Mission Area, including pre-award, award, and post-award services. Currently the CMD is understaffed and must use a professional services contract to help with contract administration. With the additional workload from the passage of the supplemental relief bills, in addition to increases in other Congressional expectations, FNS needs to add

FNS Function	Proposed SY Increase	Requirement
		permanent CMD staff to manage the increase in contract activity.
Financial Management	5	This proposal would provide 5 new staff years in Financial Management (FM). FM has a critical need for additional staff in Budget, Accounting, and Grants Management. Nutrition Assistance response to the pandemic has practically doubled the amount of funding being managed by the Agency – with no additional staff increases in FM. FM needs additional Budget staff to manage increases in State reporting, additional accounting staff to manage all the new funding within new Treasury symbols, and additional Grants Management staff to keep up with provision of fiscal policy, technical assistance and actual grant awards.
Office of Information Technology	10	This proposal would add 10 staff years to the Office of Information Technology (OIT). OIT requires additional staff to deliver the needed IT Services for the full modernization and transformation of the FNCS IT Portfolio along the vectors of: Reimagining the role of technology in the organization as business and innovation partner for the design of tech-forward applications, elimination of organizational silos, and delivery of exceptional customer satisfaction. Reinventing technology delivery through an Innovation Team that delivers agile development using next-generation capabilities such as end-to-end automation, software as a service, machine learning, mobile apps, internet of things and cloud platforms. Future-proofing the infrastructure to keep pace with rapid technological advancements, flexible architecture, data ubiquity, and advanced cybersecurity protection.
Chief Operating Officer	2	The Office of the Chief Operating Officer is responsible for implementing a variety of government-wide initiatives such as the Evidence Act, the Data Act, and the Federal Data Strategy as well as for Strategic Planning and Performance Management. These 2 staff years would be deployed to support these areas as needed.

Table FNS-132. Enhanced Staffing for Critical Financial, Data Analytics, Human Resources, and Contracts Functions (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$5.63	\$5.8	\$6.0	\$64.2

Increase for FNS administrative expenses for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program

This proposal requests an additional \$1.8 million in administrative funding to support FNS administrative expenses related to CSFP. This proposal allows 10 staff years focused on CSFP to be supported through the NPA account. This increase is needed to support household program changes due to lessons learned from COVID-19. Currently, there is no CSFP program funding available for Federal administrative expenses so all staff focused on CSFP must be supported through the NPA account. These staff years would be focused on providing technical assistance to States as well as focused on actual food purchasing and inventory management. There are around 700,000 individuals participating in CSFP in all 50 States, but there are very few staff resources currently focused on this program. This investment would help to increase focus on this program at both the Headquarters and regional levels.

Table FNS-133. Increase for FNS administrative expenses for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$1.8	\$1.9	\$1.9	\$20.4

Increase Civil Rights Staffing to address the Administration’s focus on Equity

The Administration’s focus on equity (Executive Orders, Agency Priority Planning) will put a larger emphasis on the Civil Rights Division. The current Staffing structure for the Civil Rights Division (CRD) is such that a loss of any staff listed below would be detrimental to the Division’s ability to perform its functions, including regulatory requirements. As it currently stands, the CRD has only one technical advisor in Headquarters and one Regional Civil Rights Officer in each of the 7 regional offices. Building CRD staff is essential to meeting already demanding requirements and is essential to moving forward the administration’s priorities in this area.

To this end, the proposal would provide CRD with one new Technical advisor and one new Intake Officer in Headquarters, as well as one new Regional Civil Rights Officer per region (for a total of 7) to support the expanded activities within the Civil Rights arena. The Technical Advisor will support the development and review of all FNS programs’ Civil Rights Impact Analysis (CRIA) as well as all program policy development. The 7 new Regional Civil Rights Officers (RCROs) would be responsible for Civil Rights compliance for all FNS programs within a particular

Region. The RCRO provides technical assistance, training, and compliance reviews within State Agencies necessary to ensure equal access to the Agency’s programs.

Table FNS-134. Increase Civil Rights Staffing to address the Administration’s focus on Equity (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$1.7	\$1.7	\$1.8	\$19.3

Consolidated Translation Services for FNS

FNS must ensure that Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons have meaningful access to USDA’s programs and activities pursuant to the *Executive Order 13166, “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency”* (August 11, 2000) (*USDA DR 4330-005*). Currently, each program office within FNS obtains its services for translations, individually utilizing contractors and Spanish-speaking employees to translate documents. FNS is currently finalizing a blanket procurement agreement (BPA), under which FNS programs and the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion may issue call orders for translation, design, and 508-remediation services to support the development of publications and communication materials in languages other than English. This Agency-wide BPA is in line with and supports the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights’ (OASCR) Limited English Proficiency Working Group objectives. This Departmental working group is actively drafting guidance and tools for translation services. However, the working group is still in its early stages and no timeline is available. In the meantime, FNS must continue on its current path and to support CNP’s centralized translation contract.

This translation services contract would be used to translate the website and may include all the program documents posted on it into other languages, as appropriate. The documents posted on the website currently include factsheets, frequently asked questions, brochures, policy memos, guidance documents, notices of upcoming regulations, nutrition education and training resources, and outreach materials. Additionally, documents identified by program areas may be translated into other languages. The website is a primary resource for State agencies, program operators, and the public to obtain information about our programs and services. Translating the website would significantly improve our communication with Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons and increase access to vital information about our programs and services. The goal is to embed a translation bar within the website that automatically translates the information displayed into frequently encountered languages similar to <https://www.LEP.gov>, which provides translated web content in 21 languages. This request would include the addition of 2 staff years for CRD to continue to focus on this effort.

Table FNS-135. Consolidated Translation Services for FNS (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$3.0	\$1.0	\$0.5	\$8.4

Evidence Act Implementation

The *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018* (“Evidence Act”) calls on federal agencies to ensure they are making policy decisions based on evidence, and to build the evidence base to inform their decisions. Additional resources and flexibilities are needed to enhance our capacity to meet the requirements of the Act. Evidence draws from a number of sources – including program evaluation research, and data and policy analysis which draws on administrative data and data collected through research studies. The Office of Policy Support within FNS leads the evidence-building function by collaborating with the programs to identify key policy questions and then identifying and building data to help support decision-making to answer key policy questions.

Resources that would facilitate building the evidence base would include:

- Providing dedicated funding in the NPA account for Commodity Assistance Programs (CAP) program evaluations. The CAP account currently has no dedicated study or evaluation funding.
- Currently available study funds from the Child Nutrition, SNAP and WIC accounts would be used for staff support of study design, data collection and analysis.

