# Summer Food Service Program

**Submitting Claims for Reimbursement** 

#### Claim Deadlines

June	August 29
July	September 29
August	October 30
September	November 29



Sponsors must submit claims within 60 calendar days of the last day of the claim month to receive reimbursement.



Claims may be submitted as soon as the 1st of the month following the claim month.



In cases where a deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal Holiday, the due date is the next business day.



DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE. Leave extra time in case you need SED to make site changes and/or additional documentation is requested.

# Prior to submitting a claim

- Establish a procedure to have a second person review the claim prior to submission to ensure accuracy.
- If using a spreadsheet, ensure all calculation formulas are correct.
- Days of service should align with the approved dates and days on the site profile.
- Ensure all requested documents have been submitted to SED and sites have approval dates; including camp permits and FSMC/Vendor Contracts.
- Ensure daily meal counts do not exceed approved site CAPS listed on profile.
- For sites that served congregate and non-congregate meals, separate meal counts must be maintained.



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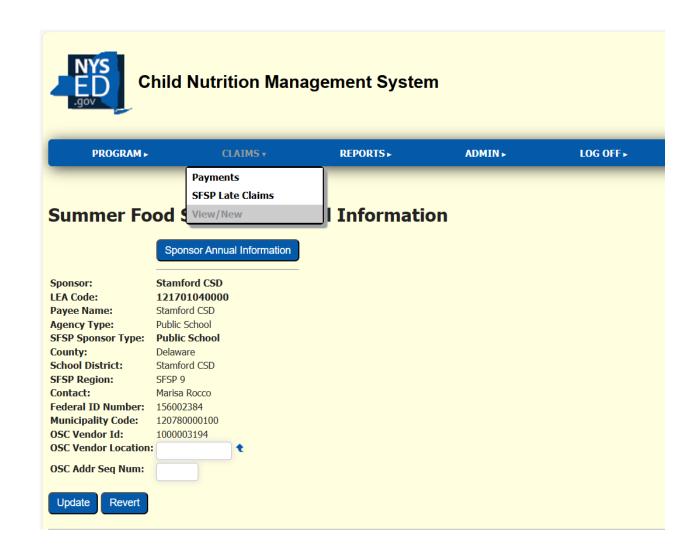
Slides 39-43 Viewing Payment History

## Accessing the Claim Screen



**Step 1:** Hover your mouse cursor over the **'Claims'** tab in the navigation bar.

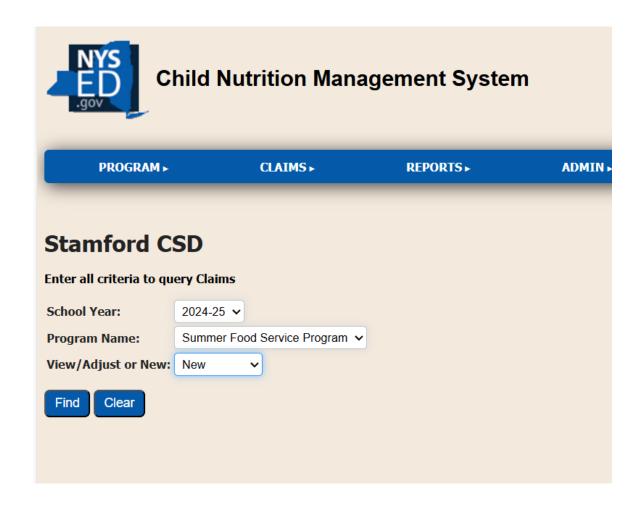
**Step 2:** From the drop-down menu, select **'View/New'** to access the claim form



## Accessing the Claim Screen

## Step 3: Use the Drop-Down Boxes to Select Your Claim Details

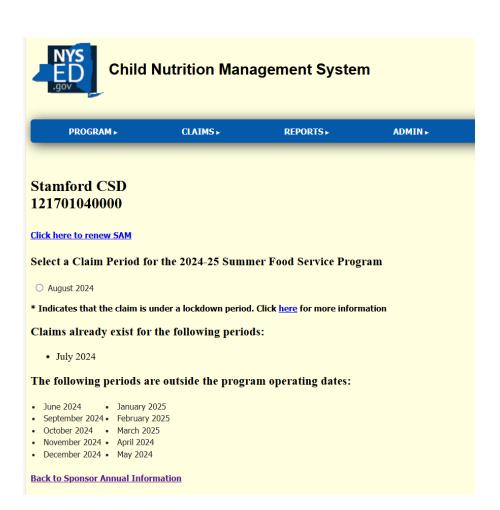
- Select the appropriate year.
- Select 'Summer Food Service Program'
- **Select 'New'** from the claim status.
- Click 'Find' to continue.



