

CARES Act Funding — Child Nutrition Programs

Summer Food Service Program and Other Child Nutrition Programs

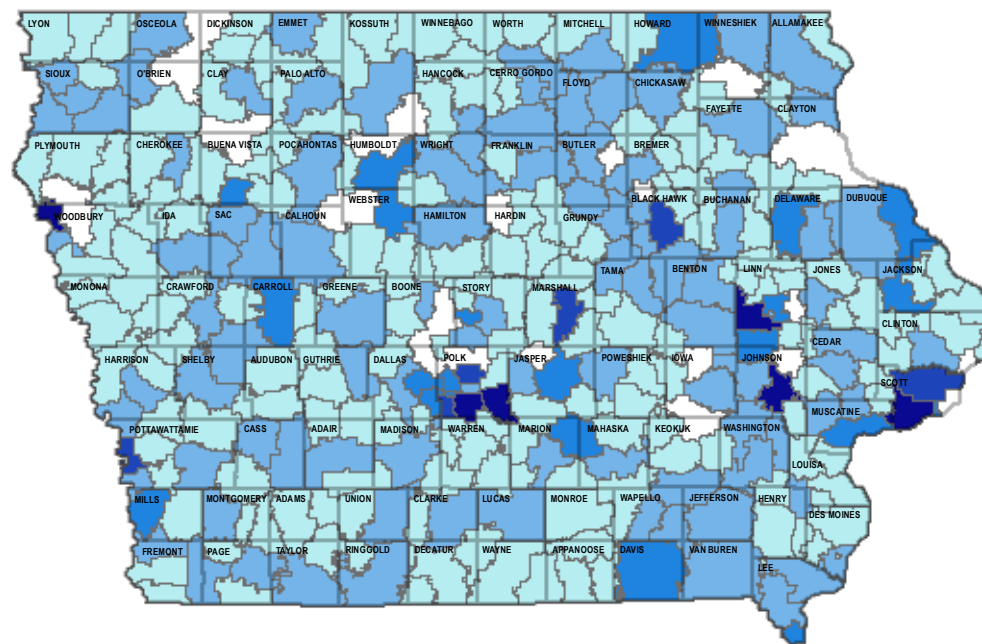
Beginning in March 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) began approving waivers that allowed child nutrition sponsors to provide meals to children during COVID-19 school closures under the USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Not all school districts participate in SFSP as eligibility is limited to low-income areas; however, the waivers allowed for all children in all areas to receive free meals through SFSP.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service is extending a series of nationwide waivers for the SFSP and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) through the end of 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.
- Allowing parents and guardians to pick up meals for their children.

To view the USDA Press Release, [click here](#).

Funds Received by School Districts as of August 24, 2020



\$98.07 M Funds Allocated to Iowa

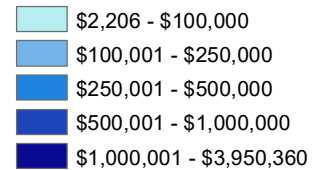
\$51.38 M Funds Received to Date

\$45.61 M Dispersed to School Districts

\$5.79 M Dispersed to Other Organizations

303 Public School Districts have Received Funding*

Funds Dispersed by School District



*Funding flows through the Dept. of Education; reimbursements are paid to school districts in the month following the claim.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) has been providing updated information on different ways that states have been providing meals to children outside of school food service meal programs. The [report](#) describes strategies used by states including:

- A pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (P-EBT), which was a [program](#) used in Iowa.
- An emergency allotment to provide emergency supplementary benefits.
- A pilot of an online purchasing program.

For more information on the status of CARES Act Funding, see LSA's [State of Iowa Financial Update](#).