



# Nutrition and Aging Resource Center

## Quick Tips: Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)

Quick Tips are informal documents about the Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III–C Senior Nutrition Program (SNP). These sheets highlight flexibilities of the federal OAA statute and address common misunderstandings about the OAA. Below each point are links to reference materials and inspiration from successful program projects.<sup>1</sup>

| [2020 Reauthorization of the OAA](#) — See Section 311 NSIP

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NSIP meals must:

- Be served by an eligible service provider.
- Meet the OAA nutrition standards.
- Be served to an individual who:
  - Is eligible for OAA services.
  - Has not been means–tested to receive services.
  - Is given the opportunity to contribute to the cost of the service.

[State Performance Report Appendix A: Data Element Definitions](#) — Definitions for the State Performance Report (SPR) consumer characteristics and service units.

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NSIP is a tool to motivate states to serve more OAA Title III–C eligible meals. NSIP grants are based on the number of NSIP meals reported by eligible service

providers. State units on aging (SUAs) must distribute NSIP funds promptly and equitably.

[Title III–C & NSIP Data Elements Training Webinar](#) — Outlines the importance of nutrition service data, explains the Title III–C and NSIP data elements, and discusses how to submit the State Performance Report.

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The Administration for Community Living (ACL) does not have the authority to waive any NSIP requirements. This includes the requirement to meet OAA nutrition standards.

[NSIP Guidance: FY2022 Title III Program, Reporting, and Fiscal Updates](#)

[Nutrition Requirements of the Older Americans Act](#) — Basics for Title III–C.

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Eligible senior nutrition providers can receive their NSIP grant as cash, commodities (food) from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), or a combination of cash and commodities. An administrative fee is charged to those choosing USDA commodities.

[NSIP FAQ](#) — Defines foods that can be purchased with NSIP allocations and resources to help ensure OAA alignment.

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NSIP funds can only be used to purchase domestically produced food. Funds cannot be used to cover other costs of a meal, such as meal transportation costs, salaries, meal site costs, nutrition education, counseling, oral nutrition supplements, groceries, food boxes, etc.

[Identifying the Total Cost of a Meal](#) — Summary brief for meal cost calculations.

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Senior Nutrition Programs can purchase domestically produced foods using NSIP funds. Common domestically produced foods include:

- Dairy products (fluid milk, cheese, yogurt, etc.)
- Eggs
- Breads
- Local produce and local animal proteins, such as poultry, beef, or goat

[NSIP Domestically Produced Foods FAQ](#) – Definitions of domestically produced foods with tips and examples.

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NSIP allocations equal approximately 16% of total OAA Title III–C nutrition services funding.

[ACL OAA Funding Tables – State Allocation Tables: Title III \(NSIP\).](#)



NSIP funds may be used to purchase shelf-stable meals if these meals meet all NSIP requirements.

[Iowa Emergency Guide for Menu Planning](#) — Nutrition guidelines and two-week sample shelf-stable menu and grocery list.

#### Additional Quick Tip Sheets

- [Congregate Meals](#)
- [Home-delivered Meals](#)
- [OAA Basics](#)
- [Funding Options](#)
- [SNP Nutrition Guidelines](#)
- [Nutrition Service Reporting](#)

Find more resources at the [Nutrition and Aging Resource Center](#).

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<sup>i</sup> In many areas the OAA gives SUAs the authority to add other requirements beyond those that are included in the OAA. So certain practices, which might be allowable under the OAA and perhaps included in this document, might be handled differently in some states or local areas. These documents only reflect information about the OAA nutrition program from a federal perspective; state and local variances are NOT covered.