

# CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN

FY 2025



## Introduction

The mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is to increase food security and reduce hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthy diet and nutrition education in a manner that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence. FNS works to ensure all communities have nutrition security, which is consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, affordable foods essential to optimal health and well-being. This focus on nutrition security builds on and complements the longstanding efforts to address food insecurity and emphasizes the co-existence of food insecurity and diet related diseases. A total of 16 federal nutrition assistance programs are funded by FNS and administered at the state, territory, tribal, or local levels. Appendix A provides a comprehensive list of FNS programs. In tandem with the nutrition assistance programs, FNS utilizes its Agency Priority Plan to support the mission. The plan supports program improvements through goal setting, performance measures, and monitoring of risks, and achievements. Appendix B provides a list of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 agency priorities from the FNS Agency Priority Plan.

The FNS priorities focus on fostering policy and environmental supports that allow people to make healthy nutrition choices and ensure equitable access to FNS programs. Through a culture of collaboration and evidence-based innovation, FNS seeks to improve nutrition results for program participants while being accountable to communities through integrity and transparency. In 2025 and beyond, FNS will undertake actions to identify and implement evidence-informed strategies to address nutrition security and reduce hunger. FNS will work to increase awareness of its presence and impact on individuals and communities through strategic external communications and engagement. By implementing business process improvements to increase workflow efficiency, FNS strives to promote the adoption of healthy eating patterns by diverse FNS nutrition assistance program participants.

On January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. issued [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 14008 on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#), to help the United States prepare for a changing climate. The EO addresses the risks and opportunities posed by climate change and requires each federal agency to develop an action plan describing steps the agency can take to bolster adaptation and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. [USDA Departmental Regulation \(DR\) 1070-001](#) provides guidance on the establishment and periodic revision of the [USDA Climate Change Adaptation Plan and development of climate adaptation plans by USDA agencies](#).

Climate change poses a significant risk to the agriculture and forestry sectors and the communities that support and depend upon them such as FNS program participants. About one in four Americans participate in at least one FNS program at some point during a given year. On average, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) served 42 million participants each month in FY 2023. Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) served a combined total of 8.8 billion meals in FY 2023. This marks an increase in participation over previous years. By integrating climate change adaptation strategies into FNS programs and operations, FNS better ensures that taxpayer resources are invested wisely, and that FNS services and operations remain effective under current and future climate conditions.

## Climate Change Effects and Vulnerabilities

**Disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities:** Climate change exacerbates food insecurity by disrupting food supply chains, increasing food prices, and making it harder for vulnerable communities to get the food they need. It compounds the challenges faced by these communities in multiple ways, making the support provided by the FNS programs even more critical. Addressing these impacts and challenges requires a coordinated approach that strengthens the resilience of food assistance programs and considers the specific needs of the most affected populations.

Grocery stores, farmers markets, and other retailers are vulnerable to disruptions in connectivity to their point-of-sale devices, as well as disruptions to SNAP online purchasing. Natural disasters that cause flooding, road closures, and gasoline shortages can also make it hard to shop for food. Disruptions to power, infrastructure, and staffing for schools, day cares, adult day cares, and homeless shelters can disrupt meal service. Disasters can impact State agency offices and FNS program operators through disruptions in travel, computer systems, communications, staffing and infrastructure.

Exposed communities throughout the United States, often already facing economic hardships, are particularly susceptible to these fluctuations. If food becomes more expensive or less available, the support from the FNS programs becomes even more crucial. If the FNS programs do not adjust to these increased needs, impacts, and vulnerabilities, these communities may struggle even more.

FNS has identified nine (9) vulnerable communities through efforts to design a more equitable disaster response program.