## Accessing the Claim Screen

#### **Step 4: Select the Month for the Claim**

- •Click on the white circle next to the month for which the claim will be entered.
- •Note: If there are multiple months to select from, choose the appropriate one. Only one month may be entered at a time.

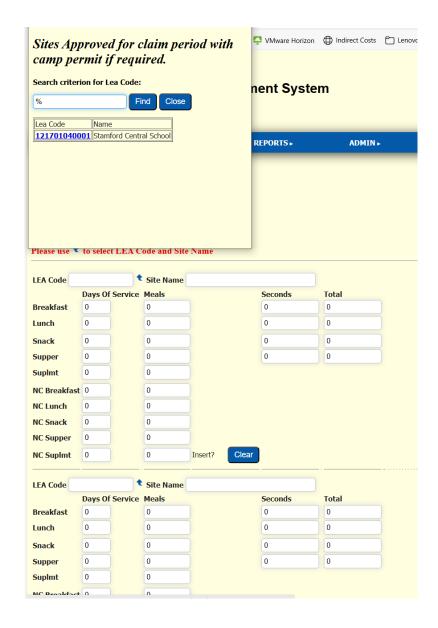


## Entering the Claim Data

#### **Step 5: Choose the Site**

- •After selecting the month, a window will pop up to select your site.
  - Click on the blue arrow next to the LEA code box.
  - Click on the **LEA code** for the site you wish to claim for.

**Note:** If no sites appear or if you see the error message "no rows meet search criterion," contact the SFSP office for assistance.



## Entering the Claim Data

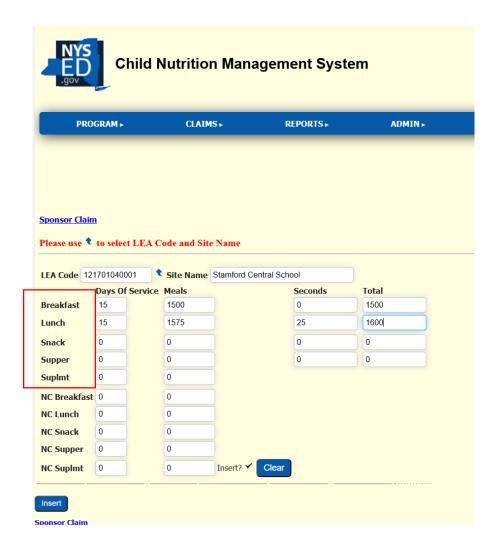
#### **Step 6: Input Meal Data for Each Site**

- Enter the data for each meal site.
- If you are claiming second meals, enter the number of second meals served.
- The system will automatically calculate the reimbursement percentage for second meals.
- The sponsor is responsible for calculating the **Total** column.

#### **Step 7: Insert the Data**

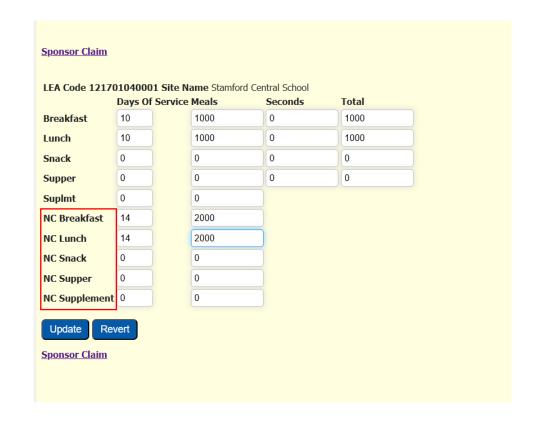
•Scroll to the bottom of the page and click 'Insert' to save the entered data.

Note: 'NC' meal types are Non-Congregate Meals served.



## Submitting Claims for Non-Congregate Meals

- Non-congregate meals should be entered in the appropriate 'NC' meal type row.
- If you served congregate and non-congregate meals at a site, ensure the days of service for each type are correct.
- Notes:
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> meals cannot be claimed.
  - Rate of reimbursement is the same for congregate and non-congregate meals.



## Submitting Claims for Non-Congregate Meals

New for 2025, for the last distribution of each month, claim those meals in the month they were distributed, not in the month they were intended to be consumed.

