

August 13, 2021

Good morning SFSAs,

COVID-19 has severely impacted Child Nutrition Programs financially. This was especially true during the period of March – June 2020 when schools initially transitioned to all virtual learning and participation was reduced. While some costs were reduced as fewer meals were served, other costs increased as programs transitioned to non-congregate feeding. The increased reimbursement from the Summer Food Service Program helped to mitigate the impact, but most programs saw significant drops in their funding levels with some even forced to reduce operations.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 authorized USDA to offer states an opportunity to participate in the School Programs Emergency Operational Costs (EOC) Reimbursement Program. The MDE applied to participate in the EOC to provide additional funding for MS schools participating in the NSLP. This is a formula based program that compares monthly reimbursements during March-June 2020 to pre-pandemic reimbursements. The difference between these two figures is then multiplied by a factor of .55 (55 percent) to arrive at that month's EOC payment amount. While this is only a partial amount of the difference in reimbursements, it will assist in offsetting some of the additional costs incurred. Collectively, MS schools will receive more than \$20,000,000 through the School Programs EOC.

In the next few days, and possibly as soon as today, you will receive an additional reimbursement from MDE. The amount for your district may be found here:

[School Meals EOC Reimbursements.pdf \(mdek12.org\)](#)

These funds may be deposited into the NSLP account or fund, coded as federal reimbursement as your claims for reimbursement normally are, and used for any allowable CN program expense. Each SFA will receive a survey at a later date to determine how these funds benefitted CN programs. Completion of the survey is a requirement of the EOC program.

For additional information:

[Child Nutrition Program Emergency Operating Costs During COVID-19: Implementation Guidance for State Agencies | USDA-FNS](#)

Thanks again for all your efforts to feed Mississippi's children,
Scott

Scott Clements, **State Director**
Office of Child Nutrition and Healthy Schools

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