**APPENDIX B**

**SFA SURVEY ON SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTION**

OMB control number: 0584-XXXX  
Expiration date: XX/XX/20XX

SFA Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

SFA ID: \_\_\_\_\_\_

**INTRODUCTION**

Throughout the pandemic, school nutrition professionals have met extraordinary challenges to ensure every child can get the food they need to learn, grow, and thrive. But circumstances in local communities remain unpredictable, and supply chains for food and labor have been stressed and at times disrupted. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is committed to working together with state agencies, SFAs, the food industry, and other stakeholders to communicate school food supply chain challenges and to identify solutions.

This survey will assist USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and its partners to enhance the toolbox for school nutrition professionals working hard to make sure students have reliable access to healthy meals. Information gained through survey responses will build on the insight that USDA needs to support school districts during this difficult time with tailored resources, tools and flexibility needed to serve students healthy and nutritious meals.

The survey has 20 questions and is estimated to take approximately 20 minutes to complete. FNS is asking all SFAs that participate in the Child Nutrition Programs to complete this survey no later than [insert deadline].

We understand that this is a quick turnaround and that many of you have little time available to dedicate to such activities given the exceptional levels of effort you are putting into feeding children at this time. As such, with input from several of your colleagues, we have made this survey as short and simple to complete as possible. Please share your experiences from this school year and communicate the specific issues you are facing in your community directly to FNS.

If you have any questions about the survey, please email us at [insert dedicated email address].

We thank you in advance for your contribution to this important effort.

1. **Since the start of the regular 2021-2022 school year, which Child Nutrition Programs has your SFA operated?** Do not include programs operated during summer 2021. *Select all that apply.*
   1. NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO) – select if operating breakfast, lunch, or snacks under the SSO nationwide waiver for SY 2021-2022

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is collecting this information to better understand the impacts of supply chain disruption on school districts nationwide. This is a mandatory collection. FNS will use the information to develop tailored resources, tools and flexibilities to support school districts in serving students healthy and nutritious meals. This collection does not request personally identifiable information (PII) under the Privacy Act of 1974. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0584-XXXX. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes (0.3333 hours) per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Policy Support, 1320 Braddock Place, 5th Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314, ATTN: PRA (0584-0607). Do not return the completed form to this address.

* 1. National School Lunch Program (NSLP) – select only if not operating under the SSO waiver for lunch
  2. School Breakfast Program (SBP) – select only if not operating under the SSO waiver for breakfast
  3. NSLP Afterschool Snack Service
  4. Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Meals
  5. Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)
  6. Special Milk Program (SMP)
  7. Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) – select only if SFA operated SFSP during school closures since the start of the regular 2021-2022 school year