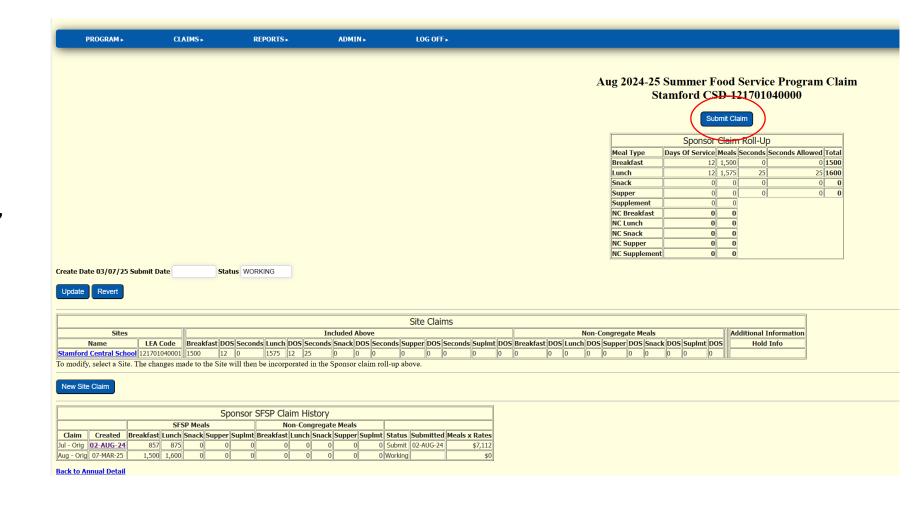


Example: On July 30<sup>th</sup> the sponsor distributed 5 days of breakfast and lunch meals. All 5 days worth of meals will be claimed on the July claim, not the August claim.

Sponsor's will likely have to contact SED to have their site CAP increased prior to submitting the claim.

## Submitting the Claim

Step 8: Review and Submit
•After checking the data for accuracy, click 'Submit Claim' to submit your claim.



## Submitting the Claim

•A certification message will appear. Read it carefully, then click the **'OK'** button to finalize your submission.

#### portald.nysed.gov says:

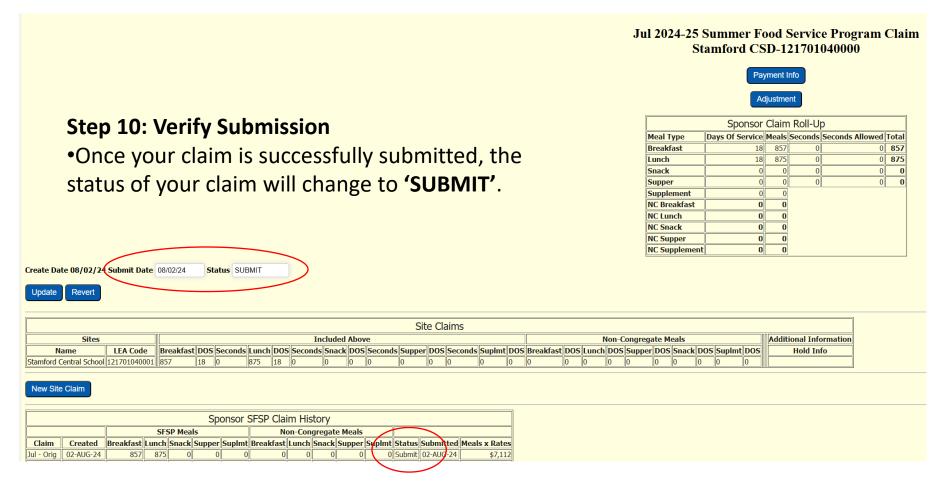
I certify that all information submitted herein is true and correct. Please be advised that failure to submit accurate claims may jeopardize future participation in federal and state Child Nutrition Programs, including but not limited to the assessment of fiscal sanctions and penalties and potential termination of program participation. In addition, 7 CFR 210.26 provides that, whoever embezzles, willfully misapplies, steals, or obtains by fraud any funds, assets, or property provided under this part whether received directly or indirectly from the Department, shall if such funds, assets, or property are of a value of \$100 or more, be fined no more than \$25,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both; or if such funds, assets, or property are of a value of less than \$100, be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 1 year or both. Whoever receives, conceals, or retains for personal use or gain, funds, assets, or property provided under this part, whether received directly or indirectly from the Department, knowing such funds, assets, or property have been embezzled, willfully misapplied, stolen, or obtained by fraud, shall be subject to the same penalties.

OK

Cancel

×

## Verify Claim Submission



Note: Claims that are in 'working' status have <u>not</u> been submitted for reimbursement.

## Common Errors and Troubleshooting

If you receive an error message after clicking 'Insert', check the following:

- 1. Days of service: Ensure the days of service are correctly entered.
- 2. Exceeding meal limits: Verify that more meals were not claimed than the site is eligible for.
- 3. Total meals: Ensure the Total column equals Meals + Seconds.
- 4. Incorrect meals: Double-check if you entered numbers for a meal the site wasn't approved for.
- **5. Seconds greater than Meals:** Ensure that the second meals are not greater than the regular meals.
- **6. Supplement Meals vs. Supper Meals:** Make sure the number of **Supplement Meals** isn't greater than **Supper Meals**.
- 7. Blank fields: Ensure unused fields are filled with a '0'.

