



# Child Nutrition Programs

Updates on Waivers and USDA Strategies



**Melissa Conner**  
Associate Superintendent



**Cara Alexander**  
Deputy Associate Superintendent



# Health and Nutrition Services



# Today's Topics

- Expiring School Meal Program Waivers
- Expectations for upcoming Summer and School Meals
- New USDA-FNS Strategic Pillars for Nutrition Security



# Authority and Regulations

Congress has not granted USDA-FNS authority to extend waivers that have been in place during the Public Health Emergency

- Code of Federal Regulations
- United States Department of Agriculture - FNS
- ADE - Health and Nutrition Services





# 100 Waivers

USDA approved Arizona to action  
over 100 waivers across Child  
Nutrition Programs; 13 remain active  
until June 30, 2022.





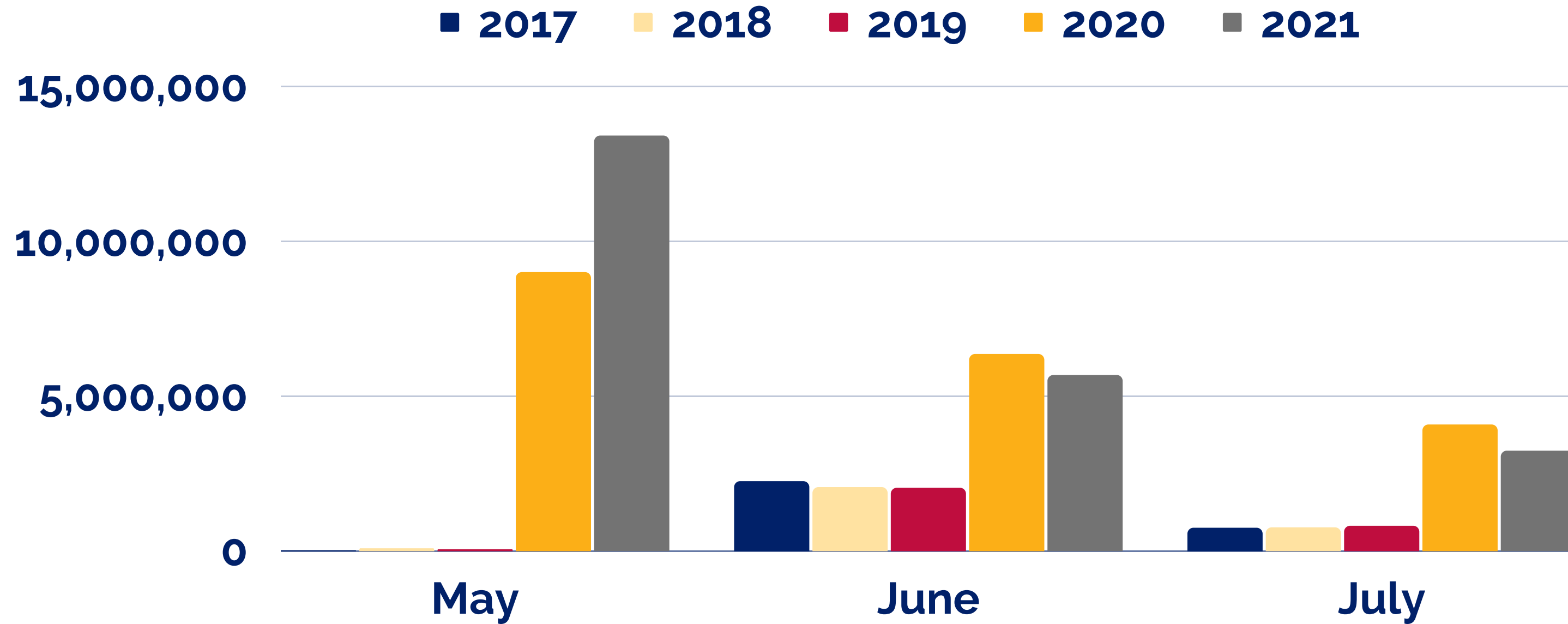
# Remaining Flexibilities

ending June 30, 2022

- Meals offered to all students at no-cost without collecting meal applications
- Parents/guardians pick-up meals and creative ways for distribution of meals
- Summer meal service sites open regardless of socioeconomics/income status
- Higher rate of meal reimbursement
- Reimbursement for meals that did not meet the meal pattern due to supply chain disruptions or learning models







## Actuality of Summer Participation

Expect summer meals to trend downwards to pre-pandemic July participation



# **Outreach and Program Promotion efforts**





Visit:  
[azhealthzone.org/foodsites](https://azhealthzone.org/foodsites)  
or text **FOOD** to 304-304

