

September 14, 2021

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Stacy Dean
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive Alexandria, VA 22302

The Honorable Cindy Long
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive Alexandria, VA 22302

Dear Secretary Vilsack, Deputy Under Secretary Dean, and Administrator Long,

We, the 530 undersigned national, state, and local organizations, commend the commitment of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS) to ensure all children have access to the nutritious meals and snacks they need as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt the school day and severely impacts families and communities.

While the decision to extend several nationwide waivers in April 2021 was a timely first step, the available flexibilities do not account for the current reality of the school day and out-of-school time. The Delta variant has introduced new challenges for both the school day and meal service: by early August, reports showed that more schools across the country were forced to pivot to hybrid

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We appreciate your cons

Signed:

National Organizations

- Academy of Nutrition and Diet
- Action for Healthy Kids
- African American Health Alliance
- Afterschool Alliance
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation
- Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Public Health Association
- Association of School Business Officials Inter
- Association of SNAP Nutrition Education Admin

Food For Good
Food Research & Action Center
FoodCorps
Girls Inc.
Livingstone Anglican Children's Project
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Farm to School Network
National PTA
National Recreation and Park Association
National Women's Law Center
Red Rabbit
RESULTS
Save the Children
School Nutrition Association
Share Our Strength
The Education Trust
Union of Concerned Scientists
Urban School Food Alliance
YMCA of the USA

Alabama

Alabama Dietetic Association
Alabama Food Bank Association
Ekklesia MB Church
Girls Inc. of Central Alabama
THE BRIDGE INC.00000912 0 612 792 reW*BTW5m BRIDGE INC

Heritage Elementary School
Miami USD
Prescott YMCA of Yavapai County
Saddle Mountain Unified School District
Torah Day School of Phoenix
Valley of the Sun YMCA
WHEAT (World Hunger Ecumenical Az Task Force Inc)
YMCA of Southern Arizona

Arkansas

AR Hunger Relief Alliance
Arkansas Alliance of YMCA's
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance
Batesville Public Schools
DWR YMCA
Fort Smith Public Schools
Hot Springs YMCA
Jasper School District
Jessieville School District
Riverside School District
We Care of Pulaski County

California

Alameda County Community Food Bank
Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency
Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County
Building Better Communities Foundation
California Association of Food Banks
California State Alliance of YMCAs
CAP of Kern County
Central California Food Bank
Christ Commission Chapel
City of Pico Rivera
Community Action Agency of Butte County North State Food Bank
Community Action Partnership of Napa Valley Food Bank
Community Action Partnership of Orange County Food Bank
Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County Food Bank
Community Food Bank of San Benito
Corona-Norco Family YMCA
Dignity Health Connected Living

Educare California at Silicon Valley (ECSV)
Emergency Food Bank of Greater Stockton
Families Forward Learning Center
Feeding America Riverside San Bernardino Counties
Feeding San Diego
FIND
FIND Food Bank
Food Bank for Monterey County
Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano
Food Bank of El Dorado
Food for People
Food Share of Ventura County

SHFB San Joaquin & Stanislaus
SHFB Santa Cruz
SHFB Silicon Valley
SLO Food Bank
The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank
The Resource Connection Food Bank
United Way of Kern County
Westside Food Bank
Woodville Union School District
YMCA Childcare Resource Service
YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles
YMCA of San Diego County
YMCA of San Francisco
YMCA of San Joaquin County
YMCA of Silicon Valley

United Way of Western Connecticut

Delaware

YMCA of Delaware

D.C.

D. C. Hunger Solutions

Community Harvest Food Bank of NE Indiana, Inc
Crawford County Community School Corporation Food Service Department
Feeding Indiana's Hungry
Food Bank of Northern Indiana
Food Bank of Northwest Indiana
Food Finders Food Bank
Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, Inc.
Immigrant Welcome Center
Indian Youth Institute
Indiana Afterschool Network
Indiana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
Indy Hunger Network
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard
MSD of Wayne Township
Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana
Second Helpings, Inc.
United Northeast Community Development Corporation

Iowa

Estherville Lincoln Central School
Food Bank for the Heartland - Iowa
Girls Incorporated of Sioux City
Hampton-Dumont-CAL CSDs
Iowa Alliance of YMCAs
Iowa Food Bank Association
United Way of Central Iowa

Kansas

Kansas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Kansas Appleseed
Kansas State Alliance of YMCAs
USD 312 Haven
USD 320 Wamego Public Schools