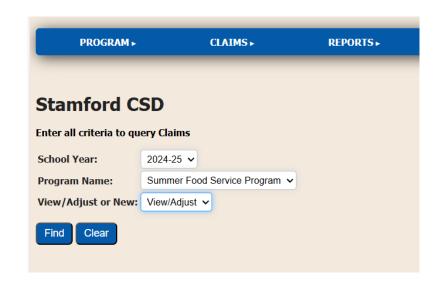
## Adjusting Submitted Claims

This section will help you adjust an SFSP claim if you've made an error or need to update certain information. Follow these steps to ensure your claim is accurately adjusted and submitted.

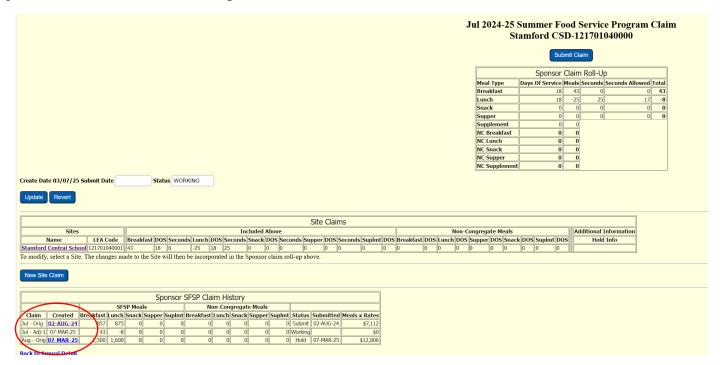
Step 1: Choose 'View/New' Under 'Claims'



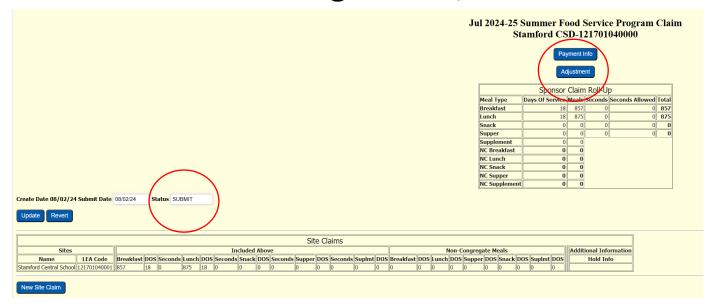
**Step 2:** In the drop-down menu, choose 'View/Adjust' to access your previously submitted claims.



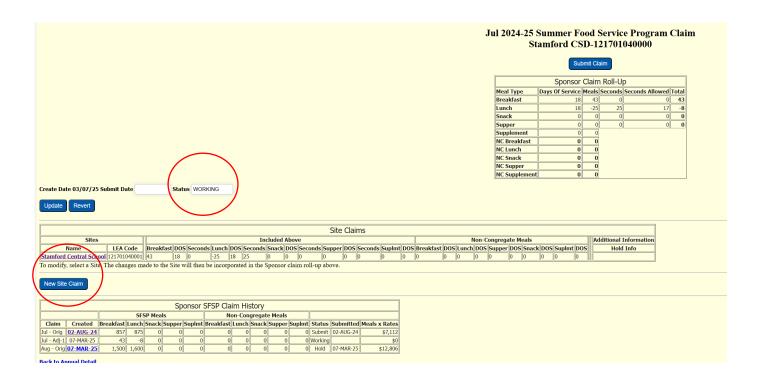
- Step 3: Select the Claim Month to Adjust
- In the 'Sponsor SFSP Claim History' box, click on the 'Created' date of the claim you want to adjust.



- Step 4: Click on 'Adjustment'
- After selecting the claim month, click on the 'Adjustment' button to enter your changes.
- Note: Only if the claim status is 'submit', will the 'Adjustment' box appear. If the claim is in 'working' status, see the following slide.

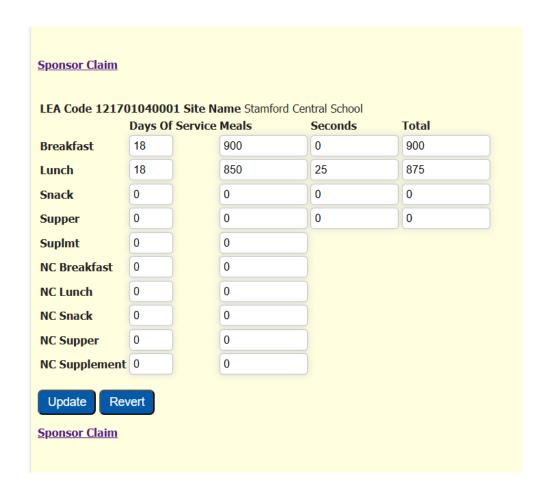


- Step 5: Select Your Site Name
- Click on your site name to open the claim details.
- If the site is not listed and the claim is in 'working' status, click on 'New Site Claim' to add a new claim for that site.

