



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

3101 Park  
Center Drive  
Alexandria, VA  
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DATE: October 18, 2013

SUBJECT: Update on Food and Nutrition Service Operations: Child Nutrition Programs

TO: Regional Directors  
Special Nutrition Programs  
All Regions

State Directors  
Child Nutrition Programs  
All States

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) wants to extend our sincere appreciation to State agencies, school food authorities (SFAs), and other local program operators for their work in continuing operations of the Child Nutrition Programs during the recent lapse in appropriations.

We now have a budget agreement signed by the President that provides funding for Federal programs through January 15, 2014, and we can return as quickly as possible to normal operations. As you know, during the lapse, we were able to make funding available sufficient to support program activity for several months in Fiscal Year 2014. This funding is provided through a permanent appropriation supporting the Child Nutrition Programs, and was not dependent on further action by Congress. In the near future, we will provide additional funds from the continuing resolution to support program operations. We also will provide the second allocation of funds for this school year's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program shortly.

Thank you again for your support in responding to information requests that assisted FNS in understanding the challenges faced by State and local agencies and developing appropriate courses of action as we worked through the lapse of funding issues. If any additional questions arise in the coming weeks, please let us know and we will provide needed guidance and technical assistance.

State agencies are reminded to distribute this memorandum to program operators immediately. SFAs and other local program operators should contact their State agencies for additional information. State agencies may direct any questions concerning this guidance to the appropriate Food and Nutrition Service Regional Office.

**Original Signed**

Cynthia Long  
Director  
Child Nutrition Division