Child Nutrition Programs Agenda

- Welcome
- Research Overview
- Office of Community Food Systems- C. Conell
- Office of Program Integrity- E. Harper
- Policy and Program Development Division- A. Kline
- Program Monitoring and Operational Support Division- S. Smith-Holmes
- Q&A
USDA/State Agency Meeting

- Will be held in Crystal City, VA from Nov. 6-9
- For the first time, focusing on CACFP and Summer exclusively
- At-a-glance agenda available on Partnerweb
- Registration will open mid-August, at same rates as last year
- Thank you to planning committee members!
CN Research: What’s New and What’s Next

• Published this Year: Evaluation of the Elementary Schools Pilot Project for Canned, Frozen or Dried Fruits and Vegetables in the FFVP (1/19/17)

• For Publication Later this Year:
  • CACFP - Provider Characteristics Study
  • Child Nutrition Program Operations Study SY 15-16 (CN-OPS II)
  • Summer Food Service Program Characteristics (SFSP Program Characteristics)
  • School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study (Vol. 1 and Methods)
CN Research: What’s Next for Data Collection

• In the Next Six Months:
  • CACFP Meal Claims Feasibility
  • Access, Participation, Eligibility, and Certification Study (APEC III)
  • Child Nutrition Program Operations Study SY 16-17 (CN-OPS II)
  • CN MIS Data Study – data collection in Fall 2017

• In 2018, there will be multiple operational studies in the field
CN Research: Our Commitment

- Manage burden by:
  - Multi-year schedules
  - Specify data collection
  - Replacement sites (when feasible)
  - Sample rotation
Office of Community Food Systems Update

Christina Conell
July 11, 2017

Welcome!
Celebrating Five Years of Farm to School Grants!
Farm to School Grant Awards To Date

FY 2013 - FY 2017

- 365 projects
- 50 states, DC, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico
- ~$25 M
- Requests from 1,600+ projects seeking ~$120 M
State Agency Awards

District of Columbia
Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands
Guam
The surprising number of American adults who think chocolate milk comes from brown cows

By Caitlin Dewey  June 15  

Seven percent of American adults believe chocolate milk comes from brown cows, according to a recent online survey commissioned by the Innovation Center of U.S. Dairy. Here are a few other things Americans get wrong. (Elyse Samuels/The Washington Post)
USDA's Farm to School Census shows schools invest $790 MILLION in local communities.

That’s a 105% increase over previous results!

USDA - The United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov
2015 Farm to School Census tell us...

76% of respondents (3,002 out of 3,954 districts) experienced at least one of the following benefits:

- reduced food waste (18%)
- lower school meal program costs (21%)
- greater acceptance of the new meal pattern (28%)
- increased participation (17%)
- greater community support (39%)
EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES STATE AGENCIES CAN USE TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS

THROUGHOUT THE U.S., Farm to school initiatives are taking root and thriving at local, regional, and statewide levels. According to the USDA Farm to School Census, during the 2014–2015 school year, over 5,000 school districts comprised of more than 42,000 schools were buying local food and teaching children about agriculture. Many state agencies are at the forefront of this work, leading their state’s farm to school planning and goal setting. Indeed, state agencies such as Departments of Education, Departments of Agriculture, and Departments of Health can play unique roles in establishing and supporting these community food systems efforts. Below are a few effective strategies USDA recommends state agencies implement to support farm to school initiatives in their states.

Coordinate Statewide Networking and Goal Setting
State agencies are strategic stakeholders in farm to school initiatives as they offer vital connections to the many groups and organizations engaging in farm to school across the state. By facilitating a collective voice, coordinating statewide goal setting and strategic planning, and tracking state progress, agencies understand the wide breadth of activities and partnerships occurring and can identity stakeholders who are not yet at the table or part of networks. USDA’s Farm to School Census helps state agencies track their state’s progress by recognizing school districts that are already participating in farm to school activities and those that are not. Furthermore, state agencies are valuable partners for non-profit groups, cooperative extension programs, and other stakeholders engaged in farm to school initiatives. Many state agency professionals host regular conference calls or webinars, disseminate technical resources and updates, and facilitate local, regional, and statewide networking initiatives to support practitioners in the field.

