

**School Lunch Advisory Council (SLAC)
Meeting Notes – January 8, 2021**

Attendees:

NYS Office of General Services (OGS) Food Distribution:

Maureen Barbic	Gabrielle Viens
Debbie Hesch	Anja Allnach
Barbara Marshall	Adam Wright

USDA Northeast Regional Office Food and Nutrition Service: (Unable to attend)

SLAC Area Representatives

Area A - Karen Bronson-Clark, Food Service Director, School #1 BOCES
Area C - Tami Augugliaro, Food Service Director, Lancaster Central School
Area D - Bryan McCoy, Food Service Director, DCMO BOCES
Area E - Chris Whitmore, Food Service Director, Rome City School District
Area F - Dave Gravlin, Food Service Director, Potsdam Central School
Area G - Lyn Prestia, Food Service Director, Pine Bush Central School District
Area J - Lisa Ostrowski, Food Service Director, North Colonie Central School District
Area K - Alessandro Palumbo, Food Service Director, Farmingdale Public Schools
Area L - Brian Wright, School Lunch Director, Baldwinsville Central School District
NYC - Anne O'Donnell, Director of Supply Chain Management, Office of Food & Nutrition Services

NYS Education Department (SED) – Child Nutrition Program Administration

Raemie Swain

New York School Nutrition Association (SNA): (Unable to attend)

OGS Food Distribution

- June 2021 will be the end of Area E - Chris Whitmore and Area F - Dave Gravlin terms on SLAC.
- OGS reviewed the area reports and will address the most common questions.
- Area D and Area L five-year contract to store and distribute USDA Foods bid results. Area D will be managed by Big Apple and Area L will be managed by Renzi beginning in SY 2021-22.

- Area D

Vendor	Bid Amount
Big Apple	\$187,200
Renzi Food Service	\$228,500
Willow Run	\$313,200
Freight & Cargo Logistics	\$920,400

- Area L

Vendor	Bid Amount
Renzi Food Service	\$140,900
Palmer Food Service	\$202,680
Big Apple	\$215,200
Freight & Cargo Logistics	\$1,069,600

- The USDA held its fourth annual USDA Foods Photo Contest “Serving Up USDA Foods” for schools to submit photos to show how creatively they use USDA Foods. There were over 250 submissions from 38 states. Congratulations to (L004) East Syracuse Minoa Central School District for receiving the “Say Cheese Award” for a Three Cheese Grilled Cheese Panini featuring shredded cheddar cheese, sliced yellow American cheese, mozzarella loaves, broccoli and blueberries. (Photo below)



- USDA conducted a virtual Management Evaluation of OGS Food Distribution for USDA Foods in Schools. The final report was issued in November 2020. There were no findings and OGS was found in compliance with all program regulations.
- Follow-up to question about additional shelf-stable fruit cups from last meeting; Response from USDA: The first opportunity to offer any new items would be December 2021 for SY 2022-2023. The USDA has been doing market research on shelf-stable fruit cups and to date, have not found a viable option that meets the 100% American Grown and Produced requirement as well as Child Nutrition fruit crediting criteria for each fruit cup to credit as ½ cup. We will continue our market research but at this time, the industry limitations along with domestic requirement standards make the likelihood of shelf-stable fruit cups as a USDA Foods unlikely. While shelf-stable fruit cups are not part of the USDA Foods direct delivery portfolio, school districts are welcome to pursue obtaining these items through processing.
- Common questions/concerns:
 - **Donating USDA Food:**
 - *If there is USDA Food at your distributor and you know you cannot use it, contact our office to have the food redistributed.*
 - *If you have USDA Food that is at your school, you can make arrangements to donate the food to another school in the NSLP. Be sure to keep a paper trail.*
 - **What can I use entitlement on this school year?**
 - *USDA DoD Fresh Program*
 - *Pilot*
 - **What will happen with unused entitlement this school year? Will it be rolled over to next school year?**
 - *You will lose unused entitlement. Entitlement is not rolled over to the next school year.*
 - *Typical year: Each school year there is a federal published meal rate+12% provision = Effective meal rate. For School Year 2020-21, federal published rate is \$0.2450 + 12% provision not spent by USDA in SY2020 (PLUS \$20M in breakfast dollars) = Effective rate of \$0.3700. The 12% provision means: If USDA Food purchases don't meet a minimum of 12% of the funding for NSLP in a School Year, the excess is divided among the states to make the effective rate.*

2020-21 School Year

Direct Delivery (Brown Box)

- OGS cancelled Ground Beef, Diced Chicken, Shredded Mozzarella, Mozzarella Loaves, and Turkey Taco after reviewing storage concerns voiced by schools and inventory on hand at Distributors.
- Tuna, Spaghetti Sauce, and Turkey Roasts are delayed due to COVID-19 and vendor constraints.
- Strawberry cups, Applesauce cups, and strawberry slices were cancelled by USDA due to vendor constraints caused by a poor harvest.
- Distributors should be emailing weekly inventory reports to schools to show commodities at the distributor in school accounts. Schools need to pay attention to these emails and act on changes before product reaches the school.

Schools cannot wait until the delivery arrives and refuse delivery. Run reports in WBSCM to see what is coming in to the Distributor. Contact OGS immediately if you can't take the food.

Processing

ProcessorLink

- The utilization of all USDA commodity pounds tracked through ProcessorLink is at 19% for SY 2020-21.
- There were 10,483,977 lbs. allocated for SY 2020-21. To date 1,674,661 lbs. have been utilized and there are 8,524,996 lbs. remaining.
- Land O'Lakes 110244 Mozzarella Cheese is being utilized the most, at 25% utilization. There were 817,947 lbs. allocated, to date 202,017 lbs. have been utilized, and there are 615,930 lbs. remaining.
- McCain Foods 100506 Potatoes has the lowest usage, with 14% utilization. They also have the largest allocation, 4,839,388 lbs. and only 694,246 lbs. utilized to date with a remaining balance of 4,145,142 lbs.

