



Policy Updates January 29, 2025

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Food and Nutrition Division
Nutrition Assistance Programs



Updated 1/29/2025
www.SquareMeals.org

Summer Rural Non-Congregate 2025!



Summary of Non-Congregate Requirements

- Site must be in rural-designated area
- 2-mile proximity required from nearest site.
- New sponsors will be evaluated based on previous CNP experience
- Sponsor must be in good standing
- Switched congregate to NC sites will be considered “new”



Available Flexibilities

- Grab-and-Go Unitized Meals (10-day max distribution)
- Parent/Guardian Pick-Up
- Home Delivery (5-day max distribution)
- Bulk Food Component Distribution (5-day max distribution)
- Hybrid Congregate/Non-Congregate Sites



New Changes to Summer NC in 2025

Definition of “guardian”:

- Legal guardian - a person who has been appointed by a court or otherwise has the legal authority to make decisions relevant to the personal well-being of the child
- With written permission from a parent, an adult that is providing scheduled, informal care of the child on the day of meal service.

Unallowable:

- Adults picking up meals at a licensed child care center or day care home
- Adults supervising children as part of a formal organized activity (ex. day camp, baseball practice)

New Changes to Summer NC in 2025

Menus **must** be provided with **any** multi-day bundle:

- If unitized, portioned food components are not packaged together to clearly identify what is required for each reimbursable meal being distributed, instructions must be provided to show how the components are to be assembled for each reimbursable meal.
- **EXAMPLE:** Unitized milk for the week is packaged in a separate bag from the rest of the food components - written instructions must state that only one milk should be consumed per meal.

New Changes to Summer NC in 2025

Meal Service Times:

- Any participant **in line** by the ending time of meal service can get a meal.
- TDA developing a meal service time deviation form for inclement weather, late deliveries, or traffic delays.

New Changes to Summer NC in 2025

Civil Rights requirements for home delivery:

- Full Non-Discrimination Statement (NDS) **must** be on the parental consent form.
- AJFA poster no longer required on delivery vehicles; **however...**
- In lieu of displaying the AJFA poster on vehicles, a printed NDS **must** be provided with each delivery:
 - Must be in appropriate language (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cr/fns-nondiscrimination-statement>)
 - Full, **current** NDS must be used.
 - If obtaining parental consent at each delivery, NDS on parental consent form will suffice

New Changes to Summer NC in 2025

Clarification and best practices added to FAQs:

- Meal temperature best practices (home delivery and mobile routes)
- Pre-registration best practices
- Guidance on how TDA monitors site caps
- SSO meal service time flexibilities and overall best practices
- SFSP pre-operational visit requirements
- Hybrid site meal count reporting

Non-Congregate Materials Coming Soon!

- New NC Request Form:
 - Only sites approved last year and new sites already approved for congregate service in 2025 will be able to submit.
 - Returning sites have option to skip uploading certain procedures if no changes.
 - Distribution times will be included as a field.
- New FAQs
 - Clarified requirements
 - New flexibilities
 - Updated application instructions
- New resources
 - Application one-pager
 - Small tweaks to NC site monitoring forms

<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/Summer-Meal-Programs/Summer-Non-Congregate-Feeding-Program>

WEBINAR ALERT!!

TDA will host a webinar February 27 at 2 pm focused on SFSP/SSO Rural Non-Congregate Program regulations and processes.

Keep an eye on:

- SquareMeals
(<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/Summer-Meal-Programs/Summer-Non-Congregate-Feeding-Program>)
- Newsletters
- SquareMeals Policy/Handbook pages

**Ramadan
Non-Congregate
Feeding Waiver**



Ramadan Waiver Overview

Allows service of non-congregate meals to students fasting during Ramadan between February 28 and March 30, 2025.

- Applies only to school districts, CACFP At-Risk sites, adult day care centers, emergency shelters, and outside-school-hours care centers in good standing
- Multi-day meal bundling and parent pick-up are **not allowed**.
- OVS in senior high schools is waived.
- Only distributed to participants who indicate verbally or in writing that they are fasting during Ramadan.
- If a participant chooses to consume a meal or snack during the day, schools or institutions may not deny a meal or snack because the participant is thought to be fasting during Ramadan.



CHILD NUTRITION

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Ramadan Waiver Overview

- Eligible CEs must submit request via online form (coming soon!) and attest to all requirements.
- Form will be available in SNP and CACFP
Download Forms in TX-UNPS



CHILD NUTRITION

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Miscellaneous Policy Updates



Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting – Public Comment Period Open

- 2023 Proposed Rule limited grain-based desserts in the School Breakfast Program to no more than two-ounce equivalents per week (not implemented)
 - USDA now seeking input on improving and simplifying grain-based dessert requirements
- Yogurt – currently there is consistent crediting for all yogurt
 - USDA now seeks input to determine if any new information warrants a change to crediting (for example, availability of new, high protein varieties)



Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting – Public Comment Period Open

- More information: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr-122624>
- Comment submittal: <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2024-30710/request-for-information-grain-based-desserts-and-high-protein-yogurt-crediting-in-child-nutrition>
- Comments due March 26, 2025



CHILD NUTRITION

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

2025 SFSP Reimbursement Rates Published

- <https://squaremeals.org/Programs/Summer-Meal-Programs/Reimbursement-Rates>
- 3.6% increase from 2024



ARM Update in February!

- 2 CFR 200 Updates per Final Rule
- Terminology and requirements based on USDA's Final Rule to Revise Nutrition Standards.
- Expansion of Excess Net Cash Resource threshold to six months' operating expenses
- CACFP At-Risk review requirements clarification
- CN label approval dates
- Steps for developing a Local Wellness Policy
- Annual procurement training requirements
- Use of excess USDA Foods in CACFP.
- Procurement terminology and guidance
- Alternate meals



School Data Report for Area Eligibility

- Will be posted by February 15
- Lists all schools with 50% F/R claiming percentages and CEP schools with 31.25 ISP
- Based on October 2024 data