# Summer Meals 2022

- Summer outreach efforts from ADE and partners to increase access to meals
- Updated outreach tools and branding
- No Kid Hungry - Youth Ambassadors
- Share with families: site locator text message tool and map



# Community Eligibility Provision

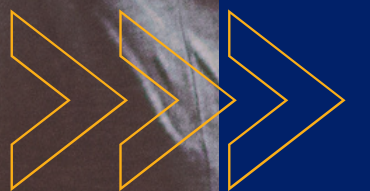
- No-cost breakfasts and lunches
- Eligibility process begins now
- Financial assessment/calculators
- District/school-based considerations
- HNS staff available for all-encompassing technical assistance





# Agency-wide connections

- We are here to help!
- Interagency workgroups and teams
- Data intersections and needs
  - Free/Reduced-Lunch Data
  - AzEDS Income Eligibility I and II
- Presentations and information sharing at conferences





# Introducing Nutrition Security

Adding to the approach for food insecurity





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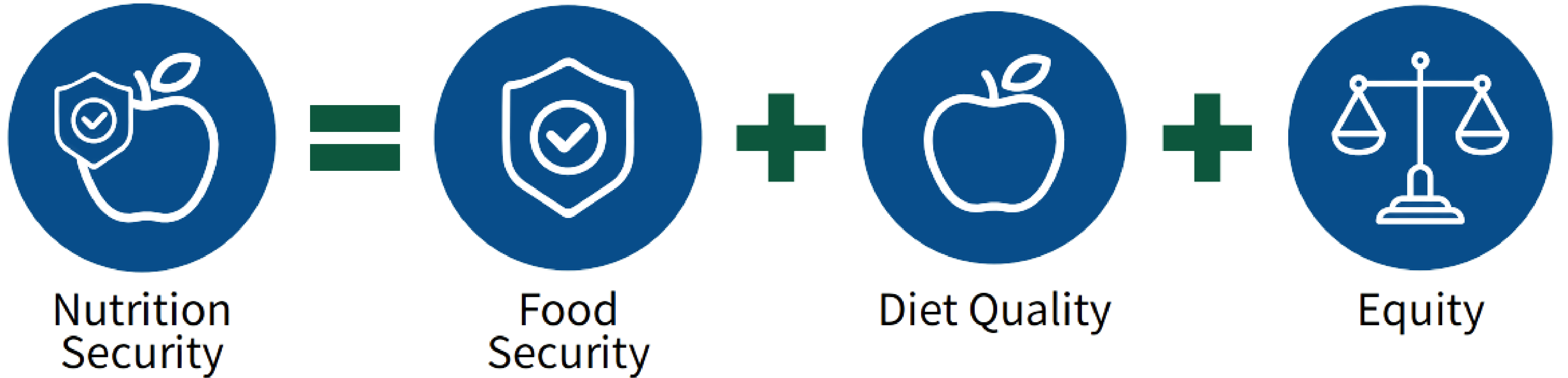
**...an equally  
important  
responsibility of  
making America a  
food secure nation,  
is creating an  
America that is  
nutritionally secure.**

Tom Vilsak, U.S. Department of  
Agriculture Secretary



# WHAT IS NUTRITION SECURITY?

Consistent access to nutritious foods that promote optimal health and well-being for all Americans, throughout all stages of life.





# Why does Nutrition Security Matter?

## ILLNESS PREVENTION



"Poor nutrition is a leading cause of illness in the US"

## COMMUNITY NEEDS VARY



"Black households experience food insecurity at more than triple the rate of white households."

## IMPACTS BEYOND HEALTH



"85% of health care spending is related to diet-related chronic disease."

