

September 14, 2021

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Stacy Dean  
Food and Nutrition Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
3101 Park Center Drive Alexandria, VA 22302

The Honorable Cindy Long  
Food and Nutrition Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
3101 Park Center Drive Alexandria, VA 22302

Dear Secretary Vilsack, Deputy Under Secretary Dean, and Administrator Long,

We, the 530 undersigned national, state, and local organizations, commend the commitment of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS) to ensure all children have access to the nutritious meals and snacks they need as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt the school day and severely impacts families and communities.

**While the decision to extend several nationwide waivers in April 2021 was a timely first step, the available flexibilities do not account for the current reality of the school day and out-of-school time.** The Delta variant has introduced new challenges for both the school day and meal service: by early August, reports showed that more schools across the country were forced to [pivot to hybrid learning](#) due to increased [exposure and quarantines](#), meaning many children are not in the school building every day with consistent access to school meals.

Schools have played a critical role in ensuring access to meals since March 2020, but they can't – and shouldn't – do it alone. Non-school Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors have been instrumental in supporting schools' meal service efforts and stepping in to fill gaps where schools were closed or did not have the capacity to reach and serve all children, but they are not able to do that under the current waiver options. The last year and a half has shown that families will need ongoing flexibility when it comes to accessing meals, and that both schools and non-school sponsors will be needed to fill the nutrition gap.

**We ask that USDA take the following actions before September 30th – when the Continuing Appropriations Act 2021 authority to issue nationwide waivers expires – to ensure continued access to meals throughout the entire school year:**

- Use the current nationwide authority to allow non-school sponsors to operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) during the 2021-2022 school year and work in partnership with schools to ensure access to meals. This is important in areas where schools are utilizing remote or hybrid learning models and in the event of additional school disruptions and quarantines related to COVID-19. Sponsors and programs that are providing full day care to school-aged children during the upcoming school year should be able to offer breakfast and lunch through SFSP, combined with a supper and snack through CACFP. Families also should have the option when children are not in the classroom to pick-up meals at sites that are more accessible to them.
- Use the current nationwide authority to offer additional waivers and flexibilities to help all operators cope with the extreme ongoing supply chain challenges. This will help to streamline work for state agencies and organizations operating in multiple states at a time of widespread disruption and heavy workloads.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Signed:

**National Organizations**

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Action for Healthy Kids  
African American Health Alliance  
Afterschool Alliance  
Alliance for a Healthier Generation  
Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Public Health Association  
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)  
Association of SNAP Nutrition Education Administrators (ASNNA)  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America  
Children's Defense Fund  
Common Threads  
Congressional Hunger Center  
Feeding America  
Feeding the Carolinas  
First Focus on Children

Food For Good  
Food Research & Action Center  
FoodCorps  
Girls Inc.  
Livingstone Anglican Children's Project  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools  
National Association of Counties (NACo)  
National Farm to School Network  
National PTA  
National Recreation and Park Association  
National Women's Law Center  
Red Rabbit  
RESULTS  
Save the Children  
School Nutrition Association  
Share Our Strength  
The Education Trust  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Urban School Food Alliance  
YMCA of the USA

**Alabama**

Alabama Dietetic Association  
Alabama Food Bank Association  
Ekklesia MB Church  
Girls Inc. of Central Alabama  
THE BRIDGE INC  
Thomasville City School District

**Alaska**

Alaska Afterschool Network  
Alaska Children's Trust  
Food Bank of Alaska  
Upper Susitna Food Pantry

**Arizona**

Arizona Food Bank Network  
Baboquivari Unified School District#40  
Cornucopia Community Advocates

Heritage Elementary School  
Miami USD  
Prescott YMCA of Yavapai County  
Saddle Mountain Unified School District  
Torah Day School of Phoenix  
Valley of the Sun YMCA  
WHEAT (World Hunger Ecumenical Az Task Force Inc)  
YMCA of Southern Arizona

### **Arkansas**

AR Hunger Relief Alliance  
Arkansas Alliance of YMCA's  
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance  
Batesville Public Schools  
DWR YMCA  
Fort Smith Public Schools  
Hot Springs YMCA  
Jasper School District  
Jessieville School District  
Riverside School District  
We Care of Pulaski County

### **California**

Alameda County Community Food Bank  
Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County  
Building Better Communities Foundation  
California Association of Food Banks  
California State Alliance of YMCAs  
CAP of Kern County  
Central California Food Bank  
Christ Commission Chapel  
City of Pico Rivera  
Community Action Agency of Butte County North State Food Bank  
Community Action Partnership of Napa Valley Food Bank  
Community Action Partnership of Orange County Food Bank  
Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County Food Bank  
Community Food Bank of San Benito  
Corona-Norco Family YMCA  
Dignity Health Connected Living