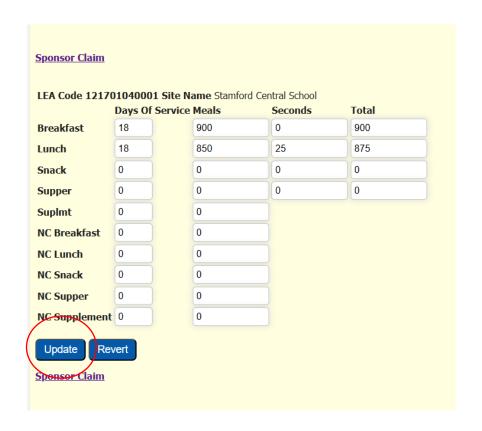


## Entering the Claim Data

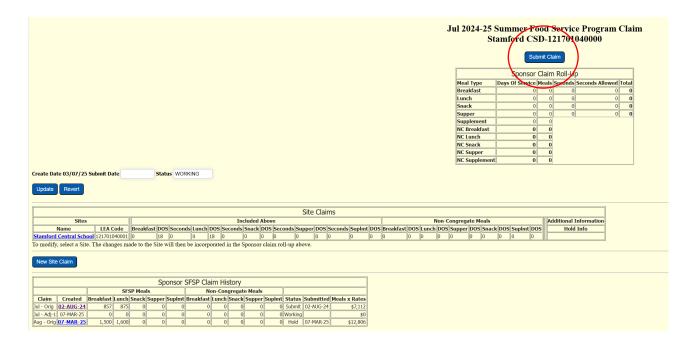
- Step 6: Enter Changes to Meal Data
- Adjust the values in the fields on the left for Days of Service, Meals, and Seconds.
  - For example, if the original number of Meals entered was 55 and the site actually served 60 meals, enter **60** in the **Meals** field (not 5, which is the adjustment amount).
- Note: You should enter the total meals served and total seconds served, not just the adjustments.



- Step 7: Click 'Update' to Submit the Adjustment
- After making the necessary adjustments, click the 'Update' button to save the changes to your claim.



- Step 8: Click the 'Submit Claim' Button
- Once your adjustments are saved, click the 'Submit Claim' button to finalize the claim submission.



•A certification message will appear. Read it carefully, then click the **'OK'** button to finalize your submission.

#### portald.nysed.gov says:

I certify that all information submitted herein is true and correct. Please be advised that failure to submit accurate claims may jeopardize future participation in federal and state Child Nutrition Programs, including but not limited to the assessment of fiscal sanctions and penalties and potential termination of program participation. In addition, 7 CFR 210.26 provides that, whoever embezzles, willfully misapplies, steals, or obtains by fraud any funds, assets, or property provided under this part whether received directly or indirectly from the Department, shall if such funds, assets, or property are of a value of \$100 or more, be fined no more than \$25,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both; or if such funds, assets, or property are of a value of less than \$100, be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 1 year or both. Whoever receives, conceals, or retains for personal use or gain, funds, assets, or property provided under this part, whether received directly or indirectly from the Department, knowing such funds, assets, or property have been embezzled, willfully misapplied, stolen, or obtained by fraud, shall be subject to the same penalties.

ОК

Cancel

×

- Step 10: Verify the Adjustment Submission
- If the adjustment is submitted before the 60-day deadline, you should receive a 'Success!' message, and the claim status will change to 'Submit'.



## Common Errors and Troubleshooting

If you receive errors after making adjustments, check for the following common issues:

- **1.Too many days of service**: Ensure the days entered don't exceed the actual days of operation.
- **2.More meals than eligible**: Verify the number of meals does not exceed the site's eligibility.
- **3.More seconds than meals**: Ensure the number of seconds does not exceed the total meals served.
- **4.Incorrect totals**: The total meals plus seconds must equal the calculated total.

## Late Claims

- This section describes the process for submitting late claims for reimbursement, including considerations and corrective action plans.
- P.L. 97-370 specifies "That only final reimbursement claims for service of meals, supplements, and milk submitted to State Agencies (SAs) by eligible schools, summer camps, institutions, and service institutions within 60 days following the claiming month shall be eligible for reimbursement from funds appropriated under this Act."
- <u>USDA Guidance on 60-Day Claim Submission</u>
   <u>Deadline</u>

## Late Claims

#### Late Claim Submission:

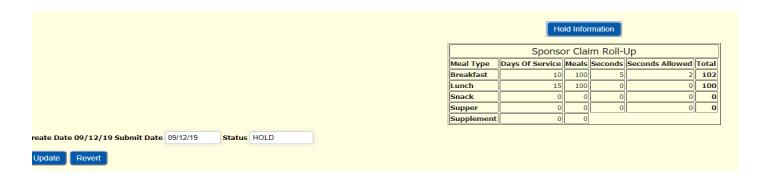
If an original or adjusted claim is submitted past the 60-day deadline, it is considered late.