Host Local and Statewide Trainings
State agencies identify needs among stakeholder groups and host statewide conferences and events. Training events can include a wide variety of audiences including educators, farmers and producers, school nutrition professionals, and non-profit and cooperative extension professionals. Trainings can focus on delivering technical assistance to help schools purchase local foods, build and maintain school gardens, and integrate agriculture, nutrition, and health education into school curricula.

Available online at www.usda.gov/farmtoschool

• Released October 2016
• Outlines six strategies state agencies can use to support community food systems.
FARM TO SCHOOL WORKS!

42% of districts surveyed by USDA say they participate in farm to school activities. That's...

5,254 DISTRICTS 42,587 SCHOOLS

...bringing the farm to school. Learn more ▶

Statewide Networking & Goal Setting
State Agencies trained on buying local

- District of Columbia
- Puerto Rico
- Virgin Islands
- Guam
Develop & Share Resource Materials
Celebrate Farm to School
Take Four Actions
1) Explore the Local Food Compass Map.

The map below shows USDA and other federal investments in local and regional food systems since 2009, along with data such as farmers markets, food hubs, and meat processors. Scroll down to explore the map to see what's happening in your own community or learn how others are using federal support to build local food systems.
2) Visit the USDA Farm to School Census
www.farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov

42%

of districts surveyed by USDA say they participate in farm to school activities.

That's 5,254 districts

and 42,587 schools bringing the farm to school

for the benefit of an estimated 23.6 million children.
3) Subscribe to our E-letter, The Dirt!

Delivered every other Tuesday, chock full of updates, webinar info, relevant news, and field notes! More than 26,000 subscribers.

Subscribe at:
www.usda.gov/farmtoschool
4) Visit our booth – 2210!
Verification Collection Report
Improving Data Quality for State Agency and USDA Analysis

Ed Harper
Verification Collection Report (FNS-742)

• Only SFA-level source for annual stats on certification and verification
  • Participating institutions and enrollments
  • Provision 2/3 participation
  • Direct certification – with SNAP and other programs
  • Applications approved – free, reduced-price, and categorically eligible
  • Number of error prone applications
  • Use and effectiveness of direct verification
  • Use of verification for cause
  • Verification outcomes
  • Verification non-responsive
Research Supported by the FNS-742

- **Essential resource for research and analysis**
  - Understanding household response to verification
    - Identify and interview LEAs with highest response rates – why is their process so successful?
    - Identify LEA characteristics associated with high response rates
  - Verification for cause
    - Identify and interview the few LEAs that verify for cause – what are their criteria for selection, how effective is it?
  - Confirmation rates
    - Identify characteristics associated with high and low confirmation rates
  - Part of virtual LEA-level dataset with FNS-640, FNS-874, ...
    - Merging datasets creates additional opportunities for analysis
  - Sample frame for USDA’s nationally representative NSLP/SBP studies
Data Quality Has Improved Over Time

Improvement in Data Quality

Percent of LEAs with one or more errors and total number of errors over the years from 2013-2014 to 2016-2017.
Higher Data Quality at Lower Cost

• **Identify errors earlier in the process**
  • Help LEAs correct errors prior to submission to State
• **Take advantage of existing state agency technology and processes**
  • Code edit checks into States’ existing web-based templates for LEA data submission
• **Upcoming FNS test**
  • Seeking State agency partner
  • FNS edit checks and descriptive error messages
  • Will work with your software vendor and/or IT staff
Policy Updates

Angela Kline
Director, Policy & Program Development,
Child Nutrition Programs, FNS
Agenda

- Background
- School Meals Flexibilities
- CACFP Flexibilities
- Implementation Timelines
- Q & A
School Meals Flexibilities

School Year 2017-2018
Background

May 1
- USDA Secretary Perdue issues Proclamation directing FNS to begin regulatory process for sodium, whole grains, and flavored, 1% milk

May 5
- Congress enacts the 2017 Appropriations Act providing flexibilities for sodium, whole grains, and flavored, 1% milk for SY 2017-18

May 22
- FNS issues policy memo providing flexibilities for sodium, whole grains, and flavored, 1% milk for SY 2017-18
School Meal Flexibilities

- **Whole Grain-Rich Requirements**
  - State agencies may offer SFAs exemptions from the whole grain-rich requirements in NSLP and SBP.