Table FNS-136. Evidence Act Implementation (millions of dollars)

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	10 Year Total
Budget Authority	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.1	\$11.4

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTE*Table FNS-137. NPA Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTE (thousands of dollars, FTE)*

State/Territory/Country	2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE
Arkansas	-	-	\$198	1	\$211	1	\$221	1
California	\$7,586	49	11,780	57	12,546	62	15,055	70
Colorado	8,129	53	11,156	54	11,881	66	14,257	75
District of Columbia	453	3	295	3	314	4	328	4
Florida	374	2	157	1	167	3	175	3
Georgia	7,280	47	10,297	50	10,966	59	13,159	67
Illinois	6,986	45	9,970	48	10,618	57	12,742	64
Iowa	68	-	68	-	72	-	75	-
Louisiana	68	-	8	-	9	-	9	-
Maine	68	-	96	-	102	-	107	-
Maryland	23	-	20	-	21	-	22	-
Massachusetts	5,695	37	8,382	40	8,927	46	10,712	52
Michigan	147	1	197	1	210	1	220	1
Minnesota	147	1	96	1	102	1	107	1
Mississippi	68	-	68	-	68	-	81	1
Missouri	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Montana	-	-	6	-	6	-	6	-
Nebraska	147	1	169	1	180	1	188	1
New Jersey	7,371	48	10,460	50	11,140	60	13,368	68
New Mexico	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	-
New York	487	3	289	3	308	4	322	4
North Carolina	509	3	706	3	752	4	787	4
Ohio	-	-	22	-	23	-	24	-
Oklahoma	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	-
Oregon	102	1	146	1	155	1	162	1
Pennsylvania	453	3	317	3	338	4	354	4
Puerto Rico	611	4	680	4	724	5	757	5
Tennessee	147	1	190	1	202	1	211	1
Texas	7,688	50	10,562	51	11,249	62	13,499	70
Utah	215	1	528	3	562	4	588	2
Virginia	101,320	382	73,413	331	78,673	371	144,842	427
Washington	159	1	210	1	224	1	234	1
Wisconsin	215	1	198	1	211	1	221	1
TOTAL	156,5271	737	157,706	709	161,041	819	242,906	927

1 Total does not include Congressional Relations (\$180,000) and Miscellaneous Reimbursements (\$113,000)

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**Table FNS-138. NPA Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)**

Item No.	Item	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2021 Estimated	2023 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$33,161	\$32,658	\$33,936	\$43,545
	Personnel Compensation, Field	49,742	48,988	50,905	65,318
11	Total personnel compensation	82,903	81,646	84,841	108,863
12	Personal benefits	28,969	30,310	36,361	46,656
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	77	62	26	26
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	111,949	112,018	121,228	155,545
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	435	380	380	380
22.0	Transportation of things	1	22	1	1
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	13,857	12,560	13,585	13,585
23.2	Rental payments to others	10	1	10	10
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	116	172	116	116
24.0	Printing and reproduction	334	946	307	307
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	17,567	15,151	14,010	61,558
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	8,087	5,268	3,712	3,712
25.6	Medical care	3	0	3	3
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	94	600	100	100
25.8	Subsistence and support of persons	453	498	453	453
26.0	Supplies and materials	332	273	400	400
31.0	Equipment	433	570	500	500
32.0	Land and structures	1,117	158	4,236	4,236
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
42	Insurance Claims and indemnities	32	138	0	0
	Total, Other Objects	44,871	38,737	39,813	87,361
99.9	Total, new obligations	156,820	150,755	161,041	242,906
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3)	1,428	903	1,428	1,428
	Information Technology Investments:				
	Financial Management Support Services				
11	Internal Labor	69	69	70	71
	Total Major Investment 2	69	69	70	71
	Mission Area Non-Major Investment Totals	5,114	2,115	2,134	2,175
	Mission Area Standard Investment Totals	9,152	5,135	5,601	5,713
25.3	Mission Area WCF Transfers	7,183	16,950	15,107	15,642
	Total Non-Major Investment	12,306	24,200	22,842	23,530
	Total Investments	12,375	24,269	22,912	23,601
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	189,420	191,314	195,198	203,260
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	110,882	115,156	117,494	122,347
	Average Grade, GS Position	12.6	12.6	12.6	12.6

STATUS OF PROGRAMS**NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION**

The Nutrition Programs Administration (NPA) appropriation funds operating expenses for administering the nutrition assistance programs of FNS.

FNS Administrative Resources – A Critical Program Management and Oversight Tool

FNS employees play a central role in managing the Federal nutrition assistance programs. While the programs operate in partnership with State agencies and local service providers, FNS is solely responsible for developing program policies and regulations. The policies and regulations ensure program design and operation are consistent with the law and current nutrition science. FNS disburses and accounts for Federal funds provided to those who operate the programs. In addition, FNS monitors program operations and conducts oversight, technical assistance, and evaluation to ensure that programs are managed and operated consistent with law and to maximize their effectiveness and value to clients and taxpayers.

Meeting these responsibilities is central to accomplishing core program objectives, including ensuring access to benefits for eligible individuals, improving the nutrition of program recipients, and strengthening program integrity. For example, ongoing efforts to improve Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) integrity, and Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) vendor cost containment are critical to the Agency's mission and require intensive staff focus and travel funding.

While substantial funding is also provided to States to operate these programs, State agencies have fundamentally different financial incentives than the Federal Government. In many areas, the cost of program problems or inefficiencies affects Federal expenditures, while the cost to resolve them has an impact on the States. Therefore, strong Federal policy and oversight are fundamental to ensuring effective levels of program accountability.

Although information technology improvements have resulted in large productivity gains in the past decade, many of FNS' functions are labor-intensive and require ongoing attention. Since the NPA appropriation funds most of the salaries and administrative expenses of FNS, it is integral to ensuring and leveraging the effective use of other program appropriations. Over the last two decades, FNS staff levels have not increased significantly – particularly considering the growing fiduciary responsibilities of the Agency and the increasing complexity of the programs it administers. Administrative funding for FNS accounts for less than two-tenths of one percent of the total investment in nutrition assistance.

The most significant accomplishments under this NPA appropriation during FY 2021 is cited below by program and activity.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

For SNAP, NPA funding is used for a range of critically important functions. FNS develops policies and procedures for the administration of the program, oversees State agency compliance with program rules, and provides technical assistance to States. The agency also reviews State quality control activities, determines the effectiveness and efficiency of State administration, and reviews and approves planning documents for computer system acquisitions and electronic benefit transfer issuance systems. FNS authorizes and monitors 254,350 retail and wholesale firms that are approved to accept SNAP benefits and maintains fiscal accountability for SNAP benefits.

FNS Oversight of State Program Operations

FNS' oversight of State SNAP operations is among its fundamental roles and is critical to program integrity and access. Each FY, FNS' seven Regional Offices continuously monitor and evaluate their States for compliance with SNAP requirements. This oversight is conducted primarily through FNS Management Evaluation (ME) Reviews, which involve an in-depth look at high risk or critically important components of program administration and generally include onsite, in-person visits to State headquarters and local offices; however, in FY 2021, due to the ongoing disruptive impacts, unprecedented challenges, and potential health risks posed by the COVID-19 public health emergency, FNS continued to leverage technology to conduct its ME Reviews offsite, virtually. FNS also continued its ongoing efforts to strengthen SNAP ME procedures and guidance to ensure compliance with program requirements, improve integrity, and protect access for eligible households. FNS updated and enhanced several SNAP ME guidance documents to increase standardization and promote consistency. FNS also continued to enhance MEMS.