Vulnerable Communities	
Communities with limited or no internet and/or transportation	Similar to rural communities, those with limited or no internet or transportation are at risk of missing crucial information and emergency services due to the inability to receive emergency updates and feeding information.
Economically vulnerable communities	People experiencing poverty may already struggle to meet their daily food needs. They may not have three days of food on hand, making them vulnerable.
LBGTQIA+	Studies have found that these individuals are more likely to be food insecure prior to a disaster and therefore require additional resources and assistance.
Limited English proficiency	Identifying the language needs of a community and providing vital communications (e.g. signage, applications, briefings, and technical assistance etc.) in appropriate languages via document translation and oral interpretation will reduce barriers to accessing critical nutrition assistance for those whose first language is not English.
People with disabilities	Ensuring emergency feeding locations, communications, and facilities provide accessibility for everyone affected to receive assistance. All disaster and emergency feeding programs must be prepared to provide

	reasonable modifications to serve individuals with disabilities. Modifications are changes or alterations in policies, practices, and procedures that accommodate individuals with disabilities and ensure timely and equitable access to benefits and services.
Racial equity	Longstanding systemic inequities in urban planning limit access to healthy food and increase vulnerability to hazards during emergencies. Include community leaders from all racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds in disaster planning to reduce barriers and improve access to nutritious foods for all.
Religion	Dietary restrictions during a disaster when resources are limited can present challenges for emergency feeding efforts.
Rural communities	Distance from infrastructure, reliable communications, and community services make those who live in rural areas especially vulnerable.
Tribal nations	Logistical challenges, cultural differences, and rural locations can make providing emergency feeding and disaster response resources difficult.

Additionally, the economic burden of climate change can strain both governmental resources and family budgets. In its 2023 report, “*The Impact of Climate Change on American Household Finances*,” the Department of Treasury found that climate hazards can strain household finances by causing lost employment income and reducing access to public benefit programs. With the anticipated increased costs related to climate adaptation and recovery, there could potentially be less funding available for existing FNS feeding programs in a disaster or emergency. As more funds are diverted to immediate disaster relief and recovery, other government programs and resources could become strained.

**Shocks due to extreme weather events:** Extreme climate events, exacerbated by climate change, can increase demand for and may create significant shocks to FNS programs, such as SNAP and the SUN (Summer Nutrition) Bucks Program (Summer EBT). These shocks can impact the effectiveness and reach of these programs in multiple ways, including those which are difficult to anticipate.

The 5<sup>th</sup> National Climate Assessment found that extreme climate events are increasing in severity, extend, and frequency. The number and cost of weather-related disasters have increased dramatically over the past four decades. In 2022 alone, the United States experienced 18 weather and climate disasters with damages exceeding \$1 billion. This increase in extreme weather events causes economic disruption, leading to job losses and reduced income for affected households. This disruption can hinder the delivery of food to distribution centers and retailers, and knock out power for prolonged periods of time, which can cause delays in getting food to those in need.

For FNS programs, this means beneficiaries may experience difficulties accessing food benefits or face reduced availability of certain food items they depend on to endure a disaster. This can increase the number of people qualifying for food assistance, exacerbate the need for FNS programs, and further strain the available resources provided by the government. Furthermore, following extreme weather events, there is typically a need for extended support as affected communities rebuild. This can include long-term food assistance, and the immediate recovery programs provided by FNS, which may require adjustments to standard FNS program operations.

Addressing these shocks to state and local partners, communities, and our federal programs requires a proactive and resilient approach, including strengthening infrastructure, planning for rapid response, and ensuring that food assistance programs are adaptable to the changing conditions and effects. Coordination between federal, state, and local agencies, along with effective disaster preparedness and recovery strategies, can help mitigate the impacts to FNS programs and ensure continued support for those in need.