Food Bank Council of Michigan
Food Gatherers
Forgotten Harvest, Inc.
Healthy Living YMCA Initiative
Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes
Kent County Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF)
Leland Public School
Mason County Eastern Schools
Michigan Afterschool Partnership
Monroe Family YMCA
State Alliance of Michigan YMCAs
Treeleaders Farmacy LLC
United Way for Southeastern Michigan
United Way of Washtenaw County
Upper Midwest Alliance of YMCAs - Michigan
Washtenaw County Food Policy Council
Washtenaw Food Policy Council
Washtenaw Health Plan
YMCA of Barry County
YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit

Minnesota

Al-Maa'uun
Minnesota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Minnesota Alliance of YMCA's
Second Harvest Heartland
The Food Group
Upper Midwest Alliance of YMCAs - Minnesota
Youthprise

Mississippi

Jackson Metropolitan YMCA
Metropolitan YMCAs of Mississippi

Missouri Alliance of YMCAs
Operation Food Search
Osage Prairie YMCA
Our Mission Guided By Faith Foundation
Portageville School District
St. Luke Memorial Church
The Adair County Family YMCA

Montana

Billings Backpack Meals and Teen Pantry Programs
Child Care Resources
Community Hope Inc.
Community Support Center
Custer County Food Bank
Fairfield public schools
Family Service
Farm Hands - Nourish the Flathead
Gallatin Valley Food Bank
Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow (LIFTT)
Livingston Food Resource Center
Montana Food Bank Network
North Valley Food Bank

Nebraska

Food Bank for the Heartland
Nebraska Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest
State Alliance of Nebraska YMCAs

Nevada

Food Bank of Northern Nevada
Three Square Food Bank
YMCA of Southern Nevada

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Food Bank
NH Hunger Solutions
YMCA Alliance of Northern New England - New Hampshire

New Jersey

Community Food Bank of New Jersey
Food Bank of South Jersey
Hunger Free New Jersey
NJSACC

New Mexico

New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network

New York

Alliance of NYS YMCAs
Community Food Advocates NYC
Empire Justice Center
Equity Advocates
Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School
Food Bank of Central New York
Food Bank of the Southern Tier
Hunger Free America
Hunger Solutions New York
Long Island Cares, Inc.--The Harry Chapin Food Bank
New York State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
New York State Network for Youth Success, Inc.
Northern Adirondack CSD

North Carolina

A Simple Gesture
Alamance Burlington Schools
Caring Hearts of America
Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy
Clinton City Schools
Maggie's Outreach Community Economic Development Center
MORE THAN A MEAL COMMUNITY KITCHEN,LLC
NC Alliance of YMCAs
North Carolina Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Restoring Hope Center, Inc.
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina

North Dakota

North Dakota Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics
State Alliance of North Dakota YMCAs

Ohio

Children's Hunger Alliance

Connecting Kids To Meals

Oswayo Valley School District
Pennsylvania State Alliance of YMCAs
YMCA of Centre County - Anti-Hunger Program

Rhode Island

Arlington Mansfield YMCA
Central Texas Food Bank
Common Threads - Texas
El Paso Human Services, Inc.
Feeding Texas
Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc.
Houston Food Bank
Intrinsic Foundation
North Texas Food Bank
Odessa Family YMCA
Palestine YMCA
Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Texas Partnership for Out of School Time (TXPOST)
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
YMCA of Abilene
YMCA of Austin
YMCA of Corsicana
YMCA of El Paso
YMCA of Greater Houston
YMCA of Greater San Antonio
YMCA of Plainview, TX
YMCA of San Angelo
YMCA of Southeast Texas
YMCA of the Coastal Bend
YMCA of the Golden Crescent
YMCA of Wichita Falls

Utah

Utahns Against Hunger
Hunger Free Vermont
Vermont Afterschool
YMCA Alliance of Northern New England

Virginia

Amelia County Public Schools
Child Care Resources of Virginia
Federation of Virginia Food Banks
Feed More
Feeding Southwest Virginia
Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank

King George County Schools
Lynchburg City Schools
Northern Virginia Food Rescue
Petersburg City School Nutrition Department
Prince William County Community Foundation
Virginia Alliance of YMCAs
Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST)
Virginia Poverty Law Center
William A. Hunton YMCA
YMCA at Virginia Tech

Washington

FareStart
Food Lifeline
Greentrike- Out of School Time Intermediary
Northwest Harvest
Olympic Peninsula YMCA
School's Out Washington
Toppenish Community Chest
Washington State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Washington State Alliance of YMCAs
Whatcom Family YMCA
Yakima School District
YMCA of Grays Harbor
YMCA of

United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County
Upper Midwest Alliance of YMCAs
Waupaca School District
WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

Wyoming

Feeding Laramie Valley
Sweetwater County School District #2
Wyoming Afterschool Alliance