Summary of COVID-19 Child Nutrition Program Response Nationwide Waivers & Memos

This resource briefly describes all nationwide waivers and guidance memoranda released by the USDA in response to the coronavirus. Due to the number of extensions, this resource begins with waivers listed by expiration date and then all guidance memoranda by topic and date; the waiver or memo name links to description of the latest version. Next, the table lists waivers and memoranda in order of number and release date. The waiver or memo number in the table links to the USDA landing page for the waiver.

This was last updated on 4/21/2021.

See the USDA FNS website for all nationwide waivers and guidance memoranda. See the end of this document for a glossary of acronyms and terms.

State agencies are eligible to use all nationwide waivers without application, but they must still elect to be subject to the waiver by notifying their USDA Regional Office. These waivers do not apply to all operators automatically -- state agencies must opt in and provide information to operators before operators can implement the waiver. Please contact your state agency for more information about these and other state-requested waivers.

Waivers in Effect for SFSP, SSO, and NSLP until June 30, 2021

- Allow SFSP and SSO Operations through School Year 2020-2021 (#56 & #59)
- Allow Reimbursement for Meals Served Prior to Notification of Approval and Provide Flexibility for Pre-Approval Visits in the SFSP (#57 & #69)
- Food Service Management Contract Duration in the NSLP and SFSP (#19 & #71)
- Meal Pattern Flexibility in the SFSP & SSO (#4, #13, #24, #26, #38, #45, #53, #63; extended through Sept. 30, 2021 for SSO only)

Waivers in Effect for Summer 2021 Operations (through September 30, 2021)

- Non-congregate Feeding in the SFSP & SSO (#2, #24, #44, #54, #61 & #75)
- Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children (#5, #25, #47, #55, #62 & #76)
- Meal Service Time Flexibilities in the SFSP and SSO (#17, #50, #66 & #78)
- Meal Pattern Flexibility in the SFSP & SSO (#4, #13, #24, #26, #38, #45, #53, #63 & #74; #74 for SSO only – SFSP waiver expires June 30, 2021)
- Area Eligibility Waiver Extensions (#32, #46, #52, #60 & #77)
- Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites in the SFSP and NSLP SSO (#14, #48, #64 & #80)
- Waiver of the First Week Site Visit Requirement in the SFSP (#15, #49, #65 & #81)
- Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities in the SFSP (#16, #51, #67 & #79)
- Allow Sponsors that Successfully Participated in the SFSP in FY 2019 to Operate as Experienced Sponsors in FY 2021 (#83)
- Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP Sponsors (#10, #30 & #42)
- Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP State Agencies (#11, #31 & #43)
Waivers in Effect for SSO, NSLP, SBP, and CACFP for SY 2021-2022 (through June 30, 2022)

- **Allow Schools to Utilize the Seamless Summer Options through SY 2021-2022** (#85)
- **Allow SFSP Reimbursement Rates for SSO Meals in SY 2021-2022** (#86)
- **Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs** (#2, #24, #33, #87)
- **Meal Service Time Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs** (#1 & #17, #34, #88)
- **Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children** (#5 & #25, #35 & #89)
- **Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility in the School Meals Programs and CACFP** (#90 & #91 respectively)
  - Previously **Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs** (#4, #13, #24, #26, #36 & #70)
- **Offer Versus Serve Flexibility for Senior High Schools in the NSLP** (#37 & #92)
- **Area Eligibility in the Afterschool Programs and for Family Day Care Home Providers** (#93)
  - Previously **Area Eligibility for CACFP At-Risk Afterschool** (#58 & #68)

Monitoring Waivers in Effect until 30 Days After the End of the Public Health Emergency

- **Onsite Monitoring Requirements for CACFP Sponsors** (#39 & #96)
  - Previously **Monitoring Requirements for CACFP Sponsors** (#7 & #27)
- **Onsite Monitoring Requirements for CACFP State Agencies** (#8, #28, #40 & #95)
- **Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs** (#9, #29, #41 & #94)

Deadline & Deadline Extension Waivers

- **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Deadlines** (#6 & #82)
- **60 Day Reporting Requirements for January and February 2020** (#12)
- **Deadline Extension for Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments in the NSLP and SBP** (#18)
- **FFCRA Opt-In Waiver for SY2020- 2021 NSLP USDA Foods Entitlement Calculations**
- **FFCRA Opt-In Waiver for SY2021-2022 NSLP USDA Foods Entitlement Calculations**
- **Selected Child Nutrition Program State Agency Reporting Requirements**

