



Food and Nutrition Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DATE: October 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Lapse in FY2026 Appropriations and Impacts for the
Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service,
Child Nutrition Programs

TO: Regional Directors
Child Nutrition Programs
All Regions

State Directors
Child Nutrition Programs
All States

Due to a lapse in appropriations for the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), as of October 1, 2025, an orderly partial shutdown of operations has resulted.

We understand the uncertainty that these circumstances present for FNS customers and partners nationwide. Effective immediately, many FNS staff will be furloughed pending reinstatement of funding by Congress and will not be available by phone or email. They cannot carry out normal work functions until funding is restored.

However, under the terms and conditions of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (P.L. 119-4), funding has been provided for the Child Nutrition Programs at least through October. The Child Nutrition Programs include the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Food Service Program, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, State Administrative Expenses, and Summer EBT. Please note, vendors are required to deliver any USDA Foods that were purchased prior to the lapse in appropriations; therefore, Program operators should expect to continue to receive USDA Foods deliveries during the lapse.

State agencies are expected to continue to administer the programs in accordance with Federal statute and regulations.

FNS remains committed to keeping you informed with the most accurate and timely updates available within the limits of current circumstances. Please direct any questions regarding the lapse in funding to your Regional Office.

Jessica Saracino
Acting Associate Administrator
Child Nutrition Programs

cc: Regional Administrators