Processor	Pounds Ordered	Ending Balance	Percent Utilized
Bongard's	364,905	300,323	18%
Brookwood Farms	16,748	9,667	42%
Cain's Foods	43,294	39,777	8%
Cargill Kitchen Solutions	97,820	64,464	34%
Del Monte Foodservice	4,176	3,132	25%
Idahoan Foods, LLC	266,728	222,558	17%
Integrated Food Service	45,602	36,592	20%
Kraft Heinz Foods Company	19,078	17,186	10%
Land O'Lakes	817,947	615,930	25%
McCain Foods USA, Inc.	4,839,388	4,145,142	14%
National Food Group	309,394	230,652	25%
Pilgrim's Pride	1,574,098	1,363,021	13%
Rich Chicks, LLC	395,934	276,461	30%
Rich Products Corporation	457,066	293,095	36%
S.A. Piazza & Associates	112,399	57,810	49%
Schwan's Food Service, Inc.	1,023,725	797,683	22%
Tabatchnick Fine Foods	2,843	2,494	12%
Tasty Brands	73,452	45,004	39%
Yang's 5th Taste	19,379	4,003	79%
Grand Total	10,483,977	8,524,996	19%

*(Does not include NYC BOE)

K12FoodService.com

- The utilization of all USDA commodity pounds tracked through K12FoodService is 27% for SY 2020-21.
- There were 6,290,305 lbs. allocated for SY 2020-21, 1,719,699 lbs. have been utilized to date, and there are 4,570,606 lbs. remaining.
- Jennie-O 100124 Turkey is being utilized the most, at 42%. There were 513,362 lbs. allocated, 215,094 lbs. utilized to date with a remaining balance of 298,268 lbs.
- Tyson Foods 100103 Chicken has the lowest usage, at 19%, but also has the largest allocation. There were 3,104,365 lbs. allocated and only 727,150 lbs. have been utilized to date and there is a remaining balance of 2,377,214 lbs.

Processor	Pounds Ordered	Ending Balance	Percent Utilized
ASIAN FOOD SOLUTIONS	164,150	89,537	45%
BASIC AMERICAN FOODS	78,158	66,343	15%
CONAGRA GILARDI FOODS	112,947	88,993	21%
E S FOODS	15,857	2,663	83%
HIGH LINER FOODS	39,796	32,366	19%
J AND J SNACK FOODS	48,971	45,170	8%
J.M. SMUCKER COMPANY	207,134	137,036	34%
JENNIE-O TURKEY STORE	513,362	298,268	42%
JTM PROVISIONS CO. INC.	626,147	458,877	27%
MAID-RITE SPECIALTY FOODS	600,211	358,651	40%
MICHAEL FOODS INC.	253,488	194,695	23%

PETERSON FARMS	187,769	143,128	24%
RED GOLD, LLC	337,951	277,664	18%
TYSON FOODS, INC.	3,104,365	2,377,214	23%
Grand Total	6,290,305	4,570,606	27%

*(Does not include NYC BOE)

- The USDA has cancelled all loads of bulk USDA Foods scheduled for March through June 2021 deliveries to processors.
- In total, there were 559 truckloads of bulk commodities cancelled to date due to excess carry over from SY 2019-20 and low usage for SY 2020-21 due to COVID. This includes loads cancelled by both OGS and USDA.
- There will be a 40% sweep of all commodity balances for all RA accounts, at all processors on January 31, 2021.
 - Entitlement will not be returned for swept commodity pounds on January 31.
 - Schools should have at least 40% usage for bulk USDA commodities at processors by January 31, 2021.
 - Justification for not sweeping accounts will not be accepted or approved. All accounts will need to be swept to a 60% balance on January 31, 2021. (It will be very difficult for schools to utilize all SY 2020-21 allocated pounds if they are not already at 40% usage).
 - If a school needs pounds after the 40% sweep, they may email OGS and request pounds be allocated to their account as the need arises. If pounds are available, pounds will be provided entitlement free.
 - The 40% sweep will assist with closer monitoring of SY 2020-21 allocated pounds while minimizing excess carry over.
- Please monitor your Requisition Status Report in WBSCM for Direct Diversion order status for SY 2020-21. Please verify your account balances in ProcessorLink and K12FoodService. Please email or call OGS Food Distribution for assistance with direct diversion questions and also for additions or reductions to direct diversion commodities.

USDA DoD Fresh Program (DOD)

- OGS Food Distribution is the primary contact for the USDA DoD Fresh Program
- Schools should contact OGSDonatedFoods@ogs.ny.gov for all inquiries regarding the USDA DoD Fresh Program (this includes joining the program, adding locations, increasing or decreasing your allocation, login issues, etc.
- Include your School Code and Name along with DoD in the Subject Line. This eliminates additional emails and lessens response time.
- If schools have issues with DoD produce, upon delivery, please:
 - a. Advise the driver and adjust the receipt before signing, then email the vendor
 - b. Document all issues, include photos of produce, and report each occurrence to the vendor
 - c. Email the vendor (Latina or Gargiulo, depending on your Area/County) and cc: OGSDonatedFoods@ogs.ny.gov Email should include schools ONY/YNY account code, date/time of delivery, detailed description of the issue, quantity affected, quantity remaining, and digital photos.
 - d. If issues are not resolved, report this to OGS via email and OGS will report to the USDA DoD Fresh Team
- If you have any questions concerning the USDA DoD Fresh Program there are [informational/instructional videos](#) on the OGS Food Distribution website
- OGS will be emailing all schools with "Important to Know" reminders regarding DoD to keep handy for reference.
- DoD contracted vendors can subcontract distributors/other produce vendors to deliver DoD produce. The Eastern contract held by Gargiulo has two subcontractors Glazier and Dagele Bros.
- Schools need to verify all produce received is 100% domestic.
- OGS has excess available entitlement for SY 2020-21 which schools can request.
- Schools should **not** use the "Email Account Specialist" option in FFAVORS as the specialist will advise schools to contact OGS.

USDA Pilot Project for Unprocessed Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

- There is still room available for schools that want to join the Pilot Program. New York State is capped at \$3.5 million for the program, but as a state we have not reached that amount.
- Brigiotta's is suspended from the Pilot Program for: Lettuce (Romaine, Iceberg, Leaf), Celery, Oranges and Whole Apples.
- OGS Food Distribution has been notified that the following vendors do not intend to participate in the Pilot Program this year:
 - Tasty Brands, LLC
 - Old McMarley's Apple Farm
 - Torrey Farms Inc.
 - Cross Island
 - Seashore Fruit & Product Co.
 - Zafar Produce
 - Apple Acres
 - Latina Boulevard**

- Frank Gargiulo and Son, Inc. **

**Latina Boulevard Foods and Frank Gargiulo and Son, Inc are now the DoD vendors and will no longer be participating in the Pilot Program.