Policy Adjustments and Flexibilities

In FY 2021, FNS continued to respond to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency with a variety of SNAP flexibilities and adjustments to the program. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA; P.L. 116-127), allowed SNAP State agencies to request and then subsequently extend various program adjustments and flexibilities to maintain State operations and serve clients during the Public Health Emergency. In FY 2021, 43 States had adjustments, for a total of around 176 adjustments approved in FY 2021. Many State agencies also took advantage of other options provided for in FFCRA, such as emergency allotments and Pandemic EBT. Throughout the public health emergency, FNS continued to provide technical assistance to State agencies through recurring conference calls, official guidance, and email correspondence. As part of the FFCRA requirements, State agencies are expected to provide FNS with evaluation reports about how SNAP adjustments affected State operations and clients. With these evaluation reports, as well as other program monitoring methods, FNS has strived to continue to uphold program integrity and access throughout the duration of the public health emergency.

FNS encourages States to consider ways to increase efficiencies and the effectiveness of their program administration and operations. FNS continues to provide State exchange funds to facilitate State and local agency travel to observe innovative practices which may be transferable. FNS also works with an increasing number of State agencies that are contemplating large-scale changes to their business models for delivering social services.

FNS provides technical assistance and performs strong oversight of States to ensure that workload management projects and other innovations are implemented in a successful manner to deliver program benefits more effectively and efficiently, using fewer resources without sacrificing customer service, program access or program integrity

Improving Program Integrity

FNS made important advances in its efforts to improve payment accuracy and retailer integrity.

Payment Accuracy

FNS did not issue national or State SNAP payment error rates for FY 2020 due to incomplete data. COVID-19 related flexibilities provided to State agencies suspended certain QC regulatory requirements from March 2020 until June 30, 2021. As a result, there was insufficient validated data to determine underpayment and overpayment error rates. FNS continued work towards implementing reforms in the Quality Control system to improve integrity and accuracy, including publishing an interim final rule to implement changes from the 2018 Farm Bill, and revising the QC 310 Handbook, which outlines the procedures reviewers must follow as they conduct quality control reviews.

Recipient Claims

State agencies collected approximately \$261 million. FNS continued to monitor corrective actions performed by States to address previously identified deficiencies in recipient claims systems.

Retailer Oversight and Integrity

In FY 2021, FNS staff authorized or reauthorized 66,732 retailers to participate in SNAP. FNS utilized contractor store visits to verify the initial or continued eligibility of 21,734 stores participating in SNAP. In this same period, 19,488 firms were withdrawn from participation because of changes in ownership, business closings, or nonconformance with authorization criteria. At the end of FY 2021, a total of 254,350 stores were authorized to participate in SNAP, an increase of 3,430 stores from FY 2020.

During FY 2021, FNS conducted undercover investigations of 4,548 stores nationwide. Overall, FNS compliance analysts and investigations reviewed 27,862 stores for compliance monitoring purposes. Overall, FNS compliance analysts and investigators reviewed 26,768 stores for compliance monitoring purposes.

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Systems

FNS continues oversight of States as their EBT contracts end and they procure EBT systems 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 FY 2021, FNS approved six RFPs, six contracts, and reviewed and approved 76 EBT contract amendments. The number of contract amendments remained significantly higher in 2021 than the historical average. This was due to COVID, and the fact that every State continued to execute various amendments, change orders, or updates to carry out Pandemic EBT benefits, Emergency Assistance, or accommodate other flexibilities in response to the COVID pandemic.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (FDPIR)

The NPA appropriation funds Federal staff administrative expenses to administer FDPIR. Through FDPIR, FNS acquires and distributes USDA Foods to participating Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) and State agencies for distribution to income-eligible households residing on Indian reservations and income-eligible Indian tribal households living in designated service areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. Funding is also provided to the ITOs/State agencies to support the administrative cost of operating the program as well as for nutrition education efforts. FNS sets standards for participant and provider eligibility and provides training and other assistance to program partners as needed.

Throughout FY 2021, FNS continued to execute grants authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (P.L. 116-136, CARES Act) to support facility improvements and equipment upgrades at local FDPIR program sites. FNS also continued to implement a program specific demonstration project included in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334, the 2018 Farm Bill) which was signed into law on December 20, 2018. Consultation efforts continued throughout the year to discuss FDPIR and SNAP with the Tribal community. FNS also continued the transition of FDPIR's current food inventory management system, Automated Inventory System (AIS), to the Integrated Food Management System (IFMS). The FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group, consisting of FDPIR Program Directors and Nutritionists as well as staff from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, FNS and the Agricultural Marketing Service, continued to make improvements in the FDPIR food package. In addition, two new Tribes were approved to begin administration of FDPIR. For more information about FDPIR activities during FY 2021, see the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program account section.

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

NPA funds a portion of the Federal administration of the WIC Program. FNS uses these funds to manage the allocation of grant resources to State Departments of Health and others to support program operations. NPA also supports the development of policies, procedures, and standards used in administering the program and monitoring of State agency operations to ensure program effectiveness and compliance with law and regulation.

Highlights of FY 2021 accomplishments supported by the NPA appropriation and related to the WIC Program include:

COVID-19 Pandemic Response – WIC and WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs (WIC FMNP)

FNS responded to over 895 WIC State agency waiver requests and 67 WIC FMNP State agency waiver requests to statutory and regulatory program requirements, to provide WIC and WIC FMNP State agencies, including Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) and U.S. Territories, the flexibilities they need to serve WIC participants during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. FNS also provided technical assistance to resolve requests where waivers were not needed. FNS continues to provide technical assistance to WIC State agencies on existing flexibilities so they can address program needs related to COVID-19.

In June 2020, FNS issued WIC Policy Memorandum 2020-5 which extended all active waivers through September 30, 2020. In September 2020, FNS issued WIC Policy Memorandum 2020-6 which extended certain WIC waivers until 30 days after the end of the nationally-declared public health emergency under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d), as related specifically to COVID-19. In September 2021, WIC Policy Memorandum 2021-10 extended most WIC waivers until 90 days after the end of the nationally-declared public health emergency.

All WIC FMNP waivers issued in 2020 expired on September 30, 2020. In March 2021, FNS issued WIC Policy Memorandum 2021-4, formally reopening the WIC FMNP 2021 waiver process with waivers set to expire 30 days after the end of the nationally-declared public health emergency under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d), as related specifically to COVID-19.