- **Sodium Limits**
  - Schools must continue to meet the Target 1 sodium requirements.

- **Low-Fat, Flavored Milk**
  - State agencies may grant SFA exemptions allowing service of low-fat, (1%) flavored milk in NSLP, SBP, and as a Smart Snack.
Whole Grain-Rich

- State agencies may approve exemptions if the SFA can demonstrate hardship in procuring, preparing, or serving compliant whole grain-rich products that are accepted by students.

- Exemptions are allowed for any type of grain product (i.e., pasta, bread, tortilla) and for one or more different products.

- State agencies must notify their FNS Regional Office and provide a copy of their exemption process.
Sodium

• Sodium Target 1 will continue in effect for School Year 2017-2018.

• FNS will continue to support Program operators in sodium reduction efforts through resources and technical assistance.

• Schools are encouraged to continue to work towards creating lower sodium menus that students enjoy.
Low-Fat Flavored Milk

- State agencies have discretion to grant SFAs exemptions allowing service of low-fat (1% fat), flavored milk.

- In order to qualify for the exemption, schools must demonstrate hardship by documenting a reduction in student milk consumption or increase in school milk waste.

- FNS encourages State agencies to provide this option to interested SFAs.
CACFP Flexibilities
The rule included the first major update in CACFP’s history. It revised CACFP and Pre-K meal patterns to better reflect science-based nutrition standards for infants, children, and adults.

- Includes more whole grains, fruit/vegetable variety, and less added sugars and solid fats, supports breastfeeding, and is cost-neutral and achievable.

- Implementation is required by October 1, 2017. Early implementation is available at State agency discretion.

- One year transition period (October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018).

Check it Out!
Co-Mingled Pre-K

- FNS is allowing a single menu flexibility when Pre-K and K-5 students are in the same service area at the same time (co-mingled situations).
- Co-mingled schools may choose to follow the grade-appropriate meals patterns for each grade group, or serve the K-5 meal pattern to both grade groups.
- FNS strongly encourages schools to find ways to serve grade-appropriate meals to Pre-K and K-5 students.
Grain-Based Desserts

- Exhibit A was further revised to exclude sweet crackers (graham and animal crackers) as a grain-based dessert in CACFP.
- FNS encourages centers and day care homes to limit service of sweet crackers due to the higher sugar content.
- Centers and day care homes may continue to serve grain-based desserts as an additional (not reimbursable) food item for celebrations and other special occasions.
Documenting Meals

• CACFP centers and day care homes must show they are serving meals that meet the meal pattern requirements and keep records of menus.

• State agencies may determine other types of acceptable recordkeeping documents required to demonstrate compliance.

• FNS encourages State agencies to maintain current requirements or update existing forms to avoid additional paperwork.
Implementation Timelines
Implementation

- Unpaid Meals Charge Policies
  - July 1, 2017

- Local School Wellness Policies
  - July 1, 2017

- Updated CACFP & PreK Meal Patterns
  - October 1, 2017
Unpaid Meal Charges

• All SFAs operating the school meal programs must have a written meal charge policy in place by SY 2017-2018.

• The policy must address situations where children participating at the reduced price or paid rate do not have money to cover the cost of a breakfast or lunch at the time of meal service.

• FNS has issued extensive guidance and resources, including best practices resource, to support State agencies, districts, and schools in implementing this requirement.

Check it Out!

Local School Wellness Policies

• All LEAs and schools operating the school meal programs must have a revised local school wellness policy by SY 2017-2018.

• Requirements include permitting public participation in the development of the policy, identifying LEA or school leadership, informing and updating the public.