## Climate Adaptation Actions

The FNS climate plan seeks to leverage existing FNS nutrition assistance programs, as well as the new SUN Bucks program (Summer EBT), to support low-income households by recognizing the vulnerabilities a changing climate has on FNS program participants. FNS is taking critical actions to reduce climate vulnerabilities that disproportionately impact vulnerable and underserved communities. By taking steps to increase access to food during the summer when extreme climate events are more likely to occur, FNS is building long-term climate resilience into its mission. These vulnerable communities often consist of low-income households who need FNS programs the most. Through its climate efforts, FNS will increase access to its 16 nutrition assistance programs by assisting its partners to target underserved populations.

Climate change impacts recipients of FNS programs and requires the agency to respond with increased feeding options for disaster survivors. FNS coordinates with states, territories, tribal nations, and voluntary organizations to respond to disasters and emergencies in three main ways:

- Approving administrative waivers and flexibilities for FNS nutrition assistance programs.
- Providing commodities known as USDA Foods for Disaster Household Distribution (DHD) and for use in shelters and other mass feeding sites.
- Approving states to operate the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP).

Climate change may result in an increased number of weather events that impact a geographically broader portion of the country, thus impacting a significantly higher number of FNS nutrition assistance program recipients than in the past. Underserved populations may also experience increased food insecurity because of climate change and may need help accessing food assistance. The highest risk of extreme heat, hurricanes, severe storms, and wildfires occurs during the summer months and puts millions of low-income households with children at risk as they may not be able to access as much food assistance when schools are closed.

Power outages, loss of internet connectivity, supply chain disruptions, changes in agricultural yields due to climate change, and damage to infrastructure could all impact the delivery of FNS programs. Through its strategic priorities, FNS works to implement business process improvements and collaborate with other agencies to remediate climate impacts and build program resiliency.

One example of this collaborative effort is the FNS partnership with the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) provides food to approximately 53,000 income-eligible households on tribal reservations and Native American households in approved areas near reservations. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program

(CSFP) provides food to about 730,000 income-eligible people aged 60 and older across the country. These supplemental programs provide American-grown and produced foods and nutrition education that help reduce food insecurity and support nutritious diets. FNS administers FDPIR and CSFP. AMS provides procurement and distribution services for both programs.

In 2024, following food delivery delays from its contracted national warehouse, FNS and AMS worked together to address issues that have impacted inventory levels at FDPIR and CSFP locations and the communities that participate in the programs. FNS and AMS have taken a variety of [short-, medium-, and long-term actions](#) to mitigate these supply chain disruptions and resume regular, on-time deliveries and support a strong and resilient food delivery system for FDPIR and CSFP. Program inventory levels have improved over the course of USDA's response. This illustrates the FNS commitment to identify and manage supply chain issues as quickly as possible through collaboration and risk-management. FNS will incorporate lessons learned from the warehouse disruptions and consider climate resiliency during long-term planning for CSFP and FDPIR commodity procurement and distribution.

FNS is implementing three (3) adaptive practices and management strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change and increase access to food assistance to those in need.

### **1. Implementation of the SUN Bucks Program (Summer EBT)**

Nearly 30 million children participate in USDA's school breakfast and lunch programs on an average school day. When school is out for summer, kids lose access to these healthy meals. This puts them at higher risk of hunger and makes it harder for them to get the nutrition they need to learn and grow. USDA now has more flexible strategies for providing kids with food and nutrition support so they can thrive in the summertime and beyond. These enhanced offerings, including Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), are known as SUN Programs: USDA's Summer Nutrition Programs for Kids. SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) is an ongoing agency action to address disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities.

FNS issued the Interim Final Rule for Summer EBT in December 2023. In early 2024, States and Tribes submitted Notices of Intent to Operate Summer EBT and Program Operation plans. During the Summer of 2024, participating States and Tribes began to issue SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) benefits. SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) provides grocery-buying benefits to low-income families with school-aged children when schools are closed for the summer. More than 29 million children across America could benefit from SUN Bucks (Summer EBT). Families will receive \$40 per eligible child, per month for up to three months, for a total of \$120. Families can utilize online purchasing with their EBT benefits to help ensure kids have consistent access to critical nutrition when school is out. SUN Bucks may have a different name depending on your location.