FNS' authority to approve new waivers under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) of 2020 (Public Law 116-127) ended on September 30, 2021. While FNS did not have the authority to waive federal requirements for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, FNS provided extensive technical assistance to State agencies on existing program flexibilities to address programmatic issues related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

In December 2020, FNS allocated \$500 million to State agencies available from FFCRA to remain available through September 30, 2021. In March 2021, FNS implemented a provision from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) for a State agency option to temporarily increase the WIC Cash-Value Benefit (CVB) for fruit and vegetable purchases. FNS provided \$490 million in ARPA funds to the 87 State agencies that opted to increase their participants' CVBs to \$35 per month for a period of four months, which ended on September 30, 2021.

WIC Works Resource System (WWRS)

In FY 2021, FNS, via the WWRA, amplified important public health nutrition resources for WIC staff, including the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025* and related resources; COVID-19 resources for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding; and updated vaccine information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). During National WIC Breastfeeding Week, FNS highlighted a newly designed series of pages on the WIC Breastfeeding Support website entitled Social Media Collection, developed for WIC State and local agency use. The Social Media Collection includes sample breastfeeding promotion and support messages for a variety of social media platforms. Additionally, FNS made several website enhancements to improve the user experience, including a more efficient search function and improved upload/download speeds.

WIC Learning Online (WLOL)

Over 7,800 WLOL course completions occurred in FY 2021 for courses offered for WIC staff members' continuing education. In FY 2021, FNS awarded a contract to enhance current course materials; reviewed all existing courses and their related job aid materials for relevancy; and updated two courses (i.e., "Feeding Infants" and "Communicating with Participants") to align with current evidence-based research.

WIC Breastfeeding Support

FNS added new features to the WIC Breastfeeding Support website, including two articles on "Traveling While Breastfeeding" and "Breastfeeding During Disasters." Additionally, FNS made revisions to the interactive WIC Breastfeeding Check-In Tool for WIC nutritionists that provided an enhanced user experience by reducing the number of clicks needed to submit information. The WIC Breastfeeding Check-In tool assists WIC staff in their assessment of partially breastfeeding infants and provides calculations on formula issuance amounts as well as counseling tips to reassure breastfeeding moms.

FNS continued providing technical assistance to the University of Nevada, Reno cooperative agreement grant for the implementation and evaluation of the national Breastfeeding Promotion Campaign, *WIC Breastfeeding Support. Learn Together Grow Together*, including assistance with breastfeeding education materials for the social media campaign among the seven WIC State agency sub-grantees.

WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence

In FY 2021, FNS awarded the WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence, formerly the Loving Support Award of Excellence, to 102 WIC local agencies from all seven FNS regions. A total of 90 WIC local agencies received Gold awards, 11 WIC local agencies received Premiere awards, and 1 WIC local agency received an Elite award.

Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA)

FNS worked with a contractor in FY 2021 to develop and release introductory trainings on the updated VENA Guidance. The trainings reflect current program policy, references, and resources. FNS collected input from Regional Offices and State agencies on the VENA-related topics they would like to see covered in future trainings and the types of training materials that are most needed. Using this information, FNS formulated a plan for the development of future trainings.

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The NPA appropriation funds the staff administrative expenses of the Commodity Assistance Program (CAP). In addition to providing commodities, also known as USDA Foods, for the Child Nutrition Programs, FNS makes nutritious foods available to State agencies for distribution to low-income people through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and makes administrative resources available to States to support the distribution of these USDA Foods. The Agency may also provide USDA Foods to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, The Federated States of Micronesia, and to the survivors of Presidentially-declared disasters and situations of distress.

More information about the CAP programs during FY 2021 is described under "Acquisition and Distribution of USDA Foods" in the Child Nutrition Programs section.

Special USDA Foods Initiatives

FNS continues to work closely with its partners and customers, such as schools and industry, and with its two sister agencies within USDA – the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) – to improve service to its customers, streamline operations, and maintain support for American agriculture. Highlights of FNS' most recent efforts in this area include:

Multi-Agency Task Force

FNS is the Distribution Division of FNS (Chair), AMS, FSIS, and the Farm Service Agency (FSA), which previously held commodity procurement responsibilities prior to a consolidation of such activities under AMS. The task force meets quarterly and lead for the multi-agency task force that provides coordination and direction for USDA Foods programs, pursuant to Section 4209 of the 2014 Farm Bill. By law, the task force includes representatives of the Food submits a report to Congress each year which summarizes the task force’s activities to improve USDA Foods procurement programs.

USDA Foods Nutrition Initiative

FNS and AMS continually review USDA Foods to improve and enhance the nutrition profile of USDA Foods offered to program participants. In addition, FNS responds to input from stakeholders by adding new foods or reformulating existing products to help meet the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and meal pattern requirements.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES***Debt Collection Activity in FY 2021***

For Federally-managed Federal debt, FNS continued its vigorous pursuit of debt owed to the Agency by billing \$419 million in new receivables during the fiscal year. Year-end outstanding debts for the fiscal year decreased from the previous year by \$13 million. The overall debt resolution rate achieved was about 157 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-139. FY 2018 – FY 2021 (millions of dollars; preliminary results)***

Claims Activity	2018	2019	2020	2021
Claims Established.	\$376	\$259	\$242	\$442
Claims Collected	447	245	211	334
Ending Balance	2,087	1,179	1,175	1,393

Financial Management (FM) Regional Office Reviews

The FM organization conducts assessments of regional offices with the objective of ensuring the propriety of financial operations and transactions within FNS. These reviews have been instrumental in raising the confidence level of management officials within the Agency over the past several fiscal years.

Financial Management Reviews (FMRs)

In addition to the reviews that HQ staff conduct of the regional offices, the regions also conduct FMRs of participating State agencies and ITOs to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial information reported by such grantees is correct, complete, and in compliance with Federal standards and regulations

FNS has implemented a risk assessment process that assists FNS in selecting for review those State agencies and ITOs who pose the greatest financial management risk.

Financial Statements Audit

FNS received an unmodified (“clean”) opinion on the FY 2021 Financial Statements, meaning that the agency met the highest auditing standards.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES***Project Management Implementation and Accountability Act (PMIAA)***

In an effort to incorporate PMIAA requirements to improve the Agency’s program management capabilities, FNS has taken an incremental, phased implementation approach to transform its culture while utilizing program and project management best practices. This incremental, phased approach addressed the Agency’s programs portfolio reviews and

reporting, applicable PMIAA governance development and implementation, and Program and Project Managers talent management.

In FY 2021, FNS leveraged the existing Agency’s Annual Priorities Planning and Operational Plans tools to integrate quarterly programs portfolio reviews. FNS also launched additional initiatives to develop strategies needed to assess the current project and program management positions which require P/PM skills while re-enforcing P/PM activities accountability across the enterprise. The agency also developed and implemented internal standard operating procedures and FNS’ rationale regarding the applicability of the required approval threshold requirements to the statutory-defined, non-competitive continuing program funding streams. This new process utilized data-driven strategies to improve program operations and program integrity on behalf of taxpayers by strengthening controls over financial management within FNS programs. In FY 2022, in addition to continuing to publish a quarterly PMIAA newsletter, FNS will pursue establishing a community of practice to further institutionalize PMIAA into the agency’s operations and practices.