1. **Is your SFA experiencing challenges with procuring or receiving the types or quantities of foods or beverages that were planned to be on the school meals program menus?** 
   1. No challenges procuring or receiving foods or beverages planned
   2. Yes, challenges procuring or receiving the *types* of foods or beverages planned
   3. Yes, challenges procuring or receiving the *quantities* of foods or beverages planned
   4. Yes, challenges procuring or receiving both the *types* AND *quantities* of foods or beverages planned
2. **Is your SFA experiencing challenges procuring or receiving non-food supplies or equipment for the school meals programs?** 
   1. Yes
   2. No
3. **Since the start of the regular 2021-2022 school year, how often has your SFA experienced challenges procuring or receiving the following items?** [ASK IF Q3 OR Q4 = YES; matrix format with responses: *Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Often, Always*]
   1. Fruits
   2. Vegetables
   3. Vegetable subgroups
   4. Grains
   5. Whole grain-rich items
   6. Milk
   7. Meats/Meat alternates
   8. Low sodium foods
   9. Meal service supplies (e.g., food trays, portion cups, disposable utensils, or packaging)
   10. Meal preparation or storage equipment (e.g., refrigerator, freezer, milk box, etc.)
4. **Compared to the beginning of SY 2021-2022, are the challenges your SFA is experiencing with procuring or receiving the following items getting worse, better, or are they about the same?** [DISPLAY ALL SELECTED IN Q5; matrix format]
   1. Getting worse
   2. Getting better
   3. About the same
   4. Don’t know
5. **Please indicate the top 3 food categories in which your SFA is experiencing challenges procuring or receiving menu items:** [ASK IF Q3 = YES; allow up to 3 selections]
   1. Canned vegetables or beans
   2. Frozen vegetables or beans
   3. Fresh vegetables
   4. Canned fruits
   5. Frozen fruits
   6. Fresh fruits
   7. Bakery items (e.g. bread, rolls, muffins)
   8. Staple grain items (e.g. rice, pasta, flour, cereal)
   9. Fluid milk
   10. Other dairy items (e.g. cheese, yogurt)
   11. Chicken products
   12. Beef products
   13. Turkey products
   14. Pork products
   15. Fish/seafood products
   16. Egg products
   17. Mixed dishes (e.g. sandwiches, pizza, burritos)
6. **To the best of your knowledge, are the challenges your SFA is experiencing with procuring or receiving foods or supplies for the school meals programs due to any of the following factors?** [ASK IF Q3 OR Q4=YES; matrix format with responses: *Yes, No, Don’t Know* for each row below]
   1. Shipment delays or cancellations
   2. Orders arriving with missing items, reduced quantities, or product substitutions
   3. Limited product availability
   4. Increased cost of food items or supplies
   5. Labor shortages in the supply chain (e.g., warehouses, distributors, drivers, harvesters)
   6. Contract cancelled by vendor
   7. Limited or restricted food delivery days or times
   8. Vendor requiring pick-up at centralized locations
   9. Limited or no vendors available
   10. Vendor surcharges or increased purchasing minimums
   11. Vendors giving preference to restaurants, grocery stores, or other businesses over schools
   12. Other (please specify)
7. **Approximately how long do you expect the challenges listed below to continue?** [DISPLAY ALL SELECTED IN Q7; matrix format]
   1. Less than 6 months
   2. Through the end of this school year (SY 2021-2022)
   3. Through summer 2022
   4. Into next school year (SY 2022-2023)
   5. Don’t Know
8. **Is your SFA experiencing any challenges obtaining products through USDA Foods or USDA DoD Fresh?** 
   1. Yes
   2. No
   3. Not applicable – SFA does not use, or does not have access to, USDA Foods or USDA DoD Fresh
9. **Please specify the types of issues you are experiencing obtaining products through USDA Foods:** [ASK IF Q9 = YES; matrix format with responses: *Yes, No, Don’t Know or N/A* for each row below]
   1. USDA Foods direct delivery (brown box) product cancellations
   2. USDA Foods direct delivery (brown box) delivery delays
   3. USDA Foods diverted to processors product availability issues
   4. USDA Foods diverted to processors delivery delays or issues
   5. USDA DoD Fresh product availability issues
   6. USDA DoD Fresh delivery delays or issues
10. **What impact(s) are the supply chain-related challenges your SFA is experiencing having on school meal operations in your SFA?** *Select all that apply*
    1. Reduced program participation
    2. Increased program costs
    3. Inability to offer enough reimbursable meals to participating children
    4. Inability to meet meal modification requirements for children with food and nutrition related disabilities
    5. Difficulty maintaining compliance with meal pattern requirements
    6. Inability to maintain compliance with regular procurement requirements
    7. Difficulty maintaining routine program documentation
    8. Inability to offer afterschool snacks/suppers
    9. Increased staff stress or workload
    10. Decreased staff morale
    11. Inability to fulfill other job requirements due to time spent on meal planning, procurement, or food service
    12. Increased negative feedback or complaints about school meals from parents or students
    13. Other (please specify)
11. **What methods has your SFA used to address these challenges?** *Select all that apply*
12. Increased use of local vendors
13. Increased use of USDA Foods direct delivery (brown box)
14. Increased use of USDA DoD Fresh
15. Leverage state contracts
16. Conduct emergency procurements
17. Increased use of micro-purchases
18. Use meal pattern waivers (as appropriate)
19. Use waiver to offer the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for SY 2021-2022 at higher reimbursement rates
20. Partner with restaurants, catering companies or community partners (such as universities and hospitals)
21. Limit or repeat weekly menu offerings
22. Diversify menu offerings
23. Substitute products
24. Increased bulk purchasing
25. Increased scratch cooking
26. More frequent ordering
27. Increased tracking of shipments
28. Increased use of available products across multiple menu items
29. Other (please specify)
30. No methods used
31. **In your opinion, are the products you are substituting to address supply chain disruptions of lower, similar, or higher quality than the items you had planned to use, on average?** [ASK IF Q12 = L]
32. Lower quality
33. Similar quality
34. Higher quality
35. Don’t know
36. **In a typical year prior to the pandemic (e.g., SY 2018-19 or before), what was the status of your school food service account balance?**
    1. Operated at a surplus (i.e., revenues exceeded costs)
    2. Broke even (i.e., revenues are about equal to costs)
    3. Operated at a deficit (i.e., costs exceeded revenues)
37. **At the end of SY 2020-21, what was the status of your school food service account balance?**
    1. Operated at a surplus (i.e., revenues exceeded costs)
    2. Broke even (i.e., revenues are about equal to costs)
    3. Operated at a deficit (i.e., costs exceeded revenues)
38. **As of October 2021, what was the status of your school food service account balance? If unsure, please use your best estimate.**
    1. Operating at a surplus (i.e, revenues exceed costs)
    2. Breaking even (i.e., revenues are about equal to costs)
    3. Operating at a deficit (i.e., costs exceed revenues)
39. **As of October 2021, approximately** **what percent of your SFA’s total costs were covered by your total revenues?** [ASK IF 16=C]

Example Calculation:

SFA Costs = $100,000

SFA Revenues = $85,000

Percent of costs covered by revenues = $85,000 / $100,000 = 0.85 x 100 = 85% (in this example, you would enter ‘85’ into box below)

Enter estimated value: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_%

1. **Which of the following factors are driving this deficit within your SFA?** [ASK IF 16=C] *Select all that apply*
   1. Food costs
   2. School nutrition service labor costs
   3. Supply costs
   4. Equipment costs
   5. Storage costs
   6. Transportation costs
   7. Indirect costs (e.g., fringe benefits, accounting, payroll, purchasing, facilities managements and utilities)
   8. Increased Program participation
   9. Decreased Program participation
   10. Other, please specify
   11. Don’t know
2. **Is your SFA, or are schools within your SFA, experiencing staffing shortages in the following job categories:** [matrix: Yes/No/Don’t Know or N/A for each row]
   1. School nutrition managers
   2. Administrative or clerical staff
   3. Maintenance staff
   4. Warehouse staff
   5. Drivers
   6. Dietitians/nutritionists
   7. Cooks/Food prep
   8. Cashiers
   9. Monitors
   10. Other (please specify)
3. **What else would you like FNS to know about the challenges your SFA is experiencing providing meals to students this school year or the obstacles your SFA is experiencing to addressing those challenges?** If there are particular strategies you would like to use to address your SFA’s supply chain challenges but you are experiencing barriers to doing so, please explain.