#### **Claim Status:**

The claim will be placed on 'hold' status and will not be paid until the reason for the late submission is provided and approved by SED.

#### **Resolution Requirement:**

You must submit a valid reason (justification and corrective action plan) to resolve the late claim, which will be reviewed by SED before payment is made.



## Late Claim Notification

#### **Receive Notification:**

You will receive a message notifying you that the claim is on hold because it was submitted after the 60-day deadline.

#### **Access Email Instructions:**

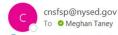
You will get an email with instructions on how to resolve the late claim and access the Late Claim Module.

#### portald.nysed.gov says

This claim is being submitted more than 60 days past the end of the claim period (08/31/2024, 10/30/2024). Click OK to SUBMIT and claim will be put on Hold pending approval.

OK

#### CNMS Hold



i We removed extra line breaks from this message

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*This is being sent from TEST\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

This email is to notify you that the following claim is on hold due to the failure to abide by the 60-day submission deadline period:

121701040000 Stamford CSD 2024-25 August Summer Food Service Program

Failure to respond to the above late claim hold within 15 business days will result in the late claim being deemed abandoned and, therefore

You may request a late claim exception when the reason for the late claim submission resulted from circumstances beyond your control or y

Late Claim Exception - Circumstances Beyond Sponsor Control

If you wish to request an exception, you must submit an explanation in writing to SED describing the events and circumstances that prevent consideration, it will then be forwarded to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for final consideration.

Follow the steps below to request a late claim exception:

Using your assigned CNMS user name and password, log into CNMS.

On the welcome screen, click on the link that states "Click here to address SFSP Late Claim Issues"

Select 'Circumstance beyond Sponsor control' from the late claim consideration drop down box

In the Late Claim Justification box explain the circumstances that were beyond the Sponsor's control that caused the late claim submitt Click undate

You will be notified via email by SED of the outcome of your request.

One-Time Exception

## Accessing the Late Claim Screen

#### **Login to CNMS:**

Enter your username and password in CNMS.

#### **Navigate to Late Claims Module:**

- •Once logged in, you will see a message on your welcome screen.
- •Click the provided link to access the Late Claims Module.
- •Alternatively, go to the 'Claims' tab and select 'SFSP Late Claims.'



## Accessing the Late Claim Screen

#### **Select Correct Late Claim:**

If there are multiple late claims, identify the one with a **'Pending'** status to resolve.



#### Late Claim Considerations

#### 1-Time Exception:

- Choose from the dropdown box and enter justification & Corrective Action Plan (CAP) in the provided box.
- Check the 'Exception Certification' box.
- Click **Update**.
- (Note: You can only use this exception once every 36 months.)

#### **Circumstance Beyond SFA/Sponsor Control:**

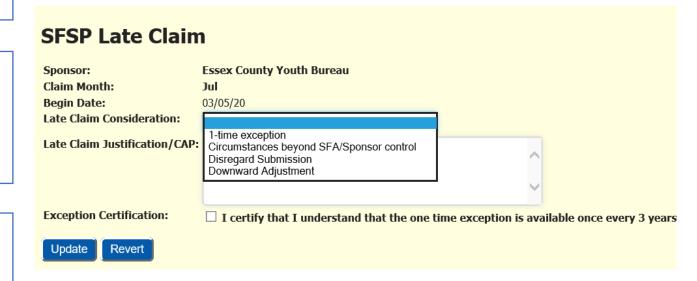
- Enter justification & CAP for the late claim in the provided box and click **Update**.
- Do not check the certification box for this option.
- Ex. Flood, Fire, Natural Disaster

#### **Disregard Submission:**

- Select this option if the claim is not valid.
- Enter a CAP detailing how you will prevent late claims in the future and click **Update**.

#### **Downward Adjustment:**

• Enter a CAP on how to ensure accurate claims in the future and click **Update**.



## Submit the Late Claim Consideration

#### **Submit and Wait for Review:**

After clicking **Update**, the late claim will be submitted to SED for review.

#### **Review Outcome:**

- •SED will notify you if any part of the claim is insufficient or if it is acceptable.
- •You will also receive an email with the outcome.
- •You can check the status of the late claim in the Late Claim Module.