Federal Data Strategy

FY 2021 focused on the implementation of FNS’s data strategy, a collaborative effort between the Chief Operating Officer-established centralized analytics team and key FNS divisions and programs. The data strategy covers opportunities, challenges, and potential actions over two fiscal years related to data governance and stewardship, workforce enablement, data collection and open data. As part of this effort, the team stood up FNS’s cloud-based data lake and all governance and security necessary for it to be successful. As part of the data lake, the team launched SNAP’s Mission Data Platform and has worked with each FNS program to connect 12 key data sources into the data lake for analysis and data visualization purposes. To that end, the team developed 17 different dashboard views, conducted 14 dashboard-specific trainings, developed 17 one-pagers and how-to guides, and has also developed and facilitated monthly enablement sessions, three month-long data visualization trainings, and a pilot data science training program. The team also continued to develop and enhance USDA’s Advanced Analytics Community of Practice (CoP), which grew to 800 members in FY 2021. As part of the CoP, engagement and sharing have been pillars of the community, and the team has managed and hosted each of the CoP’s events that have brought data analytic practitioners from across USDA to share and present projects and lessons learned. These events are routinely attended by 150-200 USDA employees. A significant accomplishment related to this CoP was the external data analytics event the team co-led with OCIO on December 3rd and 4th, which was titled, “USDA Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics Virtual Summit.” This event was attended by over 800 people and was highlighted in a Federal News Network article, “COVID-19 created huge demand for data, but USDA came prepared.” Beyond the Advanced Analytics CoP, the team also developed an FNS-specific Data Analytics Community of Practice, which has grown to roughly 300 members. The goal of this CoP is to enhance internal collaboration within FNS related to all things data and analytics, from governance and stewardship, data visualization, as well as news and training opportunities. Sharing and engagement are key features in this CoP, as well.

Acquisition Strategies

The FNS FY 2021 procurement strategy has been a continuation of the Agency’s commitment to increase contracting opportunities for small businesses in order to provide customers and taxpayers the benefit of creativity, innovation, and technical expertise. The Agency has leveraged its support in driving the U.S. economy forward by helping small businesses to create jobs. The Agency has continued to exercise innovative methods to maximize Small Business opportunities. In FY 2021, more than 400 actions were completed totaling more than \$110 million in support of program operations. Of those, more than 50% of the total value of the actions were awarded to small and disadvantaged businesses. As a result, FNS exceeded its established goals in all categories outlined below.

Table FNS-140. Business Categories

Category	Goal	Actual
Small Business	49.5%	59.40%
Small Disadvantaged Business	5.0%	40.57%
8 (a)	15.0%	2.42%
Women-Owned Small Business	5.0%	23.49%
Hub Zones	3.0%	3.56%
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business	3.0%	6.00%
Veteran-Owned Small Business	3.0%	6.0%

Note: The above figures represent contract actions awarded directly by the FNS Contracts Management Division. The Small Business achievement results reported by the Department to the Small Business Administration (SBA) included actions that were awarded by other contracting entities and coded as using FNS funds. As a result, the achievement numbers reported by the USDA vary from the above figure.

Employee Engagement

The Agency's commitment is to increase employee engagement, align human resources objectives with the organization's vision and goals and ensure that equity of opportunity is extended to empower all employees to reach their full potential. The Agency advanced a customer centric, inclusive, and high-performance workforce by investing in and engaging employees to improve professional proficiencies and close employee competency gaps, developing future leaders.

In FY 2021, the Agency continued to progress through the formal implementation phase of the Employee Development Program (EDP) which is based upon ongoing employee feedback, FEVS results and focus groups: lack of employee satisfaction with program specific training beyond traditional focus on soft skills. The EDP represents a multi-year, collaborative labor-management project created to help develop employees, invest in our workforce, and improve organizational effectiveness and includes more than 500 modules as part of the learning program developed by employees for employees. In addition, a comprehensive supervisory resource page was leveraged to improve accessibility to key resources which included best practices, training guides, and executive summary briefings of processes aligned with the human resources portfolio of functional responsibilities.

In FY 2022, significant enhancements to the EDP are centered on the development of a comprehensive plan that structures the full integration and sustainability of EDP as it is transitioned from the regional operations and support program area to the Human Resources Division. Our efforts will continue to ensure the functional transition of this critical program through a mini-steering committee, acquisition of talent to provide curriculum design and facilitation support that is inclusive of a full review of all the modules within EDP, and coordinated efforts that resource and promote the development, contributions, and career growth of all our employees.

In FY 2020-2021, we increased readership on our SPIRIT blog, Intranet and SPIRIT website by widening our offerings to include Diversity and Inclusion monthly observance communications. We also launched a series of SPIRIT Teams Channels to host more internal conversations. Internal communications worked with USDA's Office of Customer Experience to conduct a Human-Centered Design (HCD) workshop to explore ways to improve how we communicate internally. In addition, internal communications posted 74 news stories to include, inform and connect employees Employee and Diversity and Inclusion spotlights; training/learning tips; internal community stories, blogs, and weekly bulletins. In addition, internal communications continued to leverage SPIRIT, The Scoop, (an FNS employee talk show), Microsoft Teams, the redesigned Intranet, and the employee weekly bulletin as communication hubs for employee wellness and information. In FY 2022, we will continue exploring innovative approaches to advance our work, listen to employees, and collaborate.

Performance Management

In support of the human capital management strategies and in accordance with OMB M-17-22, the Talent Development Branch, Human Resources Division (HRD), continued to provide learning and growth opportunities for employees and supervisors on performance management and managing. Some of the sessions included: valuing differences, communicating with impact, setting goals, and reviewing results. The evaluations produced favorable feedback for planning sessions for FY 2021. This learning series also supports the President's Management Agenda (PMA) to improve government capabilities and competencies to yield a 21st Century workforce. In FY 2021, FNS implemented a comprehensive two-tier rating system evaluating performance of all non-bargaining unit employees and a small percentage of the bargaining unit employees. In FY 2022, the agency will continue to provide training and resources to employees and supervisors that increase organizational effectiveness and efficiency by enhancing performance, customer service and accountability.

Human Capital

In FY 2021, FNS improved the hiring process by implementing human capital management strategies and flexibilities in accordance with Departmental and the Office of Personnel Management guidance and standards. In FY 2021, nearly 200 hiring actions were completed with an average time to hire of 94 days while all employees of the agency were in a maximized telework posture. A series of strategies were employed including tracking time to hire on a pay period to pay period basis and auditing not less than three hiring action case files per month. Efforts focused on strengthening partnerships with hiring managers and identifying process improvement opportunities throughout the fiscal year.

