# Best Practices for Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service in Summer Programs

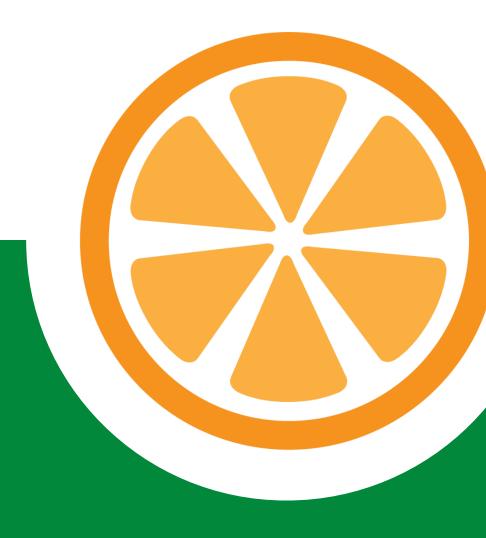
**USDA Food and Nutrition Service** 

**Child Nutrition Programs** 

December 2023

Alice McKenney, Branch Chief

Kenya Pennington, Program Analyst





# Agenda

- Background
- Summary of non-congregate meal service
- Q&A with State agency panel



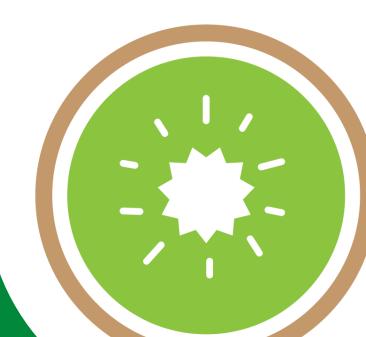
# **Background**

- Consolidated Appropriations Act (signed Dec. 29, 2022)
  - Authorized a permanent, non-congregate meal service through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program's (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in rural areas with no congregate meal service
- Non-congregate meal service option for rural areas was available in summer 2023
  - SFSP 01-2023, Implementation Guidance: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas, February 28, 2023
  - SFSP 07-2023, Questions and Answers #2: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas, April 20, 2023



## Non-congregate Meal Service Flexibilities in 2023

- Parent/guardian meal pick up
- Home delivery
- Multi-day meal issuance
- Bulk food item issuance



# Q&A Time



## **Q&A with State Agency Panelists**

#### Julie Fletcher

Executive Director,
Child Nutrition
Maryland State Department
of Education

### **Sharlene Wong**

Program Administrator,
Child Nutrition Programs
Hawaii State Department of
Education

### **Krista Jackson**

Associate Director, Program Operations

Arkansas Department of Education