NYS Education Department

1. Do we have an idea of when reimbursement payments will begin?

Payments have been released this week and are pending payment or have been paid. From here forward, extensive delays should not occur.

2. The Child Nutrition Reimbursement funds are slow in being paid or are on hold. Is there a delay in the payment process? Why are NYS funds on hold? When will these funds be paid to the SFA?

State funds must be approved by the Division of Budget prior to payment. Each batch of State payments are approved by DOB at either 80% or 100%. If 80% approval, manual adjustments must be made by NYSED Financial Management staff. This is a very manual, time intensive process.

3. Are they continuing CN Administrative Audits SY 2020-21? If so – how is this being done? Any further information on these?

We are in the process of completing an Administrative Review Waiver for USDA approval. This includes putting ARs for SY 2020-21 on hold for both NSLP and SFSP and requesting an extension of the current 3-year review cycle to include two additional years for NSLP/SSO and one additional year for SFSP.

SY 2020-21 school year monitoring review plans include one-on-one technical assistance to ensure adoption of all required waivers for all operators and any additional assistance based on identified needs. CN plans to conduct desk audits of a percentage of Food Service Management Company contracts, and SFSP/SSO desk audits for operators who meet established high-risk criteria.

4. Regarding PEBT – Will there be a new list of requested from SFA's to be sent to NYSED CN for future payments?

While we do not have an approved plan for New York State for P-EBT for the 2021 federal fiscal year through September 30, 2021 (not including the months of July and August 2021), and we did not see the plan prior to submission to USDA for approval, we do know that lists of eligible students, by building, including specific information to be determined will be required from schools at specified intervals.

P-EBT 2021 allows the use of 2019-20 eligibility data for students still enrolled in SY 2020-21. Schools would have to certify newly enrolled students or students who were not certified as free or reduced price in school year SY 2020-21. Eligibility determinations will continue for the entire SY 2020-21 school year.

Schools will also be reporting educational model - hybrid or full remote, by student, by month for 2021, but it has not been determined how this data will be collected or at what intervals.

5. How will the newly released 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans impact nutrition programs?

USDA uses the Dietary Guidelines for Americans to inform changes and updates to federal nutrition programs. If changes to current meal patterns are proposed, it would be through the proposed rule processes, which we do not expect to occur any time in the near future.

6. We have a concern we would like clarification on regarding the continuation of operating our SFSP this school year SY 2020-21?

People have posed concerns about the loss of FRPL data due to implementation of the SFSP/SSO in school year SY 2020-21 for educational and other funding. Many federal programs that use FRPL data for the apportionment of funds have provided guidance for alternatives to current year data.

7. Our biggest concern is with this school year's milk bid. I believe we put it out for bid 3 times and the only company that picked us up was Sinon Farms, a distributor for HP Hood. While we have a great working relationship with Sinon Farms, there are aspects that are unfavorable to us:

- **The price of the milk per carton is very high, as a middleman between HP Hood and us, they have costs too. Milk is 12 cents higher per each than HP Hood.**

- **Delivery once a week only, with no alternate delivery day if typical delivery day is a holiday. Thursday is our delivery day and last month of Thanksgiving week, they would not deliver on a different day. We had to order for 2 weeks and space is too tight for that.**
- **Strawberry flavor is not something Sinon bothers with as it isn't most popular; kids love strawberry, this being the least of our concern, but still a concern**

Scuttlebutt from drivers from HP Hood told us HP Hood doesn't bother with schools anymore, they farm it out to distributors, enter Sinon. How do we get more bids for milk next year?

Consider reevaluating your solicitation. However, in some cases there isn't another option, and another solicitation would not result in a different outcome.

Equipment Grant

FY19: We posted the awards on our website at the end of August. Grants finance is still working on sending out the official grant award notice to those awarded SFAs. They have until June 30, 2021 to make purchases and submit documentation for reimbursement. This is the same thing we told them last time- but no update on it! It is taking a little while for grants finance to get all the grant award notices out.

FY20: We have been allocated 1.8 million to award for this next year. We expect to post the RFP at the end of January and have a July 1, 2021 start date. The grant would run through June 30, 2022. All applications will be submitted by email for this next round to FOODEQUIP@nysed.gov

Raemie reached out to Tara for clarification on dates and who to contact with Equip Grant questions. Schools should wait for their official award notification before they start grant activities (notifications *should* come prior to July 1). We will do everything on our end to get the awards made quickly, but the holdup will be the approvals we need.

For equipment grant questions, it is best to email our equipment grant email- foodequip@nysed.gov Colleen or I will answer. Colleen checks it every day, so we respond quickly. Or you can email me or Colleen directly (Tara.Webster@nysed.gov and Colleen.Hasselbach@nysed.gov).

P-EBT form discussed during today's meeting:

Please direct parents with questions regarding the first round of PEBT to use the [P-EBT Information Form](#)

This link can also be found on the PEBT FAQ document at <https://otda.ny.gov/snap-covid-19/>

New York School Nutrition Association (SNA)

MAGAZINE

- Released NEW magazine January 6
- New name: Fresh Bites
- All digital version available in member portal of website
- Spring deadline is February 10 for submissions

2021 Legislative Action Conference

- NYSNA is not having an official legislative ask this year, but will instead use this year to educate newly elected legislators about our association and previous efforts (Farm to School / eliminating reduced-price category)
- Virtual conference on March 15
- Programming to be similar to general sessions
- Virtual lobby week 16 – 18
- Goal with virtual is to engage more of the members throughout the state and have a higher participation and more visits with legislators (*traditional events restrict our legislative visits to only those constituents that come to Albany*)

From the Show Floor Results

- Analysis of district directors attending 2015-2019 conferences compared to FTSF and as of December 1 we were up 29%
- Positive responses from attendees
- Will run again for 2021

2021 Conference

- Turning Stone has been pushed back to 2022, 2023, 2024

- This year we have a hybrid event combining From the Show Floor with Regional Industry Seminar structure
- Conference registration will include:
 - From the Show Floor access
 - Incentive game
 - Up to 8 CEUs
 - Access to a live show (Rochester, Saratoga, Long Island)
 - Networking events
- Hybrid model solves problem of high conference registration fees (due to onsite expenses), and overnight travel and accommodations
- Hybrid model will allow those that want to attend live shows to be able to do so, and those not able or willing to attend live shows to still participate in workshops and videos

AREA A

1. Will there be a sweep of entitlement at the end of January if we are not at 40% usage?

There will be a sweep of bulk pounds at processors.

