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POLICY UPDATE



05.25.2018 FY 2018 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities

In a [memo published on May 25, 2018](#), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) [announced](#) the distribution of \$30 million in funding allocated by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 to State agencies to competitively award equipment assistance grants to eligible School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The memo also provides guidance on the specific terms and conditions, period of performance, timelines, funding goals and reporting requirements for these grants. State agencies must complete the initial award process by the end of June 30, 2019, and the performance period for these grants will end September 30, 2020.

06.01.2018 Child Nutrition Programs' Flexibilities for School Year 2018-2019

In a [memo published on June 1, 2018](#), USDA FNS [summarized](#) the flexibilities provided to Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators in School Year (SY) 2018-2019 for milk, whole grains and sodium requirements. These flexibilities will be effective July 1, 2018. USDA is currently developing a final rule that will address the availability of flexibilities beyond SY 2018-2019.

06.11.2018 USDA Semiannual Regulatory Agenda, Spring 2018

USDA published in the [Federal Register](#) its [semiannual regulatory agenda](#), providing summary descriptions of the significant and not significant regulatory and deregulatory actions being developed in agencies of USDA in conformance with a number of Executive orders. The full agency rule list [is available at Reginfo.gov](#), which lists an [interim rule](#) for child nutrition program flexibilities for milk, whole grains and sodium requirements. This rule was discussed in [Policy Update #53](#).

06.13.2018 Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Child Nutrition Program Operations Study-II (CN-OPS-II)

In a [Federal Register](#) notice published on June 13, 2018, USDA FNS [requested public comment](#) on a revision to a currently approved information collection for the Child Nutrition Program Operations Study-II (CN-OPS II). The purpose of the revision is to update the survey instruments for SY 2018-19 to include topics of current interest and collect timely data to inform CNP operations. Comments must be received on or before August 13, 2018.

06.20.2018 Deadline Extension: Identifying Regulatory Reform Initiatives

In a [Federal Register](#) notice published on June 20, 2018, USDA [provided notice](#) that the comment period for their [July 2017](#) request for information has been extended until July 18, 2019. USDA is seeking public comment on regulations, guidance documents or any other policy documents that need reform. SNA members are encouraged to submit their comments through the [SNA Legislative Action Center](#) on our website.

Questions or comments?

Send them to SNA's Government Affairs Associate, Matt Miller, at mmiller@schoolnutrition.org

06.27.2018 Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study-II

In a [Federal Register](#) notice published on June 27, 2018, USDA FNS [requested comment](#) on a newly proposed information collection for the School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study-II (SNMCS-II). The study aims to provide a comprehensive picture of school food service operations and the nutritional quality, cost, and acceptability of meals served in NSLP and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). Comments must be received on or before August 27, 2018.

07.17.2018 Study of School Food Authority (SFA) Procurement Practices; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

In a [Federal Register](#) notice published on July 17, 2018, USDA FNS [requested comment](#) on a proposed information collection for a study to describe and assess the practices of SFAs related to procuring goods and services for several child nutrition programs, including NSLP and SBP. FNS is seeking comments on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for proper performance of the functions of the agency; the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the information collection. Comments may be submitted to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov and must be received by August 16, 2018.

07.18.2018 Evaluation of the Independent Review of Applications Process; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

In a [Federal Register](#) notice published on July 18, 2018, USDA FNS [requested comment](#) on a proposed information collection for a voluntary study to provide key information about the processes and overall effectiveness of the Independent Review of Applications (IRA) requirement. FNS is seeking comments on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for proper performance of the functions of the agency; the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the information collection. Comments may be submitted to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov, and must be received by August 17, 2018.

07.19.2018 National School Lunch, Special Milk, and School Breakfast Programs, National Average Payments/Maximum Reimbursement Rates

In a [Federal Register](#) notice published on July 19, 2018, USDA FNS [announced](#) annual adjustments to payments and reimbursements for child nutrition programs. The adjustments impact: national average payments, the amount of money the Federal Government provides States for lunches, afterschool snacks and breakfasts served to children participating in NSLP and SBP; the maximum reimbursement rates, the maximum per lunch rate from Federal funds that a State can provide a school food authority for lunches served to children participating in NSLP; and the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to non-needy children in a school or institution that participates in the Special Milk Program for Children. The rates are effective from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

07.19.2018 Child and Adult Care Food Program: National Average Payment Rates, Day Care Home Food Service Payment Rates, and Administrative Reimbursement Rates for Sponsoring Organizations of Day Care Homes for the Period July 1, 2018 Through June 30, 2019

In a [Federal Register](#) notice published on July 19, 2018, USDA FNS [announced](#) annual adjustments to payments and reimbursements for the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The adjustments impact: the national average payment rates for meals and snacks served in child care centers, outside-school hours care centers, at-risk afterschool care centers and adult day care centers; the food service payment rates for meals and snacks served in day care homes; and the administrative reimbursement rates for sponsoring organizations of day care homes. The rates are effective from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Questions or comments?

Send them to SNA's Government Affairs Associate, Matt Miller, at mmiller@schoolnutrition.org