



HUNGER SOLUTIONS

NEW YORK

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USDA Announces Child Nutrition Waivers for the 2021-2022 School Year

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [announced](#) it has issued a number of nationwide child nutrition waivers for the 2021-2022 school year. The waivers—effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022—enable schools and child care providers to continue providing safe and healthy meals free of charge to children amid the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

We commend USDA for issuing these critical waivers, and thank the many schools, child care providers, and community-based organizations leveraging these flexibilities to nourish New York's children.

Among other flexibilities, the waivers allow:

- **Free school meals** for all children through the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO), which is typically only available during the summer months. Although the waivers **do not** extend the option to operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) during the regular school year, schools that use SSO can receive the higher SFSP meal reimbursements.
- **Alternative meal service models**, including parent/guardian meal pick-up, sending meals home with students, meal delivery, and distribution of multiple meals at a time.
- **Waived area eligibility for the Child and Adult Care Food Program** (CACFP) afterschool meal/snack component, and for day care homes participating in CACFP. This waiver will allow day care home providers to receive higher Tier 1 reimbursement rates for all creditable meals and snacks they serve, and for afterschool programs to apply for At-Risk Afterschool Supper/Snack regardless of the program's location.

These actions help ensure kids will have steady access to the nutrition they need as the pandemic continues to threaten food security, especially among households with children.

For more information, see [NYS Education Department's memo](#). Additional guidance is forthcoming. We will continue to share updates on our [COVID-19 webpage](#).

Grant Opportunity: Increasing Food Access in Schools in SY2021-2022

No Kid Hungry New York is announcing a grant opportunity to support New York school districts in maximizing participation in child nutrition programs in the 2021-2022 school year. School districts play an essential role in ensuring students receive nutritious meals to learn, grow and thrive to reach their full potential. This grant will provide funding to school districts across New York with a focus on those implementing or preparing to implement alternative delivery models such as Breakfast After the Bell. More information, including the link to apply, can be found [here](#). Please note that **the deadline to apply is May 28, 2021**.



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