

Good afternoon SFSAs,

This is the first of multiple emails that you will receive over the next few days. While we are at a time of more questions than answers, the Office of Child Nutrition is committed to supporting you and your programs and keeping you informed of upcoming changes. This email will focus on Training, CEP, SFSP, and Volunteers. Upcoming emails will address returning to school, fund balances, and a summary of USDA waivers, including recent extensions.

SFSP

As we approach the end of the school year and the completion of serving meals during Unanticipated School Closures, it is time to transition to the traditional SFSP. We hope that all SFAs will participate in the SFSP for 2020. Summer meals can be a critical lifeline for disadvantaged children in your community. Also, following 2 months of decreased reimbursements, this may provide needed revenue to your Child Nutrition programs, allowing you to continue to serve your community. Remember, since you participated in serving meals during Unanticipated School Closures, your SFSP application is already active. Only a few changes are needed, such as changing days of operation for your sites. Please contact your Program Specialist for more information.

Volunteers

We have indirectly heard of instances of schools requesting volunteers to assist with meal distribution. This is allowable and a great way to continue operations in the face of staffing issues. Rather than making an announcement asking for volunteers, MEMA asks that you make requests through your county Emergency Management Agency. MEMA may be able to provide volunteers through their network and may be able to provide PPE for those volunteers.

Community Eligibility Provision & Direct Certification

We strongly recommend that you continue to import Direct Certification matches into your eligibility software package. SNAP applications have increased significantly across the state, which will substantially increase the number of Direct Certification matches. Schools previously ineligible will become eligible and participating schools may see large increases in their ISP. For next School Year, a USDA waiver allows data between April 1 and June 30 to be utilized. Look for more information from Mary Burks and the Schools Support team in the near future. Until then, be sure to run DC imports frequently. **This may significantly impact the eligibility status of students in your schools and the amount of reimbursement received.**

Training

The Division of Training has been working diligently to adapt to all online systems for training over 1,200 Child Nutrition employees in the next three months. You will receive detailed information from April Catchings and the OCN Training team, but below is a summary.

Manager Recertification

- All online, ICN courses
- SFSAs will maintain certificates of completion
- SFSAs will provide certification to OCN (Forms to be provided by Tuesday, May 26)

Decide to Succeed (New Manager Training)

- All online
- 5 hours of ICN classes as a pre-requisite
- 4 days of live, online training via video conferencing

- Divided into 2 weeks, June 15 and June 22 to reduce class sizes
- Registration forms and additional information will be provided by Tuesday, May 26

OCN State Conference

- All online
- **NEW DATES: July 7 & 8**
- More information by June 1st

Keep an eye out for more information in the coming days. Until then, stay safe and enjoy the holiday weekend,

Scott

Scott Clements, [State Director](#)