Educare California at Silicon Valley (ECSV)  
Emergency Food Bank of Greater Stockton  
Families Forward Learning Center  
Feeding America Riverside San Bernardino Counties  
Feeding San Diego  
FIND  
FIND Food Bank  
Food Bank for Monterey County  
Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano  
Food Bank of El Dorado  
Food for People  
Food Share of Ventura County  
Foodbank of Santa Barbara  
FoodLink for Tulare County  
GUSD Nutrition Services  
Imperial Valley Food Bank  
Interfaith Food Bank Amador County  
ISCUW 211+  
Kings County Community Action  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank  
Lucia Mar Unified  
Mendocino Food & Nutrition Program The Fort Bragg Food Bank  
Merced County Food Bank  
molding hearts  
Mountain View School District  
Neighborhood Angels Inc  
Nourish California  
ORANGE COUNTY HUNGER ALLIANCE  
Our Little Helpers, inc  
Placer Food Bank  
Redwood Empire Food Bank  
Rialto Unified School District Child Nutrition  
Riverside County Office of Education  
Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services  
San Diego Hunger Coalition  
Santa Monica YMCA  
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley  
SF - Marin Food Bank  
Shasta County YMCA  
SHFB Orange County

SHFB San Joaquin & Stanislaus  
SHFB Santa Cruz  
SHFB Silicon Valley  
SLO Food Bank  
The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank  
The Resource Connection Food Bank  
United Way of Kern County  
Westside Food Bank  
Woodville Union School District  
YMCA Childcare Resource Service  
YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles  
YMCA of San Diego County  
YMCA of San Francisco  
YMCA of San Joaquin County  
YMCA of Silicon Valley  
Yolo Food Bank  
Yuba-Sutter Food Bank

### **Colorado**

Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado  
Colorado Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics  
Colorado Afterschool Partnership (CAP)  
Colorado Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs  
Community Food Share  
Feeding Colorado  
Food Bank for Larimer County  
Food Bank of the Rockies  
Jovial Concepts  
Kids At Their Best, Inc  
Southwest Alliance of Ys  
Weld Food Bank

### **Connecticut**

Connecticut Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs  
Connecticut Foodshare  
End Hunger Connecticut!  
Greater Hartford Legal Aid  
Sayles School Hot Lunch Program  
United Way of Greater New Haven

United Way of Western Connecticut

**Delaware**

YMCA of Delaware

**D.C.**

D. C. Hunger Solutions

The Capital Area Food Bank

**Florida**

Children's Services Council of Broward County

E-Roadmap Corporation

Feeding Florida

Feeding North East Florida

Feeding Tampa Bay

FLIPANY

Florida Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Florida Afterschool Alliance

Florida Afterschool Network

Florida Impact to End Hunger

Florida PTA

Florida Recreation and Park Association

Florida State Alliance of YMCAs

Heartland Food Reservoir, Inc.

McLaughlin Bridals & Company

Meals on Wheels South Florida

Nelson Outreach Ministries, Inc.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida

SOS Foundation

South Florida Hunger Coalition

Tiphne Darshay Hollis Foundation

**Georgia**

Albany YMCA - Albany (1357)

Atlanta Community Food Bank

Bainbridge-Decatur County YMCA

BTG Community Outreach, Inc

Burke County Public Schools

Family YMCA of Augusta Georgia

Georgia Alliance of YMCAs

Georgia Food Bank Association  
Georgia Mountains YMCA  
Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network  
Manna House  
Open Door Children's Home  
Rising Phoenix Enrichment Program, INC  
Rome Floyd County YMCA  
Voices for Georgia's Children  
YMCA of Coastal GA, Inc.  
YMCA of Georgia's Piedmont, Inc.  
YMCA of Metro Atlanta  
YMCA of Rome & Floyd County  
YMCA of Thomasville

### **Hawaii**

Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii  
Department of Research & Development, County of Hawaii  
Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Hawaii Children's Action Network  
Malama Kauai  
YMCA of Honolulu

### **Idaho**

Blaine County Hunger Coalition  
Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force

### **Illinois**

Afterschool for Children and Teens Now (ACT Now)  
Greater Chicago Food Depository  
Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Illinois Hunger Coalition  
Illinois State Alliance of YMCAs  
Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House Inc.  
The Noble Network of Charter Schools  
Uni-Pres Kindercottage  
United Way of Illinois  
YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago

### **Indiana**

Boys & Girls Clubs in Indiana, Inc.



