# SNP Memo #2023-2024-43


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: January 25, 2024

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

FROM: Sandra C. Curwood, PhD, RDN, ***Sandy***

## SUBJECT: Updated Regulations on Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service in the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide updated U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS) regulations on rural non-congregate meal service in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO).

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SCNP) will host a webinar on the updated regulations on February 27, 2024, from 2:00–3:30 p.m. [Register in advance for the February 27 webinar.](https://doe-virginia-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ln5pIR4vTlS0T1NmFV44Xw) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

### USDA-FNS Guidance Documents

On December 29, 2023, the USDA-FNS published an [interim final rule](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/29/2023-28488/establishing-the-summer-ebt-program-and-rural-non-congregate-option-in-the-summer-meal-programs) establishing rural non-congregate meal service in the SFSP and SSO, along with Summer EBT. USDA-FNS policy memo [SFSP 03-2024, SP 05-2024](https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/SFSP03-2024_SP05-2024os.pdf) provides a summary chart outlining the new regulations governing rural non-congregate meal service. The VDOE-SCNP will review the new regulations as part of the February 27, 2024, webinar and during fiscal year 2023–2024 SFSP training.

### Expanded Rural Designations

As part of the interim final rule, the USDA-FNS has expanded areas that are designated as rural. The VDOE-SCNP is pleased to share that many additional areas of Virginia are now designated as rural. Refer to the [USDA-FNS rural designation tool.](https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/rural-designation) Areas in green are designated are rural.

### Actions Required

* Review the USDA-FNS policy memo [SFSP 03-2024, SP 05-2024](https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/SFSP03-2024_SP05-2024os.pdf).
* Use the [USDA-FNS rural designation tool](https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/rural-designation) to determine if your area is rural.
* [Register](https://doe-virginia-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ln5pIR4vTlS0T1NmFV44Xw) for and attend the February 27, 2024, VDOE-SCNP webinar on rural non-congregate meal service.

### For more information

For questions or more information, please contact your assigned SCNP regional specialist for SFAs or Community Nutrition Programs regional specialist for community sponsors.

SCC/MVP/fd