2. As you are aware, this year is a little different from past years. As Directors we are very aware of our entitlements and usages. We are using up our last year inventory first, then will be ordering accordingly. Seems strange OGS is concerned with big districts who normally use all their pounds

OGS is monitoring all schools due to the pandemic due to the ever-changing schedules this year.

3. It was heard that OGS will not be sweeping until June. Is this correct?

No. Sweeping pounds at processors is proceeding as normal.

4. Just wanted to comment on the DoD program. I do like it, but some of the product is low quality (i.e. celery sticks) and the shelf life is sometimes short. I (Karen) did inquire whether she sent in a USDA complaint form. She said no.

DoD product problems are not something a commodity complaint form is for. If there is a problem with DoD Produce schools are to email the vendor and cc: OGSDonatedFoods@ogs.ny.gov

5. We are an RCCI and operate under the NSBP and NSLP and we only utilize brown box items when ordering government commodities. We have had approximately 250 cases cancelled this school year so far, and we were told we could allot these dollars towards fresh fruits and vegetables, which is great, however I do not anticipate us being able to spend all our dollars from cancelled product in fresh fruits and vegetables. Is there any other place we can allot our dollars? Are there other options? How will this affect us next school year, if we don't utilize all our dollars due to cancelled product out of our control?

DoD and Pilot are currently the only options to utilize available entitlement. It will not affect next school year if you cannot utilize all of your USDA entitlement.

6. I have requested additional commodities through the available commodities emails sent out from OGS and have received confirmation from OGS on several occasions that I would be receiving them. I either don't receive them at all after emailing the distributor several times or I only get 1 or 2 cases of the requested item. The latest issue was with the 8 pc. breaded chicken and strawberry cups. I was told I would be receiving 7 cases and 10 cases. They aren't on the truck with the November delivery-I emailed two times and the distributor is looking into it, but I received no follow up. I emailed OGS and they say that I will get them with my December distribution. I end up getting 3 cases of the chicken and 0 strawberry cups. I email again asking what happened and he says he will look into it again and of course I have not heard back from him. This is very frustrating because they are items, I would use for my remote meal distribution. Is anyone else having the same issue? Last year I had the same problem with not getting items.

OGS has addressed this concern and continue to monitor issues of this type.

7. In response to #6 from the same Direction: "I did just get an email from Jason, which is unusual, but I know OGS told him to get it straightened out. So, via Jason at Palmers; 'Sorry for taking so long to get back to you. The remaining 8pc chicken had gone out to the original school that ordered them – I don't have any of that product here to ship you. I do have strawberry cups here and can ship them whenever you need them.'

OGS continues to monitor and address these issues.

8. Both of my schools have been finding a lot of moldy applesauce cups. Attached are two pictures (pictures not provided with area report). There seems to be a slit on the side of the packaging. Some were from our June delivery and some are from our Sept. Delivery. Applesauce cups are moldy. I (Karen) told her we receive them at our school and had no issue; advised her to put in a USDA Commodity Complaint form.

Schools should fill out a commodity complaint form located on our website. Be sure to include pictures, description of issue and include the Sales Order number. OGS will then submit the complaint to WBSCM for further processing.

9. Thank you for sending out the extra items available in our area. It is much appreciated, and we can use some of these items other schools cannot.

AREA C

1. I am sure most schools in our state are all struggling with the same issue – no room to store all the commodities that keep coming in every month! Running on Remote/Hybrid learning models equates to a significant decrease in meal participation. At the meeting, hopefully OGS can come up with some answers for us as to what we can do with all the food that is allocated to us. I would love for it to be donated to the food bank or an organization like meals on wheels, but from what I understand that is not allowed. Hoping OGS can override this and make a decision based on the challenges that we are facing during the pandemic!

Schools are not allowed to donate USDA Foods to other programs such as Food Banks, however schools may transfer to other schools participating in the NSLP. Another option is to request redistribution through OGS.

2. Do we have an idea of when reimbursement payments will begin?

Payments have been released this week and are pending payment or have been paid. From here forward, extensive delays should not occur.

AREA D

1. Districts are hoping for other options for vendors for FFAVORS, is this possible?

No. Vendors are currently under a 5-year contract with DoD.

2. Schools are wondering on dates for the Food Preference Survey and they are looking for Diversion sheets?

FPS is currently active, and the Diversion worksheet will be released around the beginning of February.

3. Will there be any additional shelf stable single serving fruits available?

This question has been addressed in the OGS update.

4. How will entitlement be calculated for next year?

OGS and USDA still determining how entitlement will be calculated for next year.

AREA E

1. Communication with Renzi has been an issue. They are not honoring the 60 day “hold inventory” process. Food is showing up on the doorsteps without any notification it is coming.

OGS has spoken in person to Renzi about the communication concerns. OGS will request Renzi to send out their weekly report on Monday the week before, instead of Friday.

AREA F

1. Does Glazier have 2 years left on their 5-year contract?

Glazier’s contract ends June 30, 2024.

2. Do you anticipate opening the catalog for direct delivery to use up money or should everyone use their money in DoD?

The catalog will not reopen for the SY 2020-21, DoD/Pilot is available.

3. Glazier is doing an excellent job subcontracting for Gargiulo with DoD Products

AREA G

1. The Child Nutrition Reimbursement funds are slow in being paid or are on hold. Is there a delay in the payment process? Why are NYS funds on hold? When will these funds be paid to the SFA?

