

Nationally Approved Waivers and Flexibilities for State Agencies and Local Child Nutrition Program Sponsors

USDA COVID-19 information is posted online <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>.

USDA Child Nutrition Program_COVID-19 Waivers & Actions	Effective Date & Status	When to Apply	How to Apply
<p>#1 Nationwide Mealtime Waiver: Support SFAs to provide access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus. Applies to NSBP, NSLP, CACFP, SFSP. (Guidance for States on Meal Times Nationwide Waivers)</p>	<p>Active Issued 3/20/20 Effective until 6/30/2020 or until expiration of federally declared public health emergency</p>	<p>Identified need to serve meals outside of the normal meal period times. Identified need to provide more than one meal type during one meal service period.</p>	<p>SFAs must contact the state office for approval to utilize this waiver.</p>
<p>#2 Non-Congregate Meal Waivers: FNS has approved waivers for Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors to serve meals in a non-congregate setting and at school sites during school closures related to the coronavirus. Applies to NSBP, NSLP, CACFP, SFSP, SSO. FNS also issued guidance on meal delivery using existing authorities in summer meal programs. (Guidance for States on Non-Congregate Feeding Nationwide Waivers)</p> <p>*Note: One meal and a snack, or a breakfast and lunch can be offered under SSO or SFSP. A lunch and supper meal cannot be provided together on the same day for the same site under SSO or SFSP.</p>	<p>Active Issued 3/20/20 Effective until 6/30/2020 or until expiration of federally declared public health emergency</p>	<p>Request to provide eligible children a grab and go meal to eat off-site. Request to opt into home delivery meals to be eaten off-site.</p>	<p>SFAs must contact the state office for approval to utilize this waiver.</p>

<p>#3 Nationwide Afterschool Activity Waiver: SFAs and Sponsors may provide nutritious meals and snacks without an educational or enrichment activity while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus. Applies to NSLP Afterschool Snack Program and CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program. (Guidance for States on Afterschool Activity Nationwide Waivers)</p>	<p>Active Issued 3/20/20 Effective until 6/30/2020 or until expiration of federally declared public health emergency</p>	<p>Recommendations from state and local officials to limit children congregating warranting a request to not provide an enrichment or education activity.</p>	<p>SFAs must contact the state office for approval to utilize this waiver.</p> <p>Form Link: https://forms.gle/AoWstGsRbA8xUFWi7</p>
<p>#4 Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver: States may locally waive specific meal pattern requirements as needed to support access to nutritious meals. When certain foods are not available due to the novel coronavirus. Applies to NSBP, NSLP, CACFP and SFSP (Guidance for States on Meal Pattern Waivers)</p>	<p>Active Issued 3/25/2020 Effective until 4/30/2020 or until expiration of federally declared public health emergency</p>	<p>Identified and justified need based on disruption of the availability of food products to meet the meal pattern for the day or the week.</p> <p>All reasonable options to provide a reimbursable meal has been exhausted.</p> <p>Waiver is approved on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>SFAs must contact the state office for approval to utilize this waiver.</p> <p>Approved requests will be forwarded to the USDA regional and national offices.</p> <p>Form Link: https://forms.gle/sbnYR96aDdAHyizg5</p>
<p>#5 Nationwide Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup Waiver: SFAs approved for non-congregate feeding can be approved to distribute meals to parents and guardians to take home for their children, as long as they protect accountability and integrity of the program. Applies to NSBP, NSLP, SSO, CACFP, SFSP. This also applies to guardians picking up meals for adult participants in CACFP Adult Day Care Programs. (Guidance for States on Meal Pickup Waivers)</p>	<p>Active Issued 3/25/2020 Effective until 6/30/2020 or until expiration of federally declared public health emergency</p>	<p>SFA need to limit and control the number of individuals coming to the site based on state and local official recommendations.</p> <p>Supply description of the process the SFA will use to ensure program integrity</p>	<p>SFAs must contact the state office for approval to utilize this waiver.</p> <p>Form Link: https://forms.gle/AoWstGsRbA8xUFWi7</p>
<p>#6 Nationwide Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Data Waiver: FNS is extending CEP</p>	<p>Active Issued 3/25/2020</p>	<p>Notify state agency if you would like to renew a CEP</p>	