• The policy also must include nutrition guidelines for all food available on campus during the school day, allow marketing of only foods and beverages that meet smart snack standards.

Check it Out!
Questions?
PROGRAM MONITORING AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT UPDATES

Sarah Smith-Holmes
Division Director
Program Monitoring and Operational Support Division
Child Nutrition Programs
AGENDA

✓ ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEWS
✓ PROCUREMENT REVIEWS
✓ BUY AMERICAN
✓ CN FUNDING
✓ DIRECT CERTIFICATION – MEDICAID PILOT
SY 2017-2018 Administrative Reviews


• Updated Guidance To Be Released Soon
  ○ Updated Materials Take Into Account:
    ◆ State Agency Edits and Feedback
    ◆ Recent Policy Updates
SY 2017-2018 Administrative Reviews

• Provides Guidance Regarding Pre K Meal Pattern Updates
• Updates Review of Resource Management and Fiscal Action Process
• Additional Guidance on Buy American
• Better Coordination Between AR Forms that are Applicable to 640 Reporting
Procurement Reviews

*A Proper Procurement Pays!*

- State agency discretion for conducting procurement reviews
  - Same 3 year cycle as Administrative Reviews, or
  - Alternate review cycle
- Local agency procurement review tool
Procurement Reviews

Local Agency Procurement Review tool

- FNS tool or FNS-approved alternate review process
- Tool is being streamlined and updated to reflect information from the group buying memo
- Review can be conducted on- or off-site
- Buy American: reviewed during on-site portion of AR
Buy American Provision

Compliance with Buy American
- Agricultural commodities for meal pattern component purchases must be domestic
- Processed foods must be:
  - Processed domestically using agricultural food components
  - Comprised of over 51% domestically grown items, by weight or volume

Enforcement by State agencies
- Administrative Review Module: Food Storage, Safety and Buy American updated
- Food categories now represent food components
Child Nutrition Funding

- FY 2017 SAE Reallocation
- FY 2017 Child Nutrition Technology Innovation Grants
- FY 2017 Equipment Grants
- FY 2017/18 ART Grant RFA
- FY 2017 Direct Certification Grant RFA
- School Year 2017-18 Reimbursement Rates
**FFVP Funding**

- **Streamlining**
  - Shifted to Federal fiscal year funding allocation structure
  - Removed uncertainty around availability of July 1st funds
  - Increased administrative efficiencies at the State and local levels

- **Transition Period**
  - Currently operating under a one-time 15 month grant period
  - Planned to release $40M in unexpired carryover funds during this transition year
  - Not reflective of historical spending – resulted in significant recoveries - FNS will distribute $17.2M in addition to the original $184.5M
FFVP Funding

- FFVP Funding Fluctuation
  - Driven by available carryover amounts – FY modification will increase spending efficiencies – more predictable carryover amounts

- Moving forward
  - Total amount of FY 2018 FFVP funding available for distribution is $174.5M ($167.5 new funding plus $7M in carryover funds)
  - Funds available from ~1 Oct 17 – 30 Sept 2018
FFVP FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS

“PEACHY” IDEAS

ARTICHOKE – CHALLENGES
Medicaid Direct Certification Demonstrations

Connecting Kids to Free & Reduced Price Meals through Direct Certification

- New demonstrations to evaluate direct certification for *both free and reduced price* school meals using Medicaid data begin in school years (SY) 2016-2017 and 2017-2018
  - Evaluating potential to enroll eligible students that aren’t yet enrolled, directly certify students currently enrolled based on application, and assess impact on costs and participation

- 7 States were selected for participation beginning SY 2016-2017 and are currently implementing
  - CA, FL, MA, NE, UT, VA, WV

- 8 States were selected for participation beginning SY 2017-2018
  - CT, IN, IA, MI, NV, TX, WA, WI
CNAAT – Leveraging Innovation

CHILD NUTRITION ACCESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

September 12-14, 2017

Westminster, Colorado

August 21 – Early Bird Deadline - $100

After August 21 - $150
Questions and Discussion