State funds must be approved by Division of Budget prior to payment. Each batch of State payments are approved by DOB at either 80% or 100%. If 80% approval, manual adjustments must be made by NYSED Financial Management staff. This is a very manual, time intensive process.

2. Are they continuing CN Administrative Audits SY 2020-21? If so – how is this being done? Any further information on these?

We (NYSED) are in the process of completing an Administrative Review Waiver for USDA approval. This includes putting ARs for SY 2020-21 on hold for both NSLP and SFSP and requesting an extension of the current 3-year review cycle to include two additional years for NSLP/SSO and one additional year for SFSP.

SY 2020-21 school year monitoring review plans include one-on-one technical assistance to ensure adoption of all required waivers for all operators and any additional assistance based on identified needs. CN plans to conduct desk audits of a percentage of Food Service Management Company contracts, and SFSP/SSO desk audits for operators who meet established high-risk criteria.

3. Regarding PEBT – Will there be a new list of requested rosters from SFA's to be sent to NYSED CN for future payments?

While we (NYSED) do not have an approved plan for New York State for P-EBT for the 2021 federal fiscal year through September 30, 2021 (not including the months of July and August 2021), and we did not see the plan prior to submission to USDA for approval, we do know that lists of eligible students, by building, including specific information to be determined will be required from schools at specified intervals.

P-EBT 2021 allows the use of 2019-20 eligibility data for students still enrolled in SY 2020-21. Schools would have to certify newly enrolled students or students who were not certified as free or reduced price in school year SY 2020-21. Eligibility determinations will continue for the entire SY 2020-21 school year.

Schools will also be reporting educational model - hybrid or full remote, by student, by month for 2021, but it has not been determined how this data will be collected or at what intervals.

4. What can be done with excess entitlement?

Schools may utilize the DoD or Pilot programs.

5. Is it possible to obtain direct delivery items from another district and transfer entitlement to them for the value?

Yes, transfer of commodities but not entitlement. Make sure you have documentation of the transfer of items on file.

6. Are commodity complaint forms still to be completed if there is an issue? Does this apply to direct delivery, diverted products, produce pilot and DoD items?

Commodity Complaints are for USDA Foods/Brown Box items. For the Pilot or DoD Program, schools are to email the vendor and cc OGSDonatedFoods@ogs.ny.gov for resolution.

7. Will the process of the food preference survey, direct delivery and diversion, be on the same usual timeline for the 21-22 school year?

FPS will open shortly. The Diversion worksheet will be released around the beginning of February.

8. How will the newly released 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans impact nutrition programs?

USDA uses the Dietary Guidelines for Americans to inform changes and updates to federal nutrition programs. If changes to current meal patterns are proposed, it would be through the proposed rule processes, which we do not expect to occur any time in the near future.

AREA J

1. Our biggest concern is with this school year's milk bid. I believe we put it out for bid 3 times and the only company that picked us up was Sinon Farms, a distributor for HP Hood. While we have a great working relationship with Sinon Farms, there are aspects that are unfavorable to us:

- The price of the milk per carton is very high, as a middleman between HP Hood and us, they have costs too. Milk is 12 cents higher per each than HP Hood.
- Delivery once a week only, with no alternate delivery day if typical delivery day is a holiday. Thursday is our delivery day and last month of Thanksgiving week, they would not deliver on a different day. We had to order for 2 weeks and space is too tight for that.
- Strawberry flavor is not something Sinon bothers with as it isn't most popular; kids love strawberry, this being the least of our concern, but still a concern

Scuttlebutt from drivers from HP Hood told us HP Hood doesn't bother with schools anymore, they farm it out to distributors, enter Sinon. How do we get more bids for milk next year?

Consider reevaluating your solicitation. However, in some cases there isn't another option, and another solicitation would not result in a different outcome.

AREA K/W

1. We have a concern that we would like clarification on regarding the continuation of operating our SFSP this school year SY 2020-21. Please let us know who to contact.

People have posed concerns about the loss of FRPL data due to implementation of the SFSP/SSO in school year SY 2020-21 for educational and other funding. Many federal programs that use FRPL data for the apportionment of funds have provided guidance for alternatives to current year data.

AREA L

1. Some districts are still struggling with excess commodities due to lower participation and their method of serving such as delivery, pickup, etc.

Schools may transfer to other schools participating in the NSLP. Another option is to request redistribution through OGS.

2. OCM BOCES District(s) frustrated with the process for cancelling orders with OGS. It requires too many steps to finally make it happen.

OGS acknowledges your frustration, however this is the only process available to redistribute accurately.

3. Concern over next year's allocation of commodity funds. What will it be based on?

USDA is still determining how entitlement will be calculated for next year.

4. Communication with Big Apple has been good. Deli Boy, their distributor in the eastern portion of Area L, has made last minute changes in the actual delivery schedule causing some frustration.

This was addressed with Big Apple but unfortunately Deli Boy has been struggling with drivers and notification.

5. I have been informed that if we do not utilize all the dollars allocated to us that they will be swept. If this is the case, does it impact the dollars allocated for the coming year?

You will lose the entitlement if you do not use it. OGS does not know how it will impact with the current pandemic situation.

6. I think OGS is making it too complicated to cancel items in an order.

OGS acknowledges your frustration, however this is the only process available to redistribute accurately.

NYC Board of Education

Area Report:

- NYC is serving approximately 300,000 meals per day
- They were opened for service in their Adult Community Sites the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve

- *They are continuing to serve a “cold” menu to students in the classroom, but principal must opt in for “hot” meals*
- *They are following Test and Trace suggestions in reference to school closures*

Concerns:

- *Ordering for next year*

Next SLAC meeting date:

May 14, 2021 (Virtual)



Office of General Services
Food Distribution

USDA DoD Fresh Program

2020-2021 School Year

DoD Fresh Reminders

- Schools are to contact OGSDonatedFoods@ogs.ny.gov for all inquiries regarding FFAVORS (this includes joining the program, adding locations, increasing or decreasing your allocation, login issues, etc.)
- To file a complaint concerning DoD produce, please:
 - Advise the driver and adjust the receipt before signing
 - Document all issues, including photos, and report each occurrence to the vendor
 - Email the vendor (Latina or Gargiulo, depending on your Area/County) and cc: OGSDonatedFoods@ogs.ny.gov
Email should include date/time of delivery, detailed description of the issue, quantity affected, quantity remaining, and digital photos.
 - If issues are not resolved, report this to OGS via email and OGS will report to the USDA DoD Fresh Team