Families can receive SUN Bucks on top of other benefits like SNAP and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and children can continue to enjoy free SUN Meals from local meal sites or with SUN Meals-To-Go. A child is eligible if they are school-age and their household already participates in benefits like SNAP, FDPIR, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or the child attends a school that offers the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the household income meets the requirements for free or reduced-price school meals. Families can use SUN Bucks to pay for:

- fruits and vegetables
- meat, poultry, and fish
- dairy products
- breads and cereals
- snack foods and non-alcoholic drinks

The program will be implemented and run at the State and Tribal level. FNS provided extensive technical assistance throughout 2023 and 2024 to States and Tribes as they planned for implementation. Implementation of the Summer EBT program will build resiliency to extreme heat and summer storms. Families will have more benefits to use during the months with the most disasters, will have to travel less to summer sites to access food during extreme weather events, and can utilize online purchasing. Potential climate mitigation co-benefits of SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) implementation include an emissions reduction due to households traveling less to feeding sites and utilizing online purchasing to order food with SNAP and SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) benefits.

Implementing a brand-new nationwide program is an agency-wide effort across Program Offices, Financial Management, External and Governmental Affairs, and Communications. Overall, 37 states, the District of Columbia, 5 territories, and 2 tribal nations implemented SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) in 2024. FNS is in the process of determining the number of children reached and the dollar amount of benefits issued. As an action strategy, FNS will conduct outreach and education to promote SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) to communities vulnerable to disproportionate climate change impacts.

## **2. Publication and Promotion of FNS Tools to Increase Equity in Disaster Nutrition Assistance Programs**

In the aftermath of a disaster, some people need additional assistance accessing nutritious food. Increasing numbers of disasters caused by climate change will create disruptions to basic services like power and water. These disruptions will be more challenging for people who are already food insecure or who live in under-developed and/or rural areas. FNS is addressing these challenges by ensuring its programs consider and promote equity among underserved communities. Equity is the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment.

FNS has developed and published tools that will promote equity and improve disaster response efforts for the increasing number of weather events due to climate change. Tools published include an [Equity in FNS Disaster Nutrition Assistance Programs](#) document and a [Disaster Nutrition Assistance Timeline](#) document for FNS feeding partners. FNS is also partnering with the American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other feeding organizations to develop Disaster Feeding Goals and an accompanying toolkit that will improve the nutrition quality of meals served in shelters during disasters. Given the increased frequency of disaster events caused by climate change, vulnerable populations are at risk of spending more time in congregate shelters during evacuations and recovery periods. Therefore, it is vital for shelters to serve nutritious food to families.

These FNS tools will assist state partners and feeding organizations in connecting with community organizations to design equitable assistance and target vulnerable communities. As ongoing strategies, FNS will publicize these tools to educate users on how vulnerable communities are more exposed to climate risks.

FNS engaged its Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) to provide technical expertise and contribute to the disaster nutrition feeding goals and toolkit. The FNS Office of Emergency Management (OEM) serves on a Disaster Feeding Nutrition Committee with the American Red Cross, FEMA, and other feeding partners who all collaborated to draft the goals and toolkit for shelters. This is a planned goal that could result in simplifying food ordering for shelters, which could reduce the frequency of commodity transport and carbon emission. The draft goals and toolkit have been provided to the committee for review. OEM is working with other FNS divisions to obtain appropriate FNS clearances to publish.

The FNS focus on equity serves as an important commitment to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change for underserved communities and help these populations plan for increased shocks due to climate events.

### **3. Improving Access and Parity Within the Food Distribution Programs**

FNS amended its regulations to make access and parity improvements within several food distribution programs, including CSFP, FDPIR, The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and USDA Foods disaster response. The final rule for the FNS Food Distribution Division (FDD) has several regulatory changes that reflect lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic that are applicable to climate and disaster response, such as DHD.

