Area 1 Meeting Questions & Answers

1. Is there a way to operate a mobile/delivery feeding program in July if the waivers are not extended and children must consume meals on site? Please refer to Waiver Responses # 73 - # 81 for the most recent guidance that was emailed to all directors the afternoon of March 9th. These waivers provide extensions for Summer 2021 but are not applicable to SY 21-22. More guidance is expected for SY 21-22.

2. Is the DOD shopping amount a part of the USDA request total we have received or is it a new allotment? If it is a part of the amount we have received, then how do we notify you of the amount we want to go towards DOD items? There will be quite a bit of carryover funds from this school year to SY2022. Those funds will be utilized to purchase DOD items.

3. Which hotel in Muscle Shoals will the meeting be located at in the fall? Marriott Shoals Hotel in Florence, Alabama.

4. Can you explain more about the memo that went out today? The memo referenced is SP 07-2021, Department of Education Guidance on Implementation of Child Nutrition Program Waivers. This memo addresses data collection for Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Programs such as Title I, Part A that may ordinarily rely on data from NSLP.

5. Do we do the Paid Lunch Equity calculations this year? USDA hasn't released any guidance on Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) at this time. Plan to complete the PLE calculations unless notified otherwise.

6. What if the Health Inspector hasn't been at all this school year? Retain documentation of your request for health inspections.

7. Will our Financial Profiles be mailed out or emailed? Most likely both, this is to be determined.

Area 2 Meeting Questions & Answers

8. Referring to Chad's portion regarding the Memo SP 24-2020 - when will the current guidelines cease if USDA doesn't renew the waivers? Please refer to Waiver Responses #73 - #81 for the most recent guidance that was emailed to all directors the afternoon of March 9th. These waivers provide extensions for Summer 2021 but are not applicable to SY 21-22. More guidance is expected for SY 21-22.

9. Can we still get a copy of the surveys that we responded to during the spring/summer/fall regarding the use of waivers? Yes, the SA will send waiver survey responses to all sponsors that completed the surveys.

Area 3 Meeting Questions & Answers

10. Summer Managers Training = 3.5 hours? Yes, this is correct. If additional training hours are needed for managers, you may use New Manager Training presentations located on the ALSDE website.

11. What are the dates of the fall conference? 2021 Fall Conference is currently scheduled for October 20-22, 2021 at the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa.

12. If we get audited, and aren't meeting sodium limits and/or 100% whole grain, is it a monetary finding? Per USDA, fiscal action may be applied for repeated violations involving calories, saturated fat, sodium, and/or trans-fat and whole grain-rich requirements.

13. What is the group code? We will release the group code for fall conference in the announcement/registration email.
14. Are you saying if the waiver isn't extended, we cannot offer SFSP if we don't normally qualify? What does outreach have to do with that? Please refer to Waiver Response #77- Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waiver for Summer 2021 Operations that was emailed to all directors the afternoon of March 9th. This waiver allows SSFP and SSO Sponsors in good standing to operate Open summer meals sites located in areas that do not meet the definition of “areas in which poor economic conditions exist”, where more than half of the children are eligible for free or reduced price- meals. This waiver has been extended from June 30, 2021 to September 30, 2021. SFA’s must cooperate with SFSP sponsors to distribute materials to inform families of the availability and location of free SFSP meals for students when school is not in session. This outreach is to occur before the end of the academic school year.

15. May we receive a copy of this presentation? Yes, the presentation, recording link and Q&As will be posted to our website and released by email.

16. Will you provide a list of schools due for a Triennial Assessment? All SFAs were due for the Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment on June 30, 2020. The Wellness Policy waiver extended this date until June 30, 2021. If the assessment was not completed on time or a waiver not applied for with ALSDE, then the SFA should complete the assessment now.

Area 4 Meeting Questions & Answers

17. What is the status of CNP Emergency Operating Cost During COVID-19 application? Has the SDE applied for the funding? ALSDE’s CNP Emergency Operating Cost for COVID-19 implementation plan was submitted to the USDA. At this time, we are on schedule with the dates set by the USDA.

18. Does the new bid solicitation take into account the 2012 meal pattern? The bid reverted to the way it was prior to the flexibilities. Whole grain items and lower sodium items? Yes, the new solicitation has reverted to include the items that were replaced because of the flexibilities.

Area 5 Meeting Questions & Answers

19. Will we get a copy of this PowerPoint? Yes

20. Heard anything about SFSP and if that meal pattern will continue to July and the fall? Please refer to Waiver Responses #73 - #81 for the most recent guidance that was emailed to all directors the afternoon of March 9th. These waivers provide extensions for Summer 2021 but are not applicable to SY 21-22. More guidance is expected for SY 21-22.

21. Have there been any updates that we can serve extra meals over spring break past the 7 breakfast/lunch? Meals distribution is allowed for up to, but not more than 7 days and can include Spring Break dates.

22. Do we know if we can extend our produce bid again into the 2021-2022 year with waiver? The latest waiver (COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #71; Nationwide Waiver of Food Service Management Contract Duration in the National School Lunch Program and Summer Food Program Extension) released to all directors on January 6, 2021 only applies to SFA’s contracting with a Food Service Management Company (FSMC) to operate their meal service operations. This waiver will not apply to local milk, produce, and fresh bread bids.

23. Has USDA given any updates of when we could possibly hear about updates for meal patterns? The last update we received from USDA regarding meal pattern was on November 24, 2020. USDA released a Proposed Rule: Restoration of Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Flexibilities. The public comment period ended on December 25, 2020 and ALSDE has received no further guidance regarding where the proposed rule stands.