If you have any questions concerning the DoD FFAVORS Program there are [informational/instructional videos](#) on OGS Food Distribution website

Vendor	Contact Name	Contact Email	Contact Phone #
Latina Boulevard (Western Contract)	Jeanne Dombrowski (Primary)	jdombrowski@latinaboulevardfood.com	716-694-1174
Latina Boulevard (Western Contract)	Jerry Baker (Secondary/CC)	Jbaker@lbffoods.com	716-694-1174
Frank Gargiulo & Sons (Eastern & Southern Contracts)	Richard Young (Primary)	rich@gargiuloproduce.com	908-233-8222
Frank Gargiulo & Sons (Eastern & Southern Contracts)	Rosa Rodriguez (Secondary/CC)	rrodriguez@gargiuloproduce.com	908-233-8222

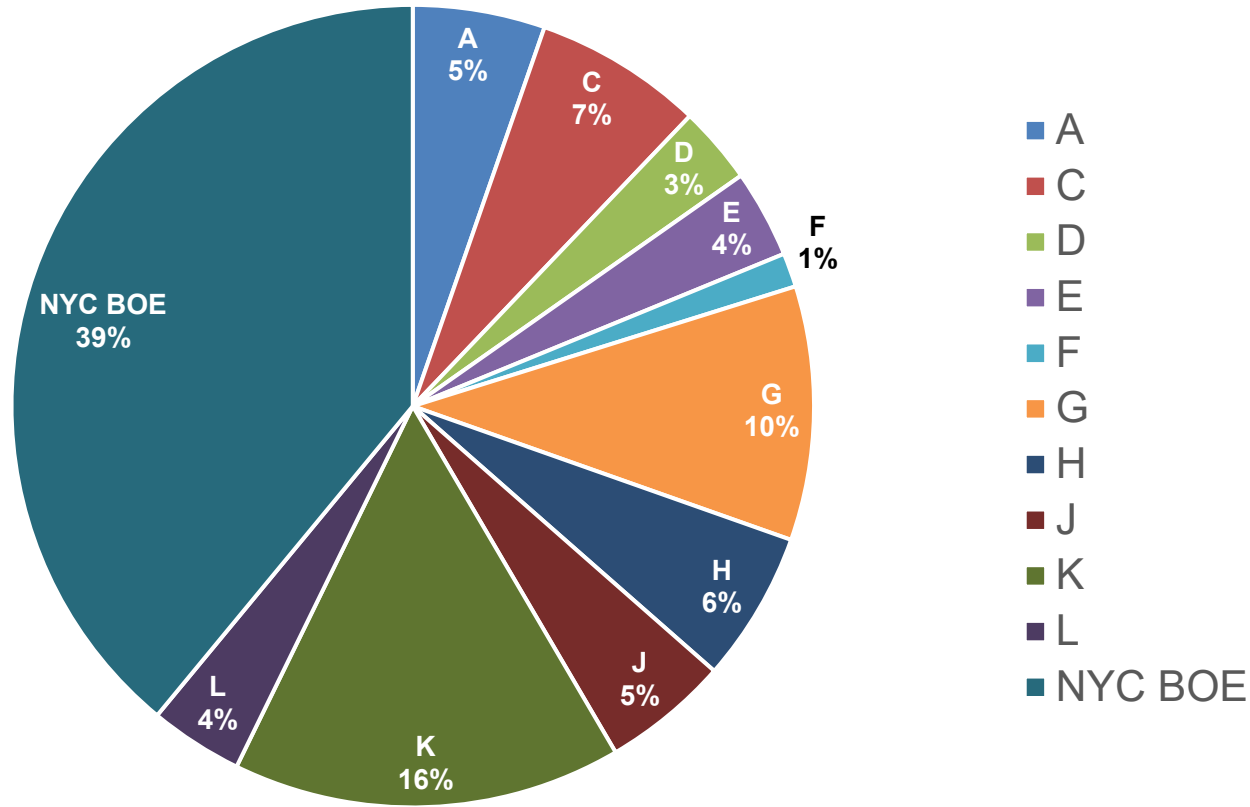


DoD Allocation and Usage by Area

Area	Total Districts	Entitlement	DoD Allocations	Actively Spending	DoD Allocation	DoD Spent	DoD Available	Percent DoD Available
A	77	\$6,000,345	42	33	\$929,724	\$317,371	\$612,353	65.86%
C	106	\$7,668,113	61	47	\$1,343,062	\$445,942	\$897,120	66.80%
D	69	\$3,516,132	40	34	\$629,830	\$195,726	\$434,104	68.92%
E	60	\$3,996,361	18	12	\$202,316	\$51,911	\$150,405	74.34%
F	49	\$1,542,927	29	21	\$187,938	\$78,064	\$109,874	58.46%
G	115	\$11,529,528	54	33	\$1,549,808	\$566,854	\$982,954	63.42%
H	132	\$6,830,311	107	51	\$2,411,994	\$479,554	\$1,932,440	80.12%
J	101	\$5,736,762	41	23	\$456,952	\$126,026	\$330,926	72.42%
K	146	\$17,655,868	108	96	\$3,416,236	\$1,678,610	\$1,737,626	50.86%
L	55	\$4,233,818	24	18	\$234,168	\$86,770	\$147,398	62.95%
NYC BOE	1	\$43,939,098	1	1	\$19,000,002	\$10,889,233	\$8,110,767	42.69%
Total	911	\$112,649,263	525	369	\$30,362,030	\$14,916,060	\$15,445,968	50.87%