Note: Circumstances Beyond Control considerations must be sent to USDA for approval/denial.

## Circumstances Beyond Control

The following are some examples that may be considered as approvable:



Natural Disasters: Hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, floods, or other natural disasters that disrupted operations and communication.



#### **Severe Weather Conditions:**

Snowstorms, ice storms, or other extreme weather events that made it difficult to access necessary resources or submit claims on time.



**Technical Issues**: System outages, data loss, or issues with online submission platforms that prevented the timely submission of the claim.



**Staffing Issues**: Unexpected staff shortages, such as illness, family emergencies, or turnover, that delayed the processing and submission of the claim.



Supply Chain Disruptions: Critical shortages of food or other necessary supplies due to unforeseen disruptions that caused delays in meal preparation and service, which in turn delayed the claim process.



Pandemics or Health Crises: An ongoing health crisis, like the COVID-19 pandemic, which could disrupt normal operations and administrative functions.

## Circumstances Beyond Control

In the following cases, the circumstances were within the control of the program operator and would likely not be eligible for exceptions for late claim submissions. It's important that operators understand the program guidelines and have measures in place to avoid these issues.

Failure to Understand or Follow Program Guidelines: If the program operator simply misunderstood the rules or missed important deadlines due to a lack of awareness or proper training, this would not qualify as circumstances beyond control. For example, if the operator was unaware of the claim submission deadlines or failed to plan accordingly, that would not be accepted.

Routine Administrative Delays: Delays that are typical of normal operations, such as waiting for standard internal approvals or processing delays that do not result from extraordinary or uncontrollable events, would not qualify. If the program operator is consistently late due to inefficient internal processes or poor planning, this wouldn't be accepted as beyond control.

Lack of Staff Planning: If a program operator did not anticipate needing enough staff to handle the claim submission process and failed to hire or train adequate staff in time, this would not be considered a valid reason.

The issue of staff planning is within the program operator's control.

Technical Issues Due to Negligence: While technical issues (like system outages) can be a valid reason for a late claim, they must be unexpected and unavoidable. If the operator failed to maintain or update necessary software, hardware, or systems (such as neglecting to regularly back up data or update systems), this would not be considered beyond control.

Failure to Meet Record-Keeping
Requirements: If the operator failed to
maintain proper records or kept incomplete
or incorrect documentation, leading to delays
in the claim submission, this would be
considered a preventable issue and not
something beyond control.

Vendor or Supplier Issues: If there were delays or problems with a vendor or supplier that the program operator could have anticipated or managed (such as failing to confirm delivery schedules or placing orders too late), these would not be considered circumstances beyond control.

Miscommunication or Lack of
Communication: If the late submission was
caused by poor communication within the
organization or between the program
operator and the overseeing agency, it would
not be deemed an uncontrollable
circumstance. Clear communication and
proper internal coordination are the program
operator's responsibility.

Recurring Operational Problems: If an issue, like a routine staff shortage or technical issue, was ongoing or expected (e.g., seasonal turnover), this would not qualify as beyond control. Problems that are foreseeable or habitual fall under the operator's responsibility to plan for.

# Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

A strong corrective action plan should be tailored to the specific reason for the late submission and aim to address any underlying systemic issues. The plan should include clear actions, timelines, and designated responsibilities, along with measures for evaluating the plan's effectiveness. By addressing the root causes of late submissions, program operators can reduce the risk of future delays and maintain compliance with SFSP guidelines.

## Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Examples

**1. Issue**: Staff were not adequately trained on claim submission procedures or deadlines.

#### **Corrective Action:**

- Provide additional training for staff involved in the claim submission process to ensure they are familiar with deadlines, procedures, and the required documentation.
- Implement a refresher training session each year prior to the start of the program to ensure all staff are up to date.
- Assign a dedicated person to monitor and oversee the claims submission process.
- **2. Issue**: Internal processes were not clear or there was no system to track claim deadlines.

#### **Corrective Action:**

- Create or update detailed checklists for the claim submission process that include key deadlines and required documentation.
- Develop a timeline or calendar with reminders for all claim submission deadlines.
- Introduce a system of internal notifications and reminders to ensure all relevant stakeholders are aware of approaching deadlines.
- **3. Issue**: Documentation or records were incomplete or not properly organized, causing delays in the claim preparation.

#### **Corrective Action:**

- Implement a more rigorous record-keeping system to ensure all required documentation is easily accessible.
- Introduce a filing system (either electronic or physical) that organizes documentation by program year or claim period.
- Assign responsibility to a staff member to oversee record maintenance and ensure accuracy.
- 4. Issue: Lack of communication or coordination between departments or staff members led to delays in the claims process.