election, notification and reporting and deadlines for School Year 2020-21. ISP may be calculated using data drawn any time between April 1, 2020, and June 30, 2020. LEAs that intend to elect CEP for SY 2020-2021 must notify the State agency by August 31, 2020. (Guidance for States on CEP Waivers)	Effective until 8/31/2020	site eligibility or start a new CEP site.	
#7 Nationwide Waivers of Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors in the CACFP: Due to the need to suspend onsite monitoring and with some CACFP facilities closed, flexibilities have been granted. Reduces number of reviews and implements desk reviews with no on-site meal observations. Applies to CACFP. (Guidance for Sponsors on CACFP Sponsor Waiver) Q&A SP11-2020, CACFP06-2020, SFSP05-2020	Active Issued 3/27/2020 Effective until 6/30/2020 Issued 4/9/2020	State Agency staff will continue monitoring through revised desk audit process.	SFAs must contact the state office for approval to utilize this waiver.
#8 Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for State Agencies in the CACFP: to the extent practicable, the state agency should continue monitoring activities of Program operations offsite (e.g., through a desk audit). (Guidance for SA on CACFP Monitoring Waiver) Q&A SP11-2020, CACFP06-2020, SFSP05-2020	Active Issued 3/26/2020 Effective until 6/30/2020 or until expiration of federally declared public health emergency Issued 4/9/2020	State Agency staff will continue monitoring through revised desk audit process and apply the flexibilities granted.	SFAs must contact the state office for approval to utilize this waiver.
#9 Nationwide Waivers of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs: FNS waiver for all state and SFAs school meals onsite monitoring for NSLP and NSBP. State	Active Issued 3/26/2020 In effect through 6/30/2020 or until	State agency staff will be in communication with SFAs that currently have	SFAs must contact the state office for approval to utilize this waiver.

<p>agencies and SFAs should to the maximum extent practicable continue monitoring offsite. When an SFA is closed the SA may postpone the AR review until SY2021. (Guidance on Onsite Monitoring for School Meal Programs Waiver)</p> <p>Q&A SP11-2020, CACFP06-2020, SFSP05-2020</p>	<p>expiration of the federally declared public health emergency</p> <p>Issued 4/9/2020</p>	<p>an open Administrative Review in SY2020.</p> <p>SFAs are encouraged to continue monitoring efforts offsite. Under Seamless Summer Option, SFAs are required to review meal counting, claiming and meal pattern compliance at least once during each site's operation.</p> <p>Monitoring efforts at the state and local levels may be accomplished through a desk review of program records.</p>	<p>Form Link: https://forms.gle/AoWstGsRbA8xUFWi7</p>
<p>#10 Nationwide Waivers of Child Nutrition Monitoring for Sponsoring Organizations in the SFSP: SFSP sponsoring organizations should, to the maximum extent practicable, continue monitoring activities of Program operations offsite (e.g., through a desk audit). (Guidance for States on Monitoring Waivers)</p> <p>Monitoring: Pre-operational visits before a new or problem site operates the SFSP program; Site visits the first week of operation (waived for sites that operated successfully the previous summer); Site review during first four weeks of operation, followed by additional monitoring as needed. Waiver</p>	<p>Active Issued 3/27/2020 Effective until 6/30/2020 or until expiration of federally declared public health emergency</p>	<p>Sponsors may request the waiver and schedule monitoring using a desk review process with the flexibilities granted.</p>	<p>SFAs must contact the state office for approval to utilize this waiver.</p>

<p>Q&A SP11-2020, CACFP06-2020, SFSP05-2020</p>	<p>Issued 4/9/2020</p>		
<p>#11 Nationwide Waivers of Onsite Monitoring for State Agencies in the SFSP: State agencies should, to the maximum extent practicable, continue monitoring activities of Program operations offsite (e.g., through a desk audit).</p> <p>Monitoring: Review every three years or more based on program size and prior problems identified by the state agency. (Guidance for SA Onsite Monitoring of SFSP Waiver)</p> <p>Q&A SP11-2020, CACFP06-2020, SFSP05-2020</p>	<p>Active Issued 3/27/2020 Effective until 6/30/2020 or until expiration of federally declared public health emergency</p> <p>Issued 4/9/2020</p>	<p>State Agency staff will continue monitoring through revised desk audit process and apply the flexibilities granted.</p>	<p>SFAs must contact the state office for approval to utilize this waiver.</p>
<p>Pandemic EBT: As a result of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, children who would receive free or reduced-price meals if not for school closures are eligible to receive assistance under this provision. USDA is providing guidance to state agencies on plan requirements in order to receive approval. (Guidance for States on Pandemic EBT)</p>	<p>Pending</p>		
<p>#12 Nationwide Waiver 60 Day Final: USDA waives the 60-day claim deadlines for the months of January and February 2020. The deadlines for these two claim months are extended for 30 calendar days from their original required date of submission. SFAs should continue to report on time where the waiver flexibility is not needed and to the extent practicable. Applies to NSLP, SSO, CACFP, SFSP.</p>	<p>Active Issued 4/1/2020 Effective until 5/29/2020</p>		