Expired Waivers

- **Waiver of the Activity Requirement in Afterschool Care Child Nutrition Programs** (#3) *(expired 6/30/20)*
- **Extend Unanticipated School Closure Operations through June 30, 2020** (#21) *(expired 6/30/20)*
- **Waiver of Annual Review Requirements for State Agencies in the CACFP** (#20) *(expired 9/30/20)*
Guidance Memoranda and Q&As (with issue date)

- COVID-19 SFSP and SSO Meal Delivery Using Existing Authority (3/9/20)
- Questions and Answers Related to the Child Nutrition Program Monitoring and Reporting Nationwide Waivers (4/9/20)
- Child Nutrition Program Nationwide Waivers: Questions and Answers (4/11/20)
- Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks: Questions and Answers #3 (4/11/20)
- Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks: Questions and Answers #4 (4/21/20)
- SFSP and SSO Nationwide Waivers – Questions and Answers (5/19/20)
- Questions and Answers on the Nationwide Waiver to Extend Unanticipated School Closure Operations through June 30, 2020 (5/29/20)
- Answers Related to FSMC Contract Extensions and Allowable Costs During the Pandemic (6/3/20)
- Questions and Answers for the Child Nutrition Programs during School Year 2020-21 #5 (8/21/20)
- Questions and Answers Relating to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP and SSO Operations through December 2020 (9/11/20)
- Questions and Answers Relating to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP and SSO Operations through SY 2020-2021 – EXTENSION – #2 (10/14/20)
- Questions and Answers Relating to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP and SSO Operations through SY 2020-2021 – Q&As #3 (11/2/20)
- Questions and Answers Relating to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP and SSO Operations through SY 2020-2021 – Q&As #4 (1/5/21)
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program During COVID-19 (4/9/20)
- FFVP During COVID-19: Questions & Answers #2 (4/19/20)
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Operations for SY 2020-2021 During COVID-19 (8/21/20)
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Operations for SY 2020-2021 during COVID-19 (10/23/20)
- Child Nutrition Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Programs: State Agency Implementation Plan Template and Q&A Guidance (3/15/21)
- Reimbursement for Meals and Snacks Served to Young Adults in the Child and Adult Care Food Program: Implementation Guidance for State Agencies (4/9/21)
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<th>Waiver or Memo #</th>
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| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #1 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Service Time Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs | NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP | March 20, 2020 | June 30, 2020 (Extended to June 2021 (NSLP, SBP, CACFP and SFSP/SSO)) | • Provides flexibility for serving times.  
• Allows for serving multiple meals for the same day at one time. With further clarification, this includes meals for multiple days at the same time. | Operators must still establish meal service times or delivery times. |
| N/A (Q&A) | COVID-19 SFSP and SSO Meal Delivery Using Existing Authority | SFSP & SSO | N/A | | • Sets guidelines & restrictions around home delivery  
• Clarifies that meals can be served through SFSP/SSO during spring break if break is postponed or cancelled. | Parents must consent in writing and verify address before delivery starts.  
Children not need to be present for delivery; no one needs to be present for delivery of shelf-stable food.  
See the Q&A on the Extension of Unanticipated School Closure Operations for guidance on who can operate home deliveries. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #3 | Nationwide Waiver of the Activity Requirement in Afterschool Care Child Nutrition Programs | NSLP Afterschool Snacks & CACFP At-Risk Afterschool | March 20, 2020 | June 30, 2020 (EXPIRED) | • Eliminates need for supervised enrichment programming. | Allows CACFP At-Risk Afterschool sites to function similar to SFSP open sites. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #4 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs | NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP | March 25, 2020 | April 30, 2020 (Extended to June 2021 (NSLP, SBP, CACFP and SFSP/SSO)) | • Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components. | Operators must get advance approval from their state agency.  
State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis.  
USDA instructs states to consider if the request is due to supply issues. |
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| **COVID-19:** Child Nutrition Response #5 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children | NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP | March 25, 2020 | June 30, 2020 (Extended to June 2021 (NSLP, SBP, CACFP and SFSP/SSO)) | • Waives the requirement that meals are served directly to the eligible child.  
• Allows parents or guardians to pick up meals for their child. | States need to ensure integrity and are instructed to work with operators on ways to verify adults have eligible children and ensure that duplicate meals are not served. |
| **COVID-19:** Child Nutrition Response #6 | Nationwide Waiver of Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Deadlines | NLSP & SBP | March 25, 2020 | August 31, 2020 (SY21-22 Deadlines Extended) | • Extends deadlines for various tasks within the CEP data release and election process. | ISPs may be calculated based on data drawn through June 30, 2020.  
Deadline to declare intent to elect CEP is now August 31, 2020. |