Community Harvest Food Bank of NE Indiana, Inc  
Crawford County Community School Corporation Food Service Department  
Feeding Indiana's Hungry  
Food Bank of Northern Indiana  
Food Bank of Northwest Indiana  
Food Finders Food Bank  
Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, Inc.  
Immigrant Welcome Center  
Indian Youth Institute  
Indiana Afterschool Network  
Indiana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs  
Indy Hunger Network  
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard  
MSD of Wayne Township  
Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana  
Second Helpings, Inc.  
United Northeast Community Development Corporation

### **Iowa**

Estherville Lincoln Central School  
Food Bank for the Heartland - Iowa  
Girls Incorporated of Sioux City  
Hampton-Dumont-CAL CSDs  
Iowa Alliance of YMCAs  
Iowa Food Bank Association  
United Way of Central Iowa

### **Kansas**

Kansas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Kansas Appleseed  
Kansas State Alliance of YMCAs  
USD 312 Haven  
USD 320 Wamego Public Schools

### **Kentucky**

Bourbon County Schools  
Dare to Care Food Bank  
Feeding Kentucky  
God's Pantry Food Bank, Inc.  
Jessamine Co. Schools Food Service

KCEOC Community Action Partnership  
Kentucky Alliance of YMCAs  
Kentucky Out of School Alliance  
UMCFOOD  
Williamsburg Independent School District

**Louisiana**

Diocese of Shreveport Child Nutrition Program  
Feeding Louisiana  
Louisiana Alliance of YMCAs  
Three O'clock Project

**Maine**

Full Plates Full Potential  
Preble Street Maine Hunger Initiative

**Maryland**

Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future  
Maryland Food Bank  
Maryland Hunger Solutions  
Maryland Out of School Time Network  
Saint Vincent de Paul  
Student Support Network, Inc.  
The Y in Central Maryland

**Massachusetts**

Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs  
Healthy Chelsea  
John F. Kennedy Family Service Center, Inc.  
Norfolk Public Schools  
Plainville Public Schools  
Project Bread  
Root  
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts  
The Greater Boston Food Bank  
Wrentham Public Schools  
YMCA of Greater Boston

**Michigan**

Center for Civil Justice

Food Bank Council of Michigan  
Food Gatherers  
Forgotten Harvest, Inc.  
Healthy Living YMCA Initiative  
Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes  
Kent County Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF)  
Leland Public School  
Mason County Eastern Schools  
Michigan Afterschool Partnership  
Monroe Family YMCA  
State Alliance of Michigan YMCAs  
Treeleaders Farmacy LLC  
United Way for Southeastern Michigan  
United Way of Washtenaw County  
Upper Midwest Alliance of YMCAs - Michigan  
Washtenaw County Food Policy Council  
Washtenaw Food Policy Council  
Washtenaw Health Plan  
YMCA of Barry County  
YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit

### **Minnesota**

Al-Maa'uun  
Minnesota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Minnesota Alliance of YMCA's  
Second Harvest Heartland  
The Food Group  
Upper Midwest Alliance of YMCAs - Minnesota  
Youthprise

### **Mississippi**

Jackson Metropolitan YMCA  
Metropolitan YMCAs of Mississippi  
Quitman County School District

### **Missouri**

Alpha Tots Learning Centers, Inc  
Holy Center Church of God in Christ  
Joplin Food Action Network  
Missouri AfterSchool Network

Missouri Alliance of YMCAs  
Operation Food Search  
Osage Prairie YMCA  
Our Mission Guided By Faith Foundation  
Portageville School District  
St. Luke Memorial Church  
The Adair County Family YMCA

### **Montana**

Billings Backpack Meals and Teen Pantry Programs  
Child Care Resources  
Community Hope Inc.  
Community Support Center  
Custer County Food Bank  
Fairfield public schools  
Family Service  
Farm Hands - Nourish the Flathead  
Gallatin Valley Food Bank  
Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow (LIFTT)  
Livingston Food Resource Center  
Montana Food Bank Network  
North Valley Food Bank

### **Nebraska**

Food Bank for the Heartland  
Nebraska Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest  
State Alliance of Nebraska YMCAs

### **Nevada**

Food Bank of Northern Nevada  
Three Square Food Bank  
YMCA of Southern Nevada

### **New Hampshire**

New Hampshire Food Bank  
NH Hunger Solutions  
YMCA Alliance of Northern New England - New Hampshire

### **New Jersey**

Community Food Bank of New Jersey  
Food Bank of South Jersey  
Hunger Free New Jersey  
NJSACC

**New Mexico**

New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network

**New York**

Alliance of NYS YMCAs  
Community Food Advocates NYC  
Empire Justice Center  
Equity Advocates  
Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School  
Food Bank of Central New York  
Food Bank of the Southern Tier  
Hunger Free America  
Hunger Solutions New York  
Long Island Cares, Inc.--The Harry Chapin Food Bank  
New York State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
New York State Network for Youth Success, Inc.  
Northern Adirondack CSD

**North Carolina**

A Simple Gesture  
Alamance Burlington Schools  
Caring Hearts of America  
Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy  
Clinton City Schools  
Maggie's Outreach Community Economic Development Center  
MORE THAN A MEAL COMMUNITY KITCHEN,LLC  
NC Alliance of YMCAs  
North Carolina Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Restoring Hope Center, Inc.  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina

**North Dakota**

North Dakota Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics  
State Alliance of North Dakota YMCAs

**Ohio**

Children's Hunger Alliance  
Connecting Kids To Meals  
Greater Cleveland Food Bank  
Hillsboro City Schools  
Mid-Ohio Food Collective  
Ohio Afterschool Network  
Ohio Alliance of YMCAs  
Parma City Schools, Nutrition Services  
Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio  
Special Day Camp Programs/Camp Chabad  
The Foodbank, Inc.  
YMCA of Greater Dayton

**Oklahoma**

Grand Lake Family YMCA  
Great Plains Family YMCA  
Hunger Free Oklahoma  
Noble County Family YMCA  
Oklahoma Alliance of YMCAs  
YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City

**Oregon**

FOOD For Lane County  
North Santiam School District  
Oakridge School District #76  
Oregon Alliance of YMCAs  
OregonASK  
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

**Pennsylvania**

Brownsville Area School District  
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank  
Feeding Pennsylvania  
Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger  
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank  
Just Harvest  
Lawrence County Social Services Head Start  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors on the Main Line

OSwayo Valley School District  
Pennsylvania State Alliance of YMCAs  
YMCA of Centre County - Anti-Hunger Program

### **Rhode Island**

Rhode Island Alliance of YMCAs

### **South Carolina**

Vision Educational Center  
Anderson Area YMCA INC.  
Beaufort-Jasper YMCA of the Lowcountry  
Clinton Family YMCA  
Cottingham Campus YMCA Foothills Area YMCA  
H.O.P.E  
KCSD Food Service  
Lowcountry Food Bank  
School district of Pickens County  
South Carolina Alliance of YMCAs  
Summerville Family YMCA  
Union County Family YMCA  
YMCA of Coastal Carolina  
YMCA of Greenville, South Carolina

### **South Dakota**

South Dakota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
State Alliance of South Dakota YMCAs

### **Tennessee**

Chattanooga Area Food Bank  
Memphis & Shelby County Lead Safe Collaborative  
Pilgrim rest missionary Baptist church  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee  
Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Tennessee Afterschool Network  
Tennessee Justice Center  
YMCA of Memphis and the Mid-South  
YMCA of Metropolitan Chattanooga  
Youth Encouragement Services

### **Texas**

Arlington Mansfield YMCA  
Central Texas Food Bank  
Common Threads - Texas  
El Paso Human Services, Inc.  
Feeding Texas  
Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc.  
Houston Food Bank  
Intrinsic Foundation  
North Texas Food Bank  
Odessa Family YMCA  
Palestine YMCA  
Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Texas Partnership for Out of School Time (TXPOST)  
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas  
YMCA of Abilene  
YMCA of Austin  
YMCA of Corsicana  
YMCA of El Paso  
YMCA of Greater Houston  
YMCA of Greater San Antonio  
YMCA of Plainview, TX  
YMCA of San Angelo  
YMCA of Southeast Texas  
YMCA of the Coastal Bend  
YMCA of the Golden Crescent  
YMCA of Wichita Falls

## **Utah**

Utahns Against Hunger  
Hunger Free Vermont  
Vermont Afterschool  
YMCA Alliance of Northern New England

## **Virginia**

Amelia County Public Schools  
Child Care Resources of Virginia  
Federation of Virginia Food Banks  
Feed More  
Feeding Southwest Virginia  
Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank



King George County Schools  
Lynchburg City Schools  
Northern Virginia Food Rescue  
Petersburg City School Nutrition Department  
Prince William County Community Foundation  
Virginia Alliance of YMCAs  
Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST)  
Virginia Poverty Law Center  
William A. Hunton YMCA  
YMCA at Virginia Tech

### **Washington**

FareStart  
Food Lifeline  
Greentrike- Out of School Time Intermediary  
Northwest Harvest  
Olympic Peninsula YMCA  
School's Out Washington  
Toppenish Community Chest  
Washington State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Washington State Alliance of YMCAs  
Whatcom Family YMCA  
Yakima School District  
YMCA of Grays Harbor  
YMCA of Greater Seattle  
YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties  
YMCA of Snohomish County  
YMCA of the Greater Tri-Cities  
YMCA of the Inland Northwest  
Young Men's Christian Association of Walla Walla

### **West Virginia**

McDowell County Schools  
West Virginia Alliance of YMCAs

### **Wisconsin**

Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin  
Feeding Wisconsin  
Hunger Task Force  
The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County

United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County  
Upper Midwest Alliance of YMCAs  
Waupaca School District  
WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

**Wyoming**

Feeding Laramie Valley  
Sweetwater County School District #2  
Wyoming Afterschool Alliance