FNS also assessed staffing and competency gaps and implemented strategies to close these gaps. The HR Helps customer center continued to provide service to stakeholders and maximize the efficient use of time by our federal staff. HR Helps provided dedicated support to address all HR customers that address current employee needs, applicant inquiries, and new hire questions (onboarding). During FY 2021, more than 1,300 inquiries were received with more than 80% of those

inquiries resolved in less than one day. The HR Helps customer center was able to resolve 74% of inquiries without escalating to subject matter experts which enabled them to dedicate more time accomplishing complicated human resources goals, objectives, and priorities in support of the agency's mission. In FY 2022, FNS will continue its commitment to growing a workforce and organizational culture on the foundation of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility for everyone.

Diversity and Inclusion (D&I)

FNS' continued to strive to recruit from among diverse sources in order to ensure the workforce reflects the demographics of the people we serve. Efforts and associated tasks have been accomplished to support this objective, including active recruitment efforts and strategies to increase the use of Schedule A and Peace Corps non-competitive appointments and providing training to hiring managers to expand the opportunities for non-competitive hiring authorities for all target groups. Recruitment efforts have also been used to focus on Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Veteran organizations, and affiliates for the disabled. In FY 2020, the agency continued to promote the use of non-competitive hiring authorities among hiring managers and supervisors in order to increase workforce diversity, particularly under-represented groups.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Assessment

FNS' continued to strive to recruit from among diverse sources in order to ensure the workforce reflects the demographics of the people we serve. Efforts and associated tasks have been accomplished to support this objective, including active recruitment efforts and strategies to increase the use of Schedule A and Peace Corps non-competitive appointments and providing training to hiring managers to expand the opportunities for non-competitive hiring authorities for all target groups. Recruitment efforts have also been used to focus on Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Veteran organizations, and affiliates for the disabled. In FY 2021, the agency continued to promote the use of non-competitive hiring authorities among hiring managers and supervisors in order to increase workforce diversity, particularly among under-represented groups. In FY 2022, the agency will launch several new recruitment strategies to strengthen the recruitment process and support the use of non-competitive hiring to include Schedule A, military spouses, and Veterans. In addition, the agency will continue to expand the use of data through workforce demographic dashboards to ensure consistent and equitable distribution of discretionary awards, promotions, and other attributes included as part of Management Directive 715.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Assessment

The Conflict Prevention & Resolution (CPR) program completed its fifth year in FY 2021 and has continued to see modest increases in engagement as evidenced by initial consultations, conflict training participation and service satisfaction surveys. In FY 2021, FNS focused on marketing the CPR services available via a communications plan that included updates to its brochure, monthly FNCS bulletin notices, active follow up on initial inquiries and referrals, increased training offerings for both supervisors and all employees, and bi-weekly presentations as a part of new employee orientation.

All requests for CPR services were responded to within a 24-hour time period as laid out in the customer service agreement. Twenty-six new CPR requests were received in FY 2021. Of the 26 requests, 100 percent resulted in the CPR specialist serving as the neutral party and did not require an external neutral party. Most of the requests resulted in mediation, either between a supervisor and employee, or the internal neutral party performing shuttle diplomacy. One comprehensive organizational climate assessment was initiated in the 4th quarter, designed to provide management with a report that summarizes feedback about the office culture and suggested themes for management to address. More than 15 virtual CPR training sessions were conducted for FNS employees, of which there was nearly an equal number of supervisors and employees trained, respectively. Further education around the benefits of CPR continues at new employee orientations, supervisor trainings, brown bag sessions, couch chats, all-hands meetings, and affinity groups, with the purpose to help FNS employees/management recognize and address conflict at the earliest stage possible.

Operations and Facilities (OFD)

In FY 2021, FNS developed a five-year space reduction plan across all regional offices and retailer management centers to reduce the footprint of the Agency. This plan will result in a 27% reduction in FNS's footprint and be in compliance with Departmental and the Office of Management and Budget requirements. In FY 2022 OFD anticipates completion of two funded projects, and pending funding will begin moving forward with six additional projects.

CENTER FOR NUTRITION POLICY AND PROMOTION

The Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) works to improve the health and well-being of Americans by developing and promoting dietary guidance that links scientific research to the nutrition needs of consumers. It carries out its mission to improve the health of Americans by serving as the Federal authority on evidence-based food, nutrition and economic analyses that inform policy and programs; translates science into actionable food and nutrition guidance for all Americans; and leads national communication initiatives that apply science-based messages to advance consumers' dietary and economic knowledge and behaviors.

Major initiatives include the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, the Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review (NESR), MyPlate, the Healthy Eating Index, USDA Food Plans (including the Thrifty Food Plan), and food pattern modeling. These initiatives support Secretary Vilsack's goal to improve food and nutrition security for all Americans. To ensure efficiency while maintaining integrity and quality across its initiatives, FNS is committed to continuous quality advancement by incorporating best practices into all initiatives.

CNPP makes key contributions to USDA's priority of ensuring that America's children (and their families) have access to nutritious, balanced meals. CNPP does this by translating nutrition guidance into innovative, consumer-focused nutrition initiatives to provide the public with information and ways to make healthy eating choices and be physically active. Our mission, vision, goals, priorities, and values exemplify our commitment to performance that meet the needs of the American public - *driving greater integration and collaboration for greater impact*. FNS' resources are widely used by consumers, health professionals, nutrition educators, Federal agencies, and other stakeholders serving the public.

Development and Promotion of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans

The National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 requires the Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Health of Human Services (HHS) to jointly publish the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans (Dietary Guidelines)* at least every five years. The *Dietary Guidelines* provides a science-based foundation to help inform Federal nutrition education and promotion programs, including the major vehicle for implementing the *Dietary Guidelines – MyPlate*. The *Dietary Guidelines* is also widely adopted in the private sector, mainly by education and health professionals. Within USDA, the *Dietary Guidelines* is used by the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Child Nutrition Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to guide nutrition standards and benefit levels for participants ages 2 years and older.

During FY 2021, CNPP conducted activities on behalf of USDA working jointly with the HHS to release and promote the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025*.

- CNPP, with our partners at HHS, completed the drafting, review, clearance, and revision of the ninth of edition of the *Dietary Guidelines*. The *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025* was released on December 29, 2020. There have been over 1.2 million pageviews at DietaryGuidelines.gov since the launch. The site has been accessed by users in 216 countries/territories, including all 50 states and DC. The Dietary Guidelines has been downloaded more than 410,000 times and is one of the most downloaded PDFs on USDA websites during the past 8 months.
- To promote scientific integrity, CNPP coauthored 6 peer-reviewed articles on the scientific review supporting the development of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025* in prestigious journals, including the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.
- To promote outreach and implementation of the *Dietary Guidelines*, CNPP presented over 30 presentations at more than 20 national nutrition and public health professional meetings, including the Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics, American College of Preventive Medicine, American Society for Nutrition, and Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior.
- To promote implementation of the *Dietary Guidelines* in FNS programs, CNPP provided about 30 presentations to FNS national and state agency staff, including to CN, WIC, and SNAP national and regional offices. CNPP tailored each presentation to provide information on the *Dietary Guidelines*, MyPlate, and the Thrifty Food Plan.
- To promote continuous quality advancement, CNPP conducted evaluations of the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee and *Dietary Guidelines* development processes to inform future cycles.

Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review (NESR)

The Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review (NESR) team conducts food and nutrition-related systematic reviews. NESR's team of scientists have a unique combination of experience and expertise in systematic review methods and technology, and nutrition, public health, and library science. 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 FY 2021, 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 FY 2021, NESR’s major review projects included:
 - FNS Office of Policy Support Rapid Reviews on the summer feeding program, school-based strategies to improve acceptance of new foods and healthier dietary patterns, and breakfast consumption and the School Breakfast Program
 - USDA Food Plans Rapid Reviews and Evidence Scans Rapid Reviews on the relationship between income and prices for food items/baskets, time spent on food-at-home-related activities, or following a dietary pattern that aligns with the *Dietary Guidelines*, as measured by the Healthy Eating Index (HEI); overall diet cost and following a dietary pattern that aligns with the *Dietary Guidelines*, as measured by the HEI; factors that influence the purchase and/or consumption of at-home convenience foods
 - Continuous Evidence Monitoring to inform the development of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030*
- **Continuous Quality Advancement (CQA)**, in which NESR evaluates and refines aspects of its methodology and tools to ensure that processes remain state-of-the-art. In FY 2021, NESR’s major CQA efforts focused on:
 - Expansion of NESR’s product line (rapid reviews, continuous evidence monitoring, and evidence scans)
 - Synthesis, with and without meta-analysis
 - Dietary assessment methodology
 - Literature searching
 - Using existing non-NESR reviews
 - Updating NESR reviews
- **Outreach** using a variety of strategies to disseminate information about us and our work to a range of audiences. In FY 2021, NESR’s major outreach activities included:
 - Measuring and expanding the uptake of the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee reviews
 - Developing a communications plan
 - Updating NESR’s template for creating project reports
 - Creating a NESR one-pager and PowerPoint slides
 - Development of seven peer-review publications (three published, one submitted, and three in draft)
 - Participation in more than 30 presentations about NESR and its work

Food Pattern Modeling Informs USDA Dietary Patterns for Children 12-23 Months Old for the First Time

CNPP’s Nutrition and Economic Analysis (NEA) Team staff conducts food pattern modeling (FPM) analysis related to the development and evaluation of dietary patterns to support the Advisory Committee and inform the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. Five FPM reports as part of the Advisory Committee’s work informed the development of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025*. For ages 2 years and older, three Dietary Patterns variations on healthy eating styles including the Healthy U.S.-Style, Healthy Vegetarian Style, and the Mediterranean Style Dietary Patterns. These three patterns were updated to reflect the FPM analysis conducted by the NEA Team. For the first time, the *Dietary Guidelines* included Dietary Patterns for toddlers ages 12 through 23 months and include the Healthy U.S.-Style and a Healthy Vegetarian Style pattern that meets the needs of toddlers and sets the stage for a healthy diet as they transition into childhood.

USDA Food Plans Inform SNAP and Serve the Military

The four USDA Food Plans (Thrifty, Low-Cost, Moderate-Cost, and Liberal) are national standards for nutritious diets at various cost levels. Each plan represents a set of market baskets containing a selection of foods in quantities that reflect dietary recommendations and are applicable to one of 15 age-gender groups.

In FY 2021, CNPP reevaluated the Thrifty Food Plan and published the *Thrifty Food Plan, 2021* report on August 16, 2021. In this effort, CNPP collaborated with staff from FNS, ERS, and ARS to refine the optimization model, acquire and

prepare data inputs and constraints, run the analyses, and write and publish the report. The Thrifty Food Plan webpage has over 60,000 pageviews since release on August 16, 2021. After publishing the TFP, CNPP continued to work towards reevaluating the TFPs for Alaska and Hawaii. Additionally, CNPP led a contract to determine how to measure the cost of the TFP in Puerto Rico.

The Moderate-Cost and Liberal Food Plans are used by the Department of Defense to determine the Basic Allowance for Subsistence rate (food allowance) for 1.4 million U.S. service members. During FY 2021, the USDA Food Plans were updated monthly to reflect the latest prices of food and CNPP began work to reevaluate these food plans for the first time since 2007.

Healthy Eating Index Tracks the Quality of the U.S. Diet

CNPP uses the Healthy Eating Index (HEI) to monitor the diet quality of the American population and subpopulations of interest. The Update to the Healthy Eating Index-2015 manuscript was published in 2018 and received an award from the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* in 2020 and 2021 for being the most referenced paper published in their journal. This award is indicative of the HEI's widespread use in research to assess diet quality and the relationship between diet and health outcomes.

CNPP calculated HEI scores for children and adolescents to be published in *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being*, a compendium of indicators about our Nation's young people. The report presents 41 key indicators on important aspects of children's lives.

The new USDA Dietary Patterns for ages 12 through 23 months prompted a need for an HEI that can be used to assess diet quality among toddlers. CNPP is collaborating with HHS/NIH/National Cancer Institute staff to develop a HEI for children under 2 years of age. The existing HEI-2015 is also being considered for update ensuring its alignment with the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025*.

Meeting Consumers Where They Are With Guidance and Resources to Help Them “Start Simple with MyPlate”

Through a multi-pronged approach, CNPP has worked to raise the profile of MyPlate, the consumer translation of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, and to share advice and tools with consumers on how to build healthy eating solutions into their everyday life. Released in 2011, today 41% of Americans know “a lot” or “a fair amount” about the MyPlate graphic. MyPlate.gov consistently ranks in the top 5 most visited among all USDA websites.

MyPlate.gov Website

MyPlate.gov, formerly ChooseMyPlate.gov, had a total of 7.9 million visitors and 54 million pageviews in FY 2021. New features launched this year include organization of resources into 10 key life stages to align with the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025*. Each life stage page contains key guidance for that audience, as well as links to additional resources for that life stage. Additionally, 29 new tip sheets were developed, all available in both English and Spanish. Below are free consumer tools, all accessible via the website:

- ***MyPlate Quiz:*** The MyPlate Quiz is an interactive online tool that consumers can use to assess their nutrition knowledge and eating behaviors. Since launching with the release of the *Dietary Guidelines, 2020-2025* and the revamped MyPlate.gov website on December 29, 2020, the Quiz was taken close to 800,000 times by the end of FY 2021. The MyPlate Quiz allows consumers to answer a series of 20 questions about the MyPlate food groups and their healthy eating interests. At the end of the Quiz, the user discovers their MyPlate level, food group recommendations and a variety of free personalized resources including the opportunity to sync their quiz results with the Start Simple with MyPlate app (see below), the MyPlate Plan tool, recipes from MyPlate Kitchen (see below), and relevant tip sheets. The MyPlate Quiz and most supporting resources are also available in Spanish.
- ***MyPlate Kitchen:*** CNPP continues to lead the MyPlate Kitchen section of the MyPlate website in collaboration with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) team. The site has been redesigned to enhance user engagement and includes modernized features to save favorite recipes and create personal cookbook collections. The MyPlate Kitchen Team is also working on integrating a new data backend to enable updated nutrition and cost analysis for recipes.
- ***Shop Simple with MyPlate:*** Created to launch in October 2021 when the new SNAP benefit (based on CNPP's re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan) went into effect, CNPP developed Shop Simple with MyPlate, a web tool to help consumers save money while shopping for healthy food choices. The tool does what MyPlate does best: It meets people where they are, provides actionable information, and integrates assets from various USDA nutrition assistance programs, putting key resources in one place for the public. For the user, Shop Simple with MyPlate helps people quickly find savings in their local area and discover new ways to prepare budget-friendly

foods. In the “Savings” area of the tool, consumers can enter their zip code to find cost-saving opportunities in their local area, including stores and farmer’s markets that accept SNAP EBT and rewards programs (e.g., GUSNIP incentive programs). In the “Foods” section, consumers get budget-friendly suggestions from each food group, and purchasing and storage tips, serving ideas, recipes, and nutrition information. Working with SNAP-Ed and external partners via our National Strategic Partnership (see below) and other stakeholder outreach, CNPP is promoting the availability of Shop Simple with MyPlate among nutrition educators and other key intermediaries who reach SNAP participants and other low-income communities.

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 have the opportunity to participate in quarterly in-app challenges. Recent additions to the app include integration of USDA eAuth to save content and updated how-to tips with a new favoriting/save feature. Since launch through the end of FY 2021, there were more than 200,000 net installations of the app from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

MyPlate on Alexa

In July 2021, CNPP released USDA’s first Amazon Alexa “skill” – which is like an app for the Alexa device or app on smartphones. MyPlate on Alexa provides MyPlate nutrition information and healthy eating tips for babies ages 4 to 24 months via an Amazon Alexa smart speaker or on a phone or tablet via the free Amazon Alexa app. Metrics analysis shows an 88.0% follow-up rate to date, meaning that when Alexa finished reading the first tip for its user, about 9 out of 10 times people asked for a second tip.

MyPlate Partnerships

The public-private MyPlate Nutrition Communicators Network’s National Strategic Partnership, comprised of organizations with national reach, welcomed 10 new partners for a total membership of 130 national partner organizations ranging from leading health professional and educational organizations to food associations, manufacturers, and other companies.

MyPlate on Social Media

The current total number of @MyPlate Twitter followers is 101,380 and Facebook followers is 121,378.

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) was established August 8, 1969, by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1659 and Supplement 1 pursuant to the authority contained in 5 U.S.C. 301 and the Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953. FNS increases food security and reduces hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition education in a manner that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence. FNS administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 15 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: Provide All Americans Safe, Nutritious Food
 - Objective 4.1 Increase Food Security Through Assistance and Access to Nutritious and Affordable Food
 - Objective 4.2 Encourage Healthy Dietary Choices through Data-Driven, Flexible, Customer-Focused Approaches

FNS Key Performance Measures:

A more detailed report of the performance plan can be found at <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/performance>. The following table summarizes the results for the Departmental Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for which AES is responsible.

Table FNS-141. Key Performance Indicators & Strategic Targets

Strategic Objective 4.1		Baseline	FY 22	FY 23
Access to Food	Results	89.5	-	-
Percentage of American households with consistent, dependable access to food	Target	-	89.2	89.4
SNAP Participation Rate	Results	82	-	-
Annual average monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation rate	Target	-	82.1	82.2

Expected Performance Progress Towards the Achievement of Strategic Objectives:

Objective 4.1 Increase Food Security Through Assistance and Access to Nutritious and Affordable Food

Access to Food: Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) 15 nutrition assistance programs are the nation's safety net to address food insecurity. FNS will continue to serve low-income people in need by focusing on increasing access for vulnerable populations, ensuring the highest level of customer service, and supporting evidenced-based nutrition education efforts to advance nutrition security. Strategies to ensure food access include successful implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), continuing to modify Federal food assistance programs to provide appropriate relief throughout and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, and cross-enrollment opportunities between Federal programs. Access to food is measured by the food insecurity rate prepared annually by the Economic Research Service (ERS). This measurement fluctuates with the economy and is impacted by several factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, where we saw the number of people with access to food drop significantly in FY 2021.

SNAP Participation Rate: Research has shown that participation in SNAP reduces food insecurity and enables families to have healthier diets. SNAP stretches the food budget of eligible low-income people by providing a monthly allotment of benefits on a debit card to purchase healthy food at authorized stores. SNAP helps people through the tough times until they can once again achieve self-sufficiency. The SNAP participation rate is the percentage of eligible people in the United States who participate in the program. Participation rates vary widely from State to State with the highest rates at close to 100 percent and the lowest at around 50 percent. Often, the lowest participation rates are among the working poor – i.e., those families with earned income that still qualify for SNAP. Strategies to improve participation rates include efforts to reduce the time, cost, and administrative burdens of States participating in the nutrition assistance programs so that State agencies can spend more time on outreach and application support for SNAP participants.

Table FNS-142. Key Performance Indicators & Strategic Targets

Strategic Objective 4.2		Baseline	FY 22	FY 23
WIC Participation	Results	6.3 million	-	-
Annual average monthly participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children	Target	-	6.3 million	6.4 million
School Lunch Participation Rate	Results	82	-	-
Annual percentage of eligible children participating in the National School Lunch Program	Target	-	82.1	82.2
School Breakfast Participation Rate	Results	24	-	-
Annual percentage of eligible children participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP)	Target	-	31	31

Expected Performance Progress Towards the Achievement of Strategic Objectives:

Strategic Objective 4.2: Encourage Healthy Dietary Choices through Data-Driven, Flexible, Customer-Focused Approaches

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Participation Rate: FNS will seek to increase WIC participation rates through executing a national outreach campaign to expand awareness of the benefits of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for WIC. Furthermore, FNS will invest in a national resource center to improve the application and certification process and assist States in improving the WIC participant experience; improve the shopping experience with the expansion of online ordering and transactions; and support equitable access to WIC by ensuring culturally appropriate care and establishing pipelines for WIC workforce development.

School Lunch and School Breakfast Participation Rate: Per congressional approval, FNS expects to issue technical assistance for any expiring flexibilities to Child Nutrition Program operators for School Year (SY) 2022-23 operations. FNS will work with States to allocate up to \$1 billion of funding to enhance local school districts' ability to purchase foods for school meals and serve to enhance (local) flexible spending by providing schools and school districts directly with resources needed to address supply chain challenges. Funds will position operators for success with planning, ordering, and servicing meals in SY 2022-23. FNS will work with States to expand participation in direct certification with Medicaid Demonstration Projects. Direct certification enables children participating in Medicaid and determined to be eligible for free and reduced-price school meals to be directly certified for school meal programs without an application.