| **COVID-19:** Child Nutrition Response #7 | Nationwide Waiver of Monitoring Requirements for CACFP Sponsors | CACFP | March 27, 2020 | June 30, 2020 (Extended to Sept. 2021) | • Allows sponsors to monitor facilities two times (instead of three) this fiscal year, and only one must be unannounced.  
• Waives the requirement for at least one unannounced review to include the observation of a meal service.  
• Waives the requirement that no more than six months elapse between reviews.  
• Allows new facility reviews to be done by desk audit. | Available to sponsors that elect to be subject to the waiver; it is our understanding that sponsors do not need their state to opt-in for them.  
New facility reviews must still be done within the facility’s first four weeks of operation. |
<p>| <strong>COVID-19:</strong> Child Nutrition Response #8 | Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for CACFP State Agencies | CACFP | March 27, 2020 | June 30, 2020 (Extended to Sept. 2021 Other flexibilities through Sept. 2020) | • Waives the in-person component of the state agency’s required monitoring activities. | States must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits. |</p>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #9</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP, SSO</td>
<td>March 27, 2020</td>
<td>June 30, 2020 (Extended to June 2021)</td>
<td>• Waives the in-person component of the state agency’s and SFA’s required monitoring activities. • Allows states to postpone required reviews of SFAs that are closed and request an extension on their review cycle.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #10</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP Sponsoring Organizations</td>
<td>SFSP</td>
<td>March 27, 2020</td>
<td>June 30, 2020 (Extended to Sept. 2021)</td>
<td>• Waives the requirement for an in-person site visit during the first week of a site’s operation and the review of the site’s food service within the first four weeks of operation. • Sponsors must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits. • For sites that will operate during summer 2020, sponsors can postpone visits until then.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #11</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP State Agencies</td>
<td>SFSP</td>
<td>March 27, 2020</td>
<td>June 30, 2020 (Extended to Sept. 2021)</td>
<td>• Waives the in-person component of the state agency’s required monitoring activities. • States must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits. • For sponsors that will operate during summer 2020, states can postpone visits until then. • Reminds states that pre-operational visits may be waived for sponsors operating during school closures and that SFSP reviews are not required in the same year as a satisfactory NSLP review as long as the same person runs both programs.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #12</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver of 60 Day Reporting Requirements for January and February 2020</td>
<td>All: NSLP, SBP, SFSP, SSO, CACFP, SMP</td>
<td>April 1, 2020</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>• Extends the deadline to submit claims for reimbursement for January 2020 and February 2020 by 30 days each. • This now allows 90 days rather than 60 days for submission of reports. • States and operators are encouraged to meet the original deadline wherever possible.</td>
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| CACFP 06, SFSP 05, SP 11-2020 | Questions and Answers Related to the Child Nutrition Program Monitoring and Reporting Nationwide Waivers | NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP                                                       | April 9, 2020 | N/A      | • Clarifies COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response waivers #7-#12, including what elements of reviews can be done off-site and ways to assess elements usually observed on site.  
• Provides guidance on CACFP attendance records.                                                                                           | • Per #7, program operators in states that elect to use these waivers are **not** required to submit individual waiver requests but advance notification may be required.  
• State agencies may approve new SFSP and CACFP sponsors through off-site pre-approval visits.                                                                                                            |
| SP 12-2020      | Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program During COVID-19                            | FFVP                                                                             | April 9, 2020 | N/A      | • Clarifies that participating schools may serve fresh produce through FFVP in a non-congregate setting.  
• Clarifies that produce may be served outside the typical school day, at whatever time works best, including alongside other meals being distributed.  
• This guidance applies to produce already in stock as well as produce ordered for distribution during closures.                                                                                   | • No waiver is required for non-congregate service outside of the school day or alongside other meals.  
• FFVP produce may **not** be given to parents without their child present.  
• Produce may be distributed to children even if they are not enrolled at the participating school.  
• Produce may be distributed for up to a week at a time.  
• Nutrition education is **not** required.  