USDA Foods, purchased by AMS and distributed through programs operated by FNS, may be used by State agencies in response to a Presidentially declared (i.e., major) disaster or emergency. Shelf-stable USDA Foods support congregate feeding efforts and/or are distributed to impacted households. FNS is making programmatic changes to increase access to USDA Foods during disasters, and to increase visibility into the use of USDA Foods in a disaster response, improving USDA's ability to mobilize foods to areas affected by disasters and to replace inventories.

FNS revised the USDA Foods disaster response regulations (7 CFR 250.69 and 250.70) to better support the response to Presidentially declared disasters and emergencies. Through this rulemaking, USDA will a) allow the simultaneous provision of USDA Foods and D-SNAP, which is currently prohibited by regulations; b) require State agencies to report on the number of individuals served and amount of USDA Foods issued for a response lasting longer than 14 days; and c) ensure the use of USDA Foods for disaster response activities does not negatively impact routine program operations by adding a requirement that State agencies consider and manage inventories.

USDA published the final rule in October 2024. Following publication of the final rule, FNS will update related policy guidance including the USDA Foods in Disasters Handbook. In the interim, FNS has established a waiver option under the Stafford Act to allow the simultaneous provision of USDA Foods and D-SNAP.

FNS provided the opportunity for Tribal consultation on the proposed changes to the USDA Foods disaster response regulations and received substantive feedback from Tribal leaders which were



taken into consideration during the development of the proposed rule. FNS invited comment on the proposed rule, including from Tribal leaders, and used this in development of the final rule.

Potential benefits of these regulatory changes for climate mitigation are streamlined pick-up and delivery options for households participating in DHD, resulting in reduced trips to points of distribution and decreased climate emissions.

### **Next Steps and Ongoing Action Development**

The FNS actions described above are intended to enhance knowledge and information for FNS staff, program operators, and recipients of the 16 FNS nutrition assistance programs. Implementing SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) and utilizing tools to increase equity will help manage and reduce risks due to climate variability and increasing numbers of disasters and emergencies. Amending the Food Distribution regulations will improve policies and planning to strengthen FNS and public resilience to climate change.

## **Cross-Cutting Adaptation Issues and Considerations**

Climate change poses a threat to food security for communities and nutrition security. Underserved communities experience the greatest disparities related to food insecurity and nutrition security. To leverage adaptation measures and evaluate climate progress, FNS must increase climate literacy within its nutrition assistance programs and draw attention to this new threat. FNS should communicate climate risks and their impacts to food security to State partners, ITOs, and feeding partners.

FNS has identified several actions to reduce potential vulnerabilities to its mission, partners, and programs because of climate change. As an agency, FNS will implement strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change and increase access to food assistance to those in need in underserved communities, as well as populations that may need help accessing food assistance, especially during the summer months when school is closed.

Evidence indicates that extreme weather events and increased temperatures can create new insecurities and exacerbate existing inequities in underserved communities. Rising temperatures and weather events may interrupt supply chain infrastructure and disrupt transportation, food preservation, food storage, and access to food banks, supermarkets, and grocery stores.

Underserved communities may be particularly food insecure because the impacts of climate change exacerbate existing inequities. The cascading effects of displacement caused by climate change and weather events can further compound access to safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods for these communities.

The metrics that will be used to demonstrate progress and effectiveness of FNS action include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Implementation of the SUN Bucks Program (Summer EBT) will build resiliency to extreme heat and summer storms. SNAP families will have additional benefits to use during the

months that experience the most disasters, will have to travel less to summer sites to access food during extreme weather events, and can utilize online purchasing. The programmatic metrics for Summer EBT become available as data is reconciled from State agencies, which will indicate its success with increasing numbers.