#### **Corrective Action:**

- Set up regular internal meetings or check-ins to discuss the status of claims preparation and submission.
- Designate a specific point of contact responsible for communication between all parties involved in the claims process.
- Establish clear protocols for escalating issues that could impact claim submission timelines.

## Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Examples

**5. Issue**: Staff shortages or unexpected absences led to delays in the claims process.

#### **Corrective Action:**

- Develop a staffing plan that includes backup personnel for key roles involved in the claim's submission process.
- Cross-train staff members so multiple individuals are familiar with the claims process and can step in if necessary.
- If feasible, consider hiring temporary staff during peak periods to ensure the claims process runs smoothly.
- **6. Issue**: Lack of monitoring or oversight led to missed deadlines.

#### **Corrective Action:**

- Implement a claim submission tracking system that allows the program operator to monitor the status of claims in real-time.
- Create a checklist for every claim period to track progress, review necessary approvals, and check submission status.
- Assign responsibility for reviewing and approving claims to one or more senior staff members to ensure accountability and compliance.
- 7. Issue: Unforeseen issues (e.g., disasters, emergencies) affected claim submission.

#### **Corrective Action:**

- Develop a risk management plan that includes procedures for handling unexpected events, such as natural disasters or technical failures, that could delay claim submission.
- Implement contingency plans that provide clear steps to take in the event of unexpected issues, including backup resources and emergency contacts.
- **8. Issue**: The claim submission process was not regularly reviewed, leading to delays or inefficiencies.

#### **Corrective Action:**

- Establish a regular review process to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the claim submission process.
- Identify potential bottlenecks or areas for improvement and make adjustments as necessary.
- Set up periodic internal audits to evaluate the program's compliance with submission timelines and requirements.

## Sponsor's Payment History

This section will show how to view your organization's payment history including state and federal reimbursement amounts.

## Accessing Payment History

#### **Step 1: Log into CNMS**

Open the CNMS login page and log in with your credentials.

#### **Step 2: Navigate to the Claims Section**

Position your cursor over 'Claims' in the top menu.

From the drop-down menu, select 'Payments'.

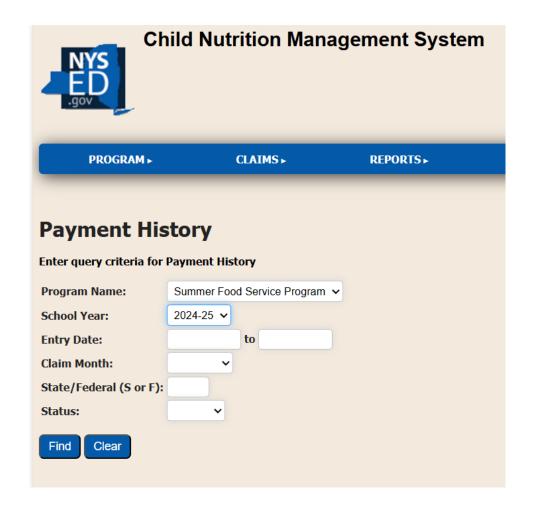


## Accessing Payment History

**Step 3:** In the new screen, from the drop-down menu, select **'Summer Food Service Program'**.

**Step 4:** Choose the correct school year for the claim you are checking from the drop-down list.

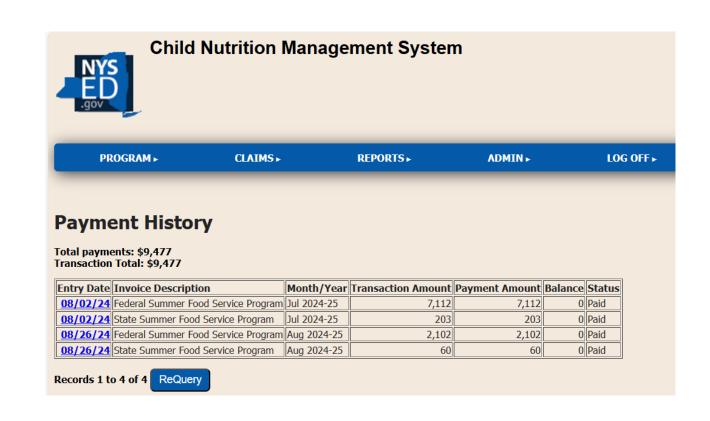
**Step 5:** Click the blue **'Find'** button to proceed.



## View Payment History

**Step 6:** Once you are on the claims screen, you can view:

- Transaction details and payment amounts.
- The status of each transaction, which will read either 'Paid', 'Submitted', or 'Pending'.
- If the status is 'Hold' it is likely that SED is waiting for approval of funds to make the payment and not due to any action required by the sponsor.





If you have any questions about your claims or reimbursement payments, contact the **Reimbursement Office** at **518-474-3926**.