



United States Department of Agriculture
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services

Ending Hunger.

Improving Nutrition.

Combating Obesity.





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The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) are sister agencies in the United States Department of Agriculture Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) mission area.

Apart from the individual programs and initiatives of these agencies, FNS and CNPP have three central goals:

End Childhood Hunger

The Federal Government has challenged Americans and the USDA to end childhood hunger. FNS is committed to a leadership role in this cause by expanding access to our programs through innovative strategies and partnerships.

For more information, to share your ideas to end childhood hunger, or to get involved, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/endlhunger>.

End Childhood Obesity

FNS and CNPP are active players in working to end childhood obesity and to provide healthy food to all children in the country. This initiative will work to give parents the support they need; provide healthier food in schools; help kids to be more physically active; and to make healthy, affordable food available in every part of the country.

Improve Nutrition

USDA's Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services ensures access to nutritious, healthful diets for all Americans. Through food assistance and nutrition education for consumers, FNCS encourages consumers to make healthful food choices. Today, rather than simply providing food, FNCS works to empower consumers with knowledge of the link between diet and health, providing dietary guidance based on research.



USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

FNS provides children and needy families with access to food and a more healthful diet through 15 nutrition assistance programs and nutrition education efforts.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) *Formerly the Food Stamp Program*

SNAP helps low-income people put healthy food within reach by providing a monthly benefit used to purchase food at the grocery store or farmers' market. Accepted at most grocery stores, benefits are provided on an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card, much like a debit card. Eligibility is based on income, assets, and other factors. Through nutrition education partners, SNAP also helps participants learn to make healthy eating and active lifestyle choices. SNAP is the national program name, but some States may use a different name. SNAP is also good for communities. Every additional \$5.00 of SNAP benefits spent generates \$9.00 in total economic activity.

For more information about SNAP, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap> or call 1-800-221-5689.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

WIC serves low-income pregnant women, breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding postpartum mothers, and infants and children up to 5 years old. The program provides supplemental foods, nutrition education, referrals, and access to health and social services. Each month, those who qualify receive vouchers or an electronic benefit on an EBT card to purchase specific foods that are based on individualized nutritional needs identified by a health professional. WIC also includes the Farmers' Market and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs.

For more information, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/>.

School Meals Programs

National School Lunch Program

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) provides nutritionally balanced and low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. Free and reduced-price lunches are based on each family's income. Students who participate in this program may also have access to afterschool snacks and fresh fruits and





vegetables at school. If a family participates in SNAP or WIC, the children also may qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches.

School Breakfast Program

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) gives low-income children free or reduced-price healthy breakfasts at the start of their school day. Breakfasts help students stay alert and perform better in class. If a family qualifies for SNAP, WIC, or the children qualify for the National School Lunch Program, the children also may qualify for free or reduced-price school breakfasts.

Applications for School Lunch and Breakfast programs are available at all participating schools at all times during the school year.

For more information about all the programs, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd>.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) gives meals to students during the vacation months when they do not have access to lunch or breakfast at school. Free meals are provided to children age 18 and under in summer programs run by schools, churches, camps, park and recreation departments, and other community organizations. Most meals are free to any child who comes to eat. Sometimes a family may be asked to provide information about their income in order to qualify for free meals.

For more information or State contact information to find a SFSP meal site near you, or if your organization is interested in becoming a Summer Food sponsor or feeding site, visit <http://www.summerfood.usda.gov>.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) helps child and adult care providers serve healthy meals and snacks each day as a regular part of their day care. CACFP also serves at-risk children age 18 and under who are residents of emergency shelters or participants in afterschool programs.

For more information, or if you're interested in participating as a care provider, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/care>.



Food Assistance for Disaster Relief

During a disaster such as a storm, earthquake, flood, or other emergency, FNS works with State and local organizations to open feeding sites, deliver food packages to families, or issue emergency SNAP benefits. These programs are offered in Presidentially-declared Disaster Areas with individual assistance available.

After a natural disaster in your community, see if your State has a disaster Web site or information hotline that would help you learn about getting food in a disaster.

Food Distribution

USDA purchases food, which is provided through several nutrition assistance programs, including the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), Schools/Child Nutrition Commodity Programs, The Emergency Food Assistance Program, and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

For more information about Food Distribution Programs, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/>.





FNS Partnership Opportunities

Tough times require new solutions. Partner with the Food and Nutrition Service! FNS is seeking partners to assist with the following:

- Information Sharing
- Program Eligibility Screening
- Providing Services
- Application Assistance
- Referrals

Partnering with FNS gives you access to free outreach materials on FNS programs that are available to download online or via mail order. Also, free nutrition education materials, including MyPyramid, are available through the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. Other opportunities include training and technical support relating to outreach efforts for FNS programs.

For more information or to discuss partnership opportunities, contact partnerships@fns.usda.gov or visit us at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/outreach.htm>.

USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is the lead Federal agency in human nutrition. Within USDA, the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion is the focal agency for nutrition policy whose mission is to improve the health of Americans by developing and promoting dietary guidance that links scientific research to the nutrition needs of consumers.

CNPP translates nutrition guidance into consumer-oriented promotion programs to improve the dietary behavior of all Americans.

CNPP nutrition education tools for the public include:

Dietary Guidelines for Americans: The *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* (DGA) are the science-based foundation in all Federal nutrition education and promotion programs including ones supporting Federal nutrition assistance programs. The DGAs are also used by most private sector nutrition education initiatives. The DGAs recommend healthy eating patterns that include caloric intake, serving sizes, and types of food.

For more information, go to: <http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/DietaryGuidelines.htm>.

MyPyramid: The MyPyramid Food Guidance System is a network of nutrition education tools that put the *Dietary Guidelines* into practice by providing personalized information on foods and dietary patterns. MyPyramid.gov is the most widely accessed Federal dietary guidance Web site, serving millions of consumers, educators, researchers, and policymakers each week.

For more information, go to: <http://www.MyPyramid.gov>.

CNPP also conducts applied research and analyses in nutrition and consumer economics, e.g., to support eating healthy at low incomes through USDA Food Plans and to assess diet quality in America.



CNPP Partnership Opportunities

Partnering with MyPyramid offers an opportunity for organizations and communities to join together in helping promote aspects of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and MyPyramid.

Benefits of partnering with CNPP:

- Partner accomplishments are regularly highlighted on **www.MyPyramid.gov**.
- Networking opportunities are facilitated between partners.
- Knowledge and experience will be shared among partners as CNPP goes forward in communicating the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.





USDA National Hunger Clearinghouse

For food assistance and other social service resources, individuals can call the toll-free **USDA National Hunger Hotline at 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479).**

Support the USDA National Hunger Clearinghouse. Register your organization in our database of hunger resources. People who call 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479) will receive your information through referrals. The more complete and robust the database is, then the closer we can come to ending hunger in the United States. Registration is free, and it only takes a few minutes.

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/hungerhotline>.

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For More Information:

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For organizations interested in partnering
with FNS: **partnerships@fns.usda.gov**

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For organizations interested in partnering with
CNPP: **[http://www.mypyramid.gov/
Challenge/index.html](http://www.mypyramid.gov/Challenge/index.html)**