



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

September 9, 2020

Oregon Alliance of YMCAs  
www.oregonymcas.org

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your letter dated August 3, 2020, requesting the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) extend waiver access and broaden program flexibility. Your comments and recommendations are appreciated.

I am pleased to let you know that on August 31, 2020, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announced it will extend a suite of nationwide waivers for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) through the end of calendar year 2020, or until available funding runs out. This includes allowing SFSP and SSO meals to be served in all areas and at no cost, permitting meals to be served outside of the typically-required group settings and meal times, waiving meal pattern requirements as necessary, and allowing parents and guardians to pick-up meals for their children.

These flexibilities will allow summer meal program operators to continue serving free meals to all children into the fall months. This unprecedented move will help ensure – no matter what the situation is on-the-ground – children have access to nutritious food as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the start of the public health emergency, FNS has been maximizing existing program services and flexibilities to ensure those in need have access to food through our 15 federal nutrition assistance programs. To date, USDA has provided more than 3,500 flexibilities across these programs. For the latest information about all of the efforts FNS is undertaking in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus>. We encourage you to reference our online resources with frequency as USDA and FNS continue to respond in real-time.

Thank you for your correspondence as USDA continues our commitment to "Do Right and Feed Everyone." If you need further assistance, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 720-7095.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sonny Perdue  
Secretary