**Data is current as of January 4, 2021

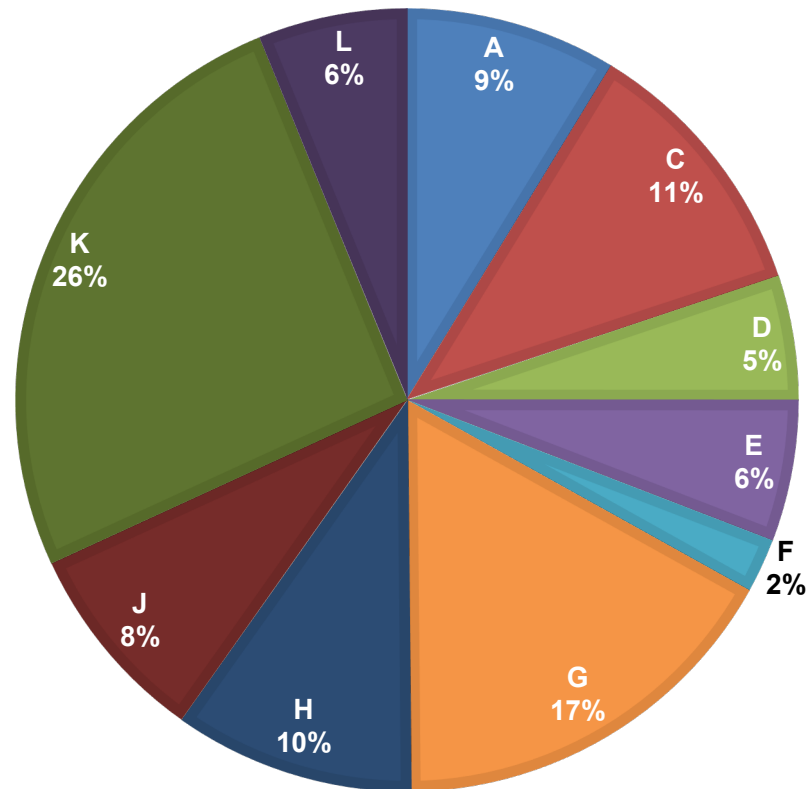
New York State Entitlement by Area



Area	Total Districts	Entitlement
A	77	\$6,000,345
C	106	\$7,668,113
D	69	\$3,516,132
E	60	\$3,996,361
F	49	\$1,542,927
G	115	\$11,529,528
H	132	\$6,830,311
J	101	\$5,736,762
K	146	\$17,655,868
L	55	\$4,233,818
NYC BOE	1	\$43,939,098
Total	911	\$112,649,263

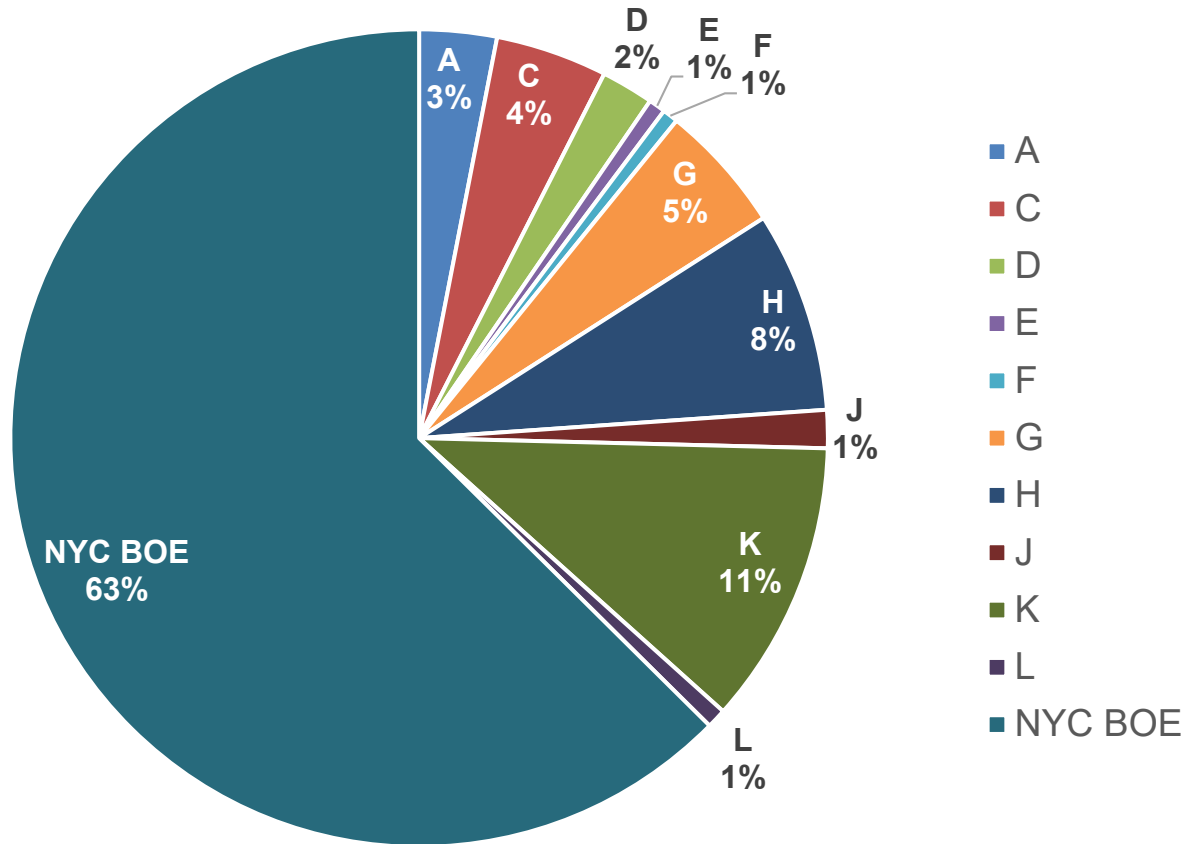
**Data is current as of January 4, 2021

Weighted Entitlement by Area



Area	Total Districts	Entitlement
A	77	\$6,000,345
C	106	\$7,668,113
D	69	\$3,516,132
E	60	\$3,996,361
F	49	\$1,542,927
G	115	\$11,529,528
H	132	\$6,830,311
J	101	\$5,736,762
K	146	\$17,655,868
L	55	\$4,233,817
10	910	\$68,710,165

DoD Allocations by Area



Area	DoD Allocations	DoD Allocation
A	42	\$929,724
C	61	\$1,343,062
D	40	\$629,830
E	18	\$202,316
F	29	\$187,938
G	54	\$1,549,808
H	107	\$2,411,994
J	41	\$456,952
K	108	\$3,416,236
L	24	\$234,168
NYC BOE	1	\$19,000,002
Total	525	\$30,362,030