2. FNS is developing tools that will ensure equity and improve nutrition and food security for the increasing number of weather events due to climate change. Tools include an [Equity in FNS Disaster Nutrition Assistance Programs](#) document and the [Disaster Nutrition Assistance Timeline](#). Future tools currently in development include Disaster Feeding Goals that will improve meals in shelters, and a Disaster Feeding Toolkit for FNS feeding partners. These FNS tools will assist our state partners to connect with community organizations, design equitable assistance, and target vulnerable communities.
3. The final rule for the FNS FDD has a number of regulatory changes that reflect lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic that are applicable to climate and disaster response, such as DHD. These FNS tools will assist our state partners to connect with community organizations, design equitable assistance, and target vulnerable communities.

Adapting and building resilience to climate change is crucial to ensure our work is impactful as we work to coordinate across FNS programs and partners to find solutions and mitigate risks.

### **FNS Employee Climate Literacy**

FNS is committed to the safety of its employees and will provide training to employees on specific aspects related to climate change that directly impact its workforce such as training on how to avoid heat stress illness and exposure to extreme weather. This Climate Adaptation Plan will help to ensure that FNS employees understand potential impacts of climate change on the FNS workforce and actions FNS can take to mitigate these impacts. FNS OEM can introduce the plan to FNS staff through seminars, town halls, and Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) Weekly newsletter.

FNS currently has in place its Continuity of Operations (COOP) plan to mitigate the situations that will pose a threat to the continuity of the mission essential functions and support State agencies and partners in the event it is needed. Telework and remote work is maximized to the fullest to continue with mission essential functions and continue operations of the 16 FNS programs. FNS will collaborate with sister USDA agencies, other federal agencies, and trusted partners to use their climate data and resources to guide short and long-term decision making.

### **Summary**

This climate adaptation plan was developed and written by FNS Office of Emergency Management (OEM) staff in collaboration with FNS leadership and programs. The team considered impacts of climate change to the 16 FNS programs and the impacts of climate change through the lens of an increase in weather events such as extreme heat, severe weather, flooding, and other events. An increase in extreme weather events may lead to power outages, flooding, and severe storms that will impact all Americans, especially underserved communities that FNS serves daily.

## APPENDIX A- FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS) PROGRAMS

Food and Nutrition Service Programs	
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	CACFP is a federal program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating childcare centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers. CACFP also provides reimbursements for meals served to children and youth participating in afterschool care programs, children residing in emergency shelters, and adults over the age of 60 or living with a disability and enrolled in day care facilities. CACFP contributes to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of young children and adults in the United States.
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)	CSFP works to improve the health of low-income persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. Recipients must meet certain eligibility requirements such as age and income. Local agencies distribute food packages with a variety of food such as fruit, juice, vegetables, milk, cheese, grains, and protein, including plant-based protein. CSFP food packages do not provide a complete diet, but rather are good sources of the nutrients typically lacking in the diets of the beneficiary population.
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	FDPIR provides USDA Foods to income-eligible households living on Indian Reservations and to Native American households residing in designated areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. USDA distributes both food and administrative funds to participating Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) and state agencies to operate FDPIR. Participants select from a variety of fruits, vegetables, proteins, legumes, grains, dairy, soups, and traditional foods made available by USDA.
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)	FFVP is a federally assisted program providing free fresh fruits and vegetables to children at eligible elementary schools during the school day. The goal of the FFVP is to introduce children to fresh fruits and vegetables, to include new and different varieties, and to increase overall acceptance and consumption of fresh, unprocessed produce among children. The FFVP also encourages healthier school environments by promoting nutrition education. Elementary schools in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are eligible to participate. Schools must operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in order to operate the FFVP.

