

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



**USDA Food and Nutrition Service  
Child Nutrition Programs**

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United States Department of Agriculture

# Agenda

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



# Background

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- 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

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



# Q&A Time



# Q&A with State Agency Panelists

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## **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

