

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 531 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
Alliance to End Hunger
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
KCSO 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