# Nutrition Security - Strategic Pillars

## MEANINGFUL SUPPORT



Providing nutrition support throughout all stages of life

## HEALTHY FOOD



Connecting all Americans to healthy, safe, affordable food sources

## COLLABORATIVE ACTION



Developing, translating, and enacting nutrition science through partnership

## EQUITABLE SYSTEMS

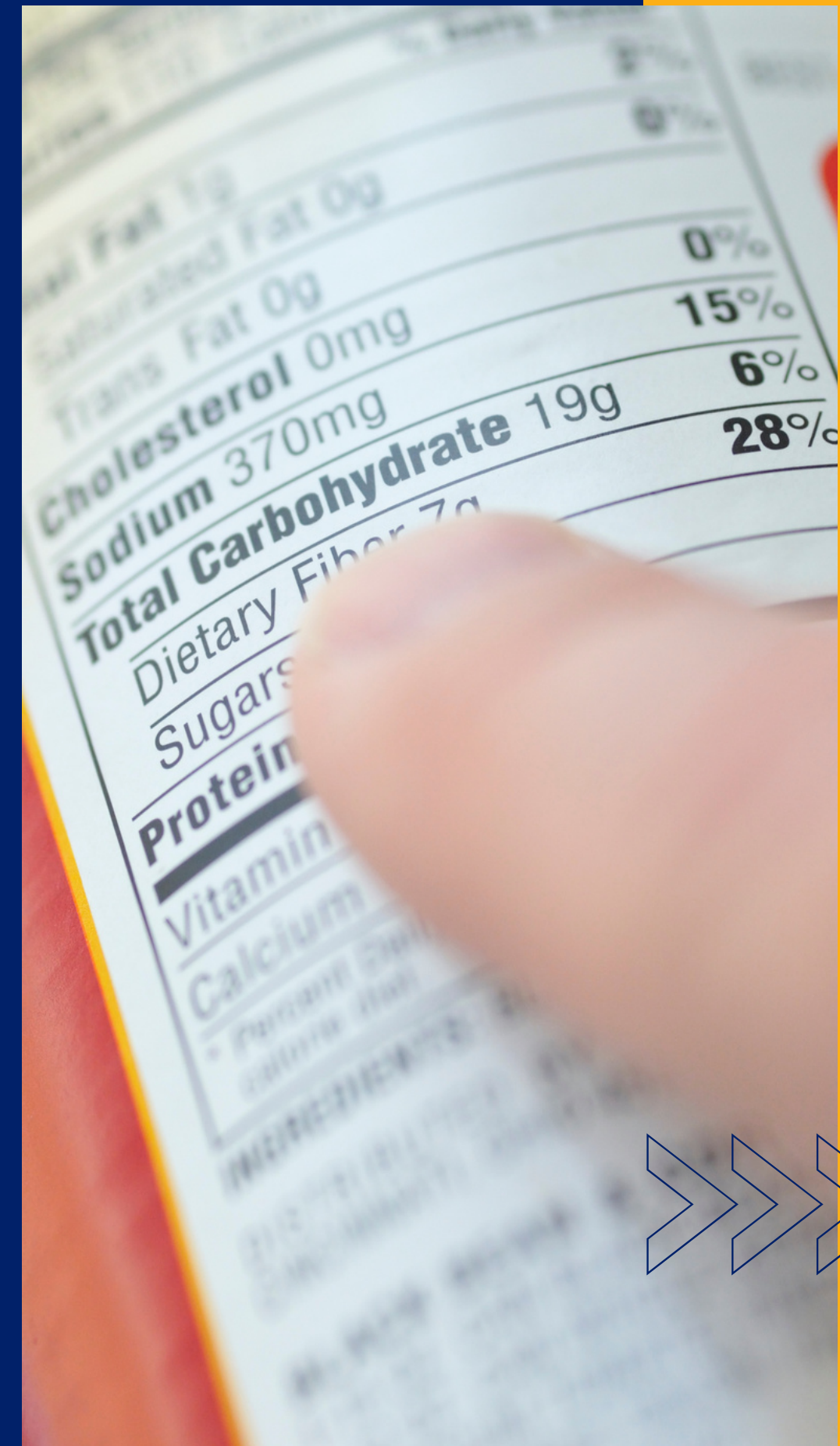


Prioritizing equity every step of the way



# USDA's impact on school meals now and beyond

- Emphasis on nutrition benefits from food and the linkage to well-being
- Nutrition education
- Nutrition standards for school meals
  - Transitional standards for grains, milk, sodium
  - Proposed Rule expected by SY23-24
  - Aligning to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans





# "Build Back Better"

USDA Initiatives to strengthen the food system

**Local Food for Schools  
Cooperative Agreement  
\$4.3M available to AZ**

**\$8.7M Local Food Purchase  
Assistance Cooperative  
Agreement Program**

**Additional \$6.5M NSLP  
Entitlement Assistance  
funds SY22-23**

**\$21.9M Supply Chain  
Assistance Funding via  
Commodity Credit Corp**



# Welcoming your support!

- Connect with your nutrition program/food service department
- Opportunities to refer families to the nutrition programs; a shared voice
- Joining the USDA discussions and supporting efforts towards Nutrition Security
- Connect with us, in HNS!  
**ContactHNS@azed.gov**



# Questions ?



Visit:  
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or text **FOOD** to 304-304