<p>National School Lunch Program (NSLP)</p>	<p>NSLP is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. State agencies operate the NSLP through agreements with school food authorities. Participating school districts and independent schools receive cash subsidies and USDA Foods for each reimbursable meal they serve. In exchange, NSLP institutions must serve lunches that meet Federal meal pattern requirements and offer the lunches at a free or reduced price to eligible children. School food authorities can also be reimbursed for snacks served to children who participate in an approved afterschool program including an educational or enrichment activity.</p>
<p>Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program</p>	<p>Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program helps child nutrition program operators incorporate local foods in the NSLP, SUN Meals, CACFP, and all associated programs. In addition, USDA staff work with tribal communities by promoting food sovereignty and the integration of traditional food ways into tribal meal programs. Farm to school makes local food and agricultural education available to child nutrition program participants through grants, research, technical assistance, and training.</p>
<p>School Breakfast Program (SBP)</p>	<p>SBP is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free breakfast to children each school day. State agencies operate the SBP through agreements with school food authorities. Participating school districts and independent schools receive cash subsidies and USDA Foods for each reimbursable meal they serve. In exchange, SBP institutions must serve breakfast that meet Federal meal pattern requirements and offer the breakfast at a free or reduced price to eligible children.</p>
<p>Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)</p>	<p>SFMNP provides fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey through farmers' markets, roadside stands and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs to low-income seniors; and increases the consumption of agricultural commodities by aiding in the development and expansion of domestic farmers' markets, roadside stands, and CSA programs. The SFMNP awards grants to States, U.S. Territories and Federally recognized Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) to provide low-income seniors with coupons that can be exchanged for eligible foods from authorized vendors. Not all States operate the SFMNP on a State-wide basis.</p>

<p>Special Milk Program (SMP)</p>	<p>SMP provides milk to children in schools and childcare institutions who do not participate in other federal meal service programs. The program reimburses schools for the milk they serve. Schools in the NSLP or SBP may also participate in the SMP to provide milk to children in half-day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs where children do not have access to the school meal programs. At the state level, the SMP is usually administered by state education agencies, which operate the program through agreements with school food authorities.</p>
<p>Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)</p>	<p>WIC provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk. Recipient must meet certain eligibility requirements such as income and nutrition risk. Monthly benefits are issued on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card, which works like a debit card, for participants to redeem for food benefits at authorized retailers.</p>
<p>Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)</p>	<p>WIC FMNP is associated with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, popularly known as WIC. Eligible WIC participants are issued FMNP coupons in addition to their regular WIC benefits to provide fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs through farmers' markets and roadside stands to WIC participants. The program is also intended to expand the awareness, use of, and sales at, farmers' markets and roadside stands. Not all state agencies operate the FMNP on a statewide basis.</p>
<p>Summer and Nutrition (SUN) Bucks (Summer EBT)</p>	<p>SUN Bucks is a grocery electronic benefit transfer (EBT) program for families with eligible school-aged children, sometimes referred to as Summer EBT. SUN Bucks is an optional program and available in states that selected to operate the program. Families with eligible school-aged children can get \$120 per child to purchase groceries during the summer. Children that attend a school that offers the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), or School Breakfast Program (SBP) and their household income meets the requirements for free or reduced-price school meals, may automatically be enrolled in SUN Bucks. Households can apply for SUN Bucks directly if children are not automatically enrolled. Those households must meet certain income and other eligibility requirements. SUN Bucks may be issued by addition to SNAP account's EBT card, issued as a separate EBT card, or sent in other ways depending on the state's method of distributing benefits.</p>