**Data is current as of January 4, 2021

DoD Allocations by Area

Area	Total Districts	DoD Allocations	Actively Spending
A	77	42	33
C	106	61	47
D	69	40	34
E	60	18	12
F	49	29	21
G	115	54	33
H	132	107	51
J	101	41	23
K	146	108	96
L	55	24	18
Total	910	524	368

***Data is current as of January 4, 2021*

NYS DoD Fresh Usage Trends 20-21 SY

Month	Spent
July	\$1,410,407
August	\$2,159,191
September	\$2,515,347
October	\$2,622,029
November	\$3,317,808
December	\$2,387,662
January	\$503,613
Total	\$14,916,060

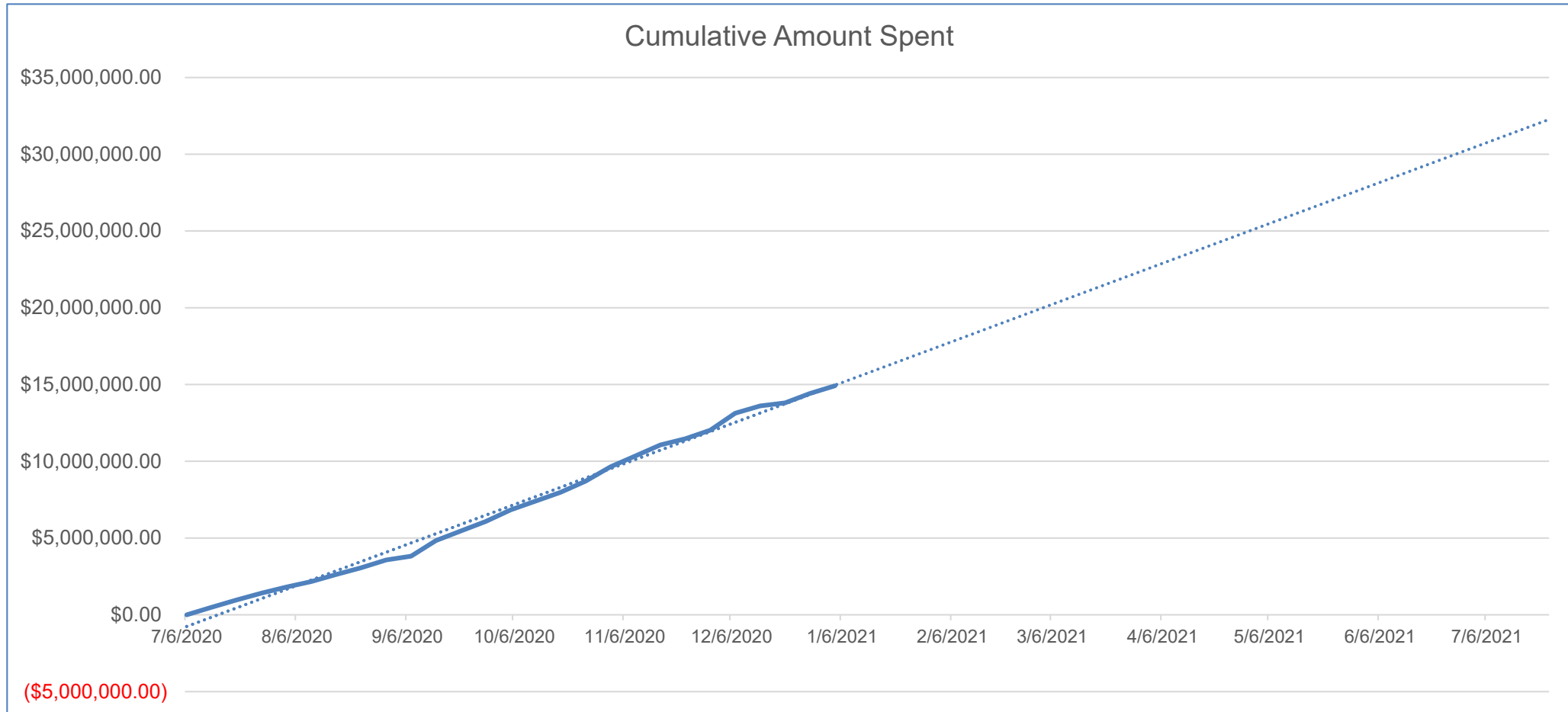
Monthly Average Spent \$2,269,292.24

DoD Usage Trends 20-21 SY



***Data is current as of January 4, 2021*

DoD Usage Trends 20-21 SY



(\$5,000,000.00)

**Data is current as of January 4, 2021

DoD Fresh Reminders

- Schools are to contact OGSDonatedFoods@ogs.ny.gov for all inquiries regarding FFAVORS (this includes joining the program, adding locations, increasing or decreasing your allocation, login issues, etc.)
- To file a complaint concerning DoD produce, please:
 - Advise the driver and adjust the receipt before signing
 - Document all issues, including photos, and report each occurrence to the vendor
 - Email the vendor (Latina or Gargiulo, depending on your Area/County) and cc: OGSDonatedFoods@ogs.ny.gov
Email should include date/time of delivery, detailed description of the issue, quantity affected, quantity remaining, and digital photos.
 - If issues are not resolved, report this to OGS via email and OGS will report to the USDA DoD Fresh Team

If you have any questions concerning the DoD FFAVORS Program there are [informational/instructional videos](#) on OGS Food Distribution website

Vendor	Contact Name	Contact Email	Contact Phone #
Latina Boulevard (Western Contract)	Jeanne Dombrowski (Primary)	jdombrowski@latinaboulevardfood.com	716-694-1174
Latina Boulevard (Western Contract)	Jerry Baker (Secondary/CC)	Jbaker@lbffoods.com	716-694-1174
Frank Gargiulo & Sons (Eastern & Southern Contracts)	Richard Young (Primary)	rich@gargiuloproduce.com	908-233-8222
Frank Gargiulo & Sons (Eastern & Southern Contracts)	Rosa Rodriguez (Secondary/CC)	rrodriguez@gargiuloproduce.com	908-233-8222

