



Regulatory Reform at a Glance

Proposed Rule: Summer Meals Program Streamlining & Integrity

The Issue

In January 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will publish in the Federal Register a proposed rule entitled “Streamlining Program Requirements and Improving Integrity in the Summer Food Service Program” to improve program efficiency while allowing local operators to spend more time focused on serving children.

The Background

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides free meals and snacks when school is not in session. The seasonal nature of SFSP, and the diversity of sponsors and site operators, make it unique. State agencies, sponsors, and community organizations need flexibility to operate the SFSP in a manner that is responsive to local conditions and allows operators to focus on ensuring children in need can access food when school is not in session.

In Summer 2018:

- Over **5,500 sponsors** operated SFSP
- Over **49,000 sites** provided service
- Over **145 million meals** served
- Over **2.6 million children** fed

The Department listened to key stakeholders to solicit ideas on how to improve and expand the program. Based on this feedback, USDA is proposing flexibilities to program operators that reduce many of the operational constraints they face with the ultimate goal of better serving children during the summer months when school meals are not provided.

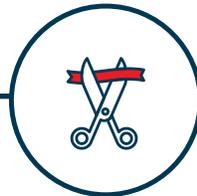
The changes proposed in this rule would lock-in some proven best practices to maintain program integrity while streamlining SFSP requirements for sponsors that participate in other Child Nutrition Programs, ultimately right-sizing reporting and allowing operators more time to interact with the children and prepare foods they are eager to eat.

Summary of Changes

This rule proposes to streamline and refine important program requirements to ensure programs can effectively feed children throughout the summer, by:



Formally updating regulations with operationally-proven flexibilities for local sponsors and site operators to increase program participation and decrease paperwork burdens.



Safeguarding integrity with stronger monitoring while easing redundant requirements for high performing, experienced operators through a streamlined application process to better focus program resources.



Providing local flexibilities to make serving and eating meals easier with local control of meal service times, choice in number of offerings, and allowing children to take non-perishable items offsite.



Ending confusion around important standards and eligibility requirements by clarifying language and aligning performance definitions.

These changes respond to the needs of the local operators that know the children and communities they serve best, providing options to tailor their operations, reduce bureaucratic red tape, and safeguard program integrity so they can focus on their main mission—serving children.

More Information

This rule will publish in the Federal Register in January 2020, and will be open for public comment for 60 days through www.Regulations.gov. USDA is committed to listening to and collaborating with customers, partners, and stakeholders to make these reforms as effective as possible, and encourages all those interested in summer meals to comment on the proposal.