Jan 2020 was due 3/31/20 extended to 4/30/2020 Feb 2020 is due 4/29/20 extended to 5/29/2020 (Guidance and Memo on 60 Day Waiver) Q&A SP11-2020, CACFP06-2020, SFSP05-2020	Issued 4/9/2020		
Equipment Assistance Grant Extensions Q&A SP11-2020, CACFP06-2020, SFSP05-2020	Issued 4/9/2020		

State Submitted Waivers SFAs May Apply For

Waiver SFAs may Apply for in Utah	Effective Date & Status	When to Apply	How to Apply
#1 Non-Congregate Meal Service in the SSO and SFSP: SFSP and SSO sponsors with approval from the state agency may provide meals at both school and non-school sites and in a non-congregate setting.	Submitted 3/6/2020 Issued 3/10/2020 Effective Date 3/10/2020 through 3/20/20; Utah opted into the Nationwide Non-Congregate Waiver	See Non-Congregate Waiver above. Allows alternate meal service, such as a grab and go option, limiting potential exposure to COVID-19 among foodservice staff and participants.	See Non-Congregate Waiver above.
#2 State Waiver on Site Eligibility Requirements for SFSP and SSO: With state agency approval, open sites may be located in areas where less than 50% of NSLP participants are eligible for free or reduced-price meals with the assurance efforts are being targeted to children in low income populations.	Submitted 3/6/2020 Issued 3/27/2020 Effective Date 3/18/20 through 6/30/2020 or until expiration of federally declared public health emergency FNS may withdraw the waiver due to lack of program funding	Identified need to target meal benefits to children in low income households, including children newly eligible for free or reduced meal benefits due to economic impacts of COVID-19. Sites between 40-50% free and reduced price eligible based on October Survey.	Notify SA staff of intent to operate an open site in a non-area eligible location. Demonstrate need to reach low income students. Form Link: https://forms.gle/AoWstGsRbA&xUFWi7

4/21/2020

		<p>Sites between 40-50% free and reduced price eligible based on other month data.</p> <p>Sites in census area between 40-50% of program income levels.</p> <p>Sites with documented need based on current unemployment rates.</p>	
<p>#3 Meal Pattern Allowances: With state agency approval an SFA could apply when known food product shortages are known and still claim the meal for reimbursement.</p>	<p>Submitted 3/6/2020 Nationwide Waiver Issued 3/25/2020</p>	<p>See Meal Pattern Waiver above.</p>	<p>See Meal Pattern Waiver above.</p>
<p>#4 Meal Service at School Locations: SFSP and SSO meal site flexibility to operate at a school site when school buildings are closed due to COVID-19 precautions.</p>	<p>Submitted 3/9/2020 Issued 3/10/2020 Effective Date</p>		
<p>#5 Continuation of NSBP_NSLP for Distance Learning: Permit schools providing online or distance learning during school dismissal to provide breakfast and lunch meals through NSBP and NSLP.</p>	<p>Submitted 3/12/2020</p>	<p>Waiver no longer needed after USDA guidance.</p>	
<p>#6 NSBP_NSLP_SSO_CACFP_SFSP Meal Service Times: SFAs would</p>	<p>Submitted 3/16/2020 Nationwide Waiver Issued 3/20/20</p>	<p>See Nationwide Mealtime Waiver above.</p>	<p>See Nationwide Mealtime Waiver above.</p>

be able to request a meal period outside of the regulatory meal period times.			
#7 One Utah_Eligibility for Emergency Sites	Submitted 4/5/20		
#8 Non-Area Eligible Sites_At Risk Afterschool Meals	Submitted 4/5/20		

USDA FNS Policy Guidance and Memorandums

Child Nutrition: Questions and Answers related to COVID-19

SP08-SFSP04-2020, Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks, issued 3/6/2020

SP08-SFSP04-2020 A1, Questions and Answers: Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during COVID-19 Outbreaks

SP 11-2020, CACFP 06-2020, SFSP 05-2020, [Questions and Answers related to the Child Nutrition Program Monitoring and Reporting Nationwide Waivers](#), issued 4/09/2020

SP 12-2020, [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program during COVID19](#), 4/11/2020

SP 13-2020, [Child Nutrition Program Nationwide Waivers: Questions and Answers](#), 4/13/2020

SP 14-2020, [Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks: Questions and Answers #3](#), 4/13/2020