

## Q&AS ON DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS TO END CHILDHOOD HUNGER

A few points of clarification based on the questions from potential applicants:

- For demonstration projects that propose a modification to an existing program(s), any modification must be consistent with existing waiver authority for the existing program(s).
- Demonstration projects may propose enhancements and/or alternative models that would add to or otherwise complement existing programs. Proposed enhancements which would not involve program changes would be funded by the grant and would not require a waiver for approval of the demonstration project.
- For demonstration projects that propose enhanced benefits, the enhanced (or additional) part of the benefits must be paid for with grant funding. The part of the benefit the individual or household would be eligible for under current program rules can be paid with regular program funds. For example, if a household is currently eligible for \$100 a month in SNAP benefits and under the demonstration project the household would receive \$150 a month, \$100 would continue to be paid with regular SNAP benefit funds while the additional \$50 would be paid with the grant funds.

All responses to the questions below are focused solely on the allowability of the proposed demonstration project according to the legislative authority. That said, each response is based on the limited information in the question that was posed. The responses are not intended to address the merit of any proposed demonstration project nor the likelihood that such a project would be funded. All proposals received that meet the criteria for eligible applicants and submit the required documentation will be competitively evaluated. Those determined to best meet the goal of reducing childhood hunger will be funded by the USDA.

**1. We are thinking of trying a project to send children home with a dinner meal and extra food for the weekend. Is this something that would meet the criteria for this funding opportunity?**

Yes, this would be allowable if the additional meal or food were paid for using grant funding.

**2. In a similar vein to the question above: If a state wanted to offer At-Risk Meals before the end of the school day, would that change in service delivery model be allowable as a waiver?**

Yes, this would be allowable under CACFP waiver authority.

**3. Can there be a waiver from the congregate feeding requirement in the CACFP At-Risk provision to provide take-home weekend meals or take-home after school meals?**

This would not be allowable as a modification of CACFP because the congregate feeding requirement may not be waived. However, this proposal would be allowable if the additional meals were paid for using grant funding.

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- 4. Can equipment be purchased with this grant for setting up kitchens (at Tribal schools or Head Start locations)?**

Yes, this would be allowable under the demonstration projects.

- 5. Could Summer EBT be implemented by using the waiver authority under SNAP, since it is not allowed under the waiver authority of SFSP?**

Enhanced SNAP benefits would be allowable if the enhanced benefits were paid using grant funding. See the third bullet at the top of the Q&As.

- 6. Can an intervention group be given a new SNAP eligibility requirement in exchange for an enhanced benefit (i.e. a household would receive a larger SNAP benefit if they agreed to attend nutrition education or a household budgeting class, etc.)?**

The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (FNA) does not allow for added eligibility requirements for SNAP. However, an additional voluntary requirement for receipt of an enhanced SNAP benefit is allowable if the additional portion of the enhanced benefit and administration and other costs associated with implementation of the additional requirement are paid using grant funding. Under such a demonstration project, a household declining to voluntarily agree to the additional requirement would remain eligible to receive the regular SNAP benefit.

- 7. For program interventions including enhanced SNAP benefits for a target population(s), would these enhanced benefits be able to come from the SNAP account or would they have to be paid for from the grant award?**

The additional portion of the enhanced SNAP benefit would be paid using grant funding. See the third bullet at the top of the Q&As.

- 8. Can schools or a community organization become an approved provider to use SNAP to purchase food for back-packs of food to go home during the weekends or after school? If so, can this strategy be paired with an increased SNAP benefit for school-age children?**

Current law does not provide for schools and community organizations to be authorized as SNAP retailers. A waiver of the FNA would be required to implement such a change. If interested in proposing such an approach, applicants should make clear that they are requesting such a waiver. The additional portion of the enhanced SNAP benefit would be paid using grant funding.

- 9. Could a parent use SNAP benefits to pay for a prepared meal at an "At Risk" site?**

Current law does not provide for CACFP sites to be authorized as SNAP retailers. A waiver of the FNA would be required to implement such a change. If interested in proposing such an approach, applicants should make clear that they are requesting such a waiver.

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- 10. I understand that the waivers will have to fall under current waiver authority. However I wanted to verify that we do not need to have the waivers in hand at the time of application? Rather, we need to be able to list what waivers we will be requesting in the first year under the grant.**

No, approved waivers are not needed at the time of application. Listing the waivers that will be requested in the application will suffice.

- 11. Can you clarify for me to what extent you would like letters of commitment (*from partner organizations*)?**

Letters of commitment are required only for partners that are not currently part of the operation of the affected program(s). For example, if a proposed demonstration project involves a foundation or nonprofit organization, letters of commitment would be required from these organizations. However, letters of commitment would not be necessary from schools or school food authorities that currently participate in school meals or from county or local SNAP offices.