<p>Summer and Nutrition (SUN) Meals</p>	<p>SUN Meals (formally known as Summer Food Service Program) provides kids under age 18 with meals and snacks during the summer at no cost at schools, parks, and other neighborhood locations. Households are not required to complete an application or submit other information for children to participate. SUN Meals feeds kids through in-person congregate/group meals and snacks provided at sites in communities with high rates of poverty. SUN Meals To-Go provides meal services in some rural areas via pick-up or home delivery.</p>
<p>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</p>	<p>SNAP is a federal program that provides nutrition benefits to low-income individuals and families that are used at SNAP authorized stores to purchase food. Recipients must meet certain eligibility requirements such as resource and income limits to receive benefits. State agencies operate the program, determine participant eligibility, and issue benefits. Benefits are issued on an EBT card, which works like a debit card. Benefits are automatically loaded into accounts each month. EBT cards are used to purchase SNAP allowable groceries at authorized food stores, retailers, and farmers markets.</p>
<p>The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)</p>	<p>TEFAP is a federal program that helps supplement the diets of people with low-income by providing them with emergency food assistance at no cost. TEFAP purchases a variety of nutritious, high-quality USDA Foods, and makes those foods available to state distributing agencies. States provide the food to local agencies that they have selected which in turn distribute the food to local organizations, such as soup kitchens and food pantries that directly serve the public. States also provide the food to other types of local organizations, such as community action agencies, which distribute the foods directly to low-income households.</p>
<p>USDA Foods in Schools</p>	<p>The USDA Foods in Schools program supports domestic nutrition programs and American agricultural producers through purchases of 100% American-grown and -produced foods for use by schools and institutions participating in the NSLP, CACFP, and SUN Meals. USDA Foods meets food safety and nutrition standards for all foods purchased and provided to child nutrition program operators and adds versatile, budget-friendly options for schools and institutions to provide our Nation’s children with appealing, healthy meals.</p>

## APPENDIX B- FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS) AGENCY PRIORTIES

Food and Nutrition Service Fiscal Year 2025 Agency Priorities	
Agency Priority 1	Support the FNS organizational health and well-being.
Agency Priority 2	Foster policy, system changes, and environmental supports that help make the healthy choice the easy choice.
Agency Priority 3	Ensure equitable awareness of and consistent access to FNS programs and resources.
Agency Priority 4	Improve results and program performance through a culture of collaboration, evidence-based innovation, process analysis, and improvement.
Agency Priority 5	Ensure accountability through integrity, transparency, monitoring, and reporting.

## APPENDIX C- FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS) CLIMATE VULNERABILITIES AND ACTIONS

Climate Vulnerability	Action Title/Description	Type of Activity	Lead Office	Timeframe	Coordination	Progress Metrics	Accomplishments to Date
Disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities	Implementation of the Summer EBT program will build resiliency to extreme heat and summer storms. Families will have more benefits to use during the months with the most disasters, will have to travel less to summer sites to access food during extreme weather events, and can utilize online purchasing.	Ongoing	Child Nutrition Programs (CNP)	Summer 2024 and ongoing	Potential opportunities to collaborate with partners on outreach activities to eligible participants.	37 States, District of Columbia, 5 Territories, 2 Tribal Nations have implemented Summer EBT. FNS will also measure # of children served and \$ benefits issued.	
Disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities	FNS is developing tools that will ensure equity and improve nutrition for the increasing number of weather events due to climate change. Tools to be published include an Equity in Disaster Nutrition Assistance document, Disaster Feeding Goals that will improve meals in shelters, and a Disaster Feeding Toolkit for FNS feeding partners.	Ongoing	Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Regional Operations and Support	Spring 2024 and ongoing	OEM serves on a Disaster Feeding Nutrition Committee with the Red Cross, FEMA, and other feeding partners who collaborate to draft the goals and toolkit for shelters.	<a href="#">Equity in FNS Disaster Nutrition Assistance Programs   Food and Nutrition Service (usda.gov) and Disaster Nutrition Assistance Timeline</a> published May 2024.	



Shocks due to extreme weather events	The final rule for the FNS Food Distribution Division (FDD) contains regulatory changes that reflect lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic that are applicable to climate and disaster response, such as the Disaster Household Distribution (DHD) program.	Ongoing	Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs (SNAS)	August 2023 and ongoing	Disaster survivors will be able to access both D-SNAP and DHD at the same time, increasing state options for feeding impacted communities.	FNS will track participation rates for D-SNAP and DHD.	
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