• FFVP produce may **not** be used as meal components.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| SP 13-2020      | Child Nutrition Program Nationwide Waivers: Questions and Answers            | NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP                                                       | April 11, 2020| N/A      | • Provides clarification on waivers #1-#3, including how states elect to be subject to the waiver as well as record keeping and reporting.  
• Clarifies that CACFP operators may distribute meals for more than one day at a time.  
• Allows operators to serve items in bulk if there are instructions on portions and the items can be easily separated into meals with minimal preparation.                                                                 | • Per #7, program operators in states that elect to use these three waivers are **not** required to submit individual waiver requests, but advance notification may be required.  
• Confirms that meals may only be distributed at sites approved by the state agency.  
• Confirms that aside from SFSP and SSO open sites and CACFP At-Risk sites, operators may only serve enrolled participants and claim meals at the appropriate rates.                                                                 |
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| SP 14-2020      | Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks: Questions and Answers #3 | NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP | April 11, 2020 | N/A         | • Provides clarification on various elements of program operations.  
• Clarifies that the requirement for SFSP camp sites to provide programming is still in effect, but camp sites with appropriate safety measures may be approved to operate and serve non-congregate meals.  
• Clarifies that advance funds may be paid to SFSP or SSO operators serving meals during unanticipated closures.  
• Clarifies that all SFSP and SSO operators may, with state agency approval, serve meals during weekends, holidays, and breaks within the year (like spring break) without needing a waiver from the USDA. | • Notes that state agencies may approve operators to serve alternate forms of milk and may approve SSO operators to only serve one type of milk (instead of a variety) without needing a waiver from the USDA.  
• Provides guidelines for home delivery through the CACFP, similar to guidelines offered for home delivery through SFSP or SSO.  
• Confirms that school food authorities and sponsors approved to operate CACFP At-Risk as well as SFSP or SSO may operate both concurrently, at the same or different sites, as long as different meals are served through each program and daily meals per child maximums in each program are followed.  
• Notes that states are still expected to provide public notification of all sites and to make accommodates who have limited English proficiency, need language assistance, or have other special needs. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #13 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs – EXTENSION | NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP | April 21, 2020 | May 31, 2020 | • Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components. | • Operators must get advance approval from their state agency.  
• State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis.  
• USDA instructs states to consider if the request is due to supply issues.  
• Elections and approvals under COVID-19 #4 may continue without further action. |
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<td>COVID–19: Child Nutrition Response #14</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites in the SFSP and SSO</td>
<td>SSO, SFSP</td>
<td>April 21, 2020</td>
<td>September 30, 2020</td>
<td>• Allows closed enrolled sites to determine site eligibility through area eligibility (instead of collecting income eligibility applications).</td>
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| COVID–19: Child Nutrition Response #15 | Nationwide Waiver of First Week Site Visits in the SFSP | SFSP | April 21, 2020 | September 30, 2020 | • Waives the requirement that SFSP sponsors visit each of their sites at least once during their first week of operation. | • These flexibilities do not end as soon as the public health emergency ends. • State agencies that have already individual requested and received traditional SFSP waivers may elect to be covered by these nationwide waivers during the COVID-19 emergency, in place of their traditional waivers. 
• FNS will continue to process requests that have been submitted for the traditional SFSP waivers for summer 2020. Approvals of the traditional waivers will be effective beginning October 1, 2020. 
• The traditional SFSP waivers will remain in effect through April 30, 2022, or until FNS publishes a final regulation that supersedes the approval, whichever comes first. Therefore, there is no need for State agencies to withdraw those requests or resubmit a request. |
<p>| COVID–19: Child Nutrition Response #16 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities in the SFSP | SFSP | April 21, 2020 | September 30, 2020 | • Waives the limitation on the use of Offer versus Serve (OVS) to SFAs. • Allows the use of OVS by both non-SFA and SFA sponsors in good standing. • Provides details of SFSP OVS meal service parameters. | |
| COVID–19: Child Nutrition Response #17 | Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions in the SFSP and SSO | SSO, SFSP | April 21, 2020 | September 30, 2020 | • Waives Federal rules on the amount of time that must elapse between the beginning of one meal and the beginning of the next, and the duration of a meal service. • Waives meal service time parameters for SSO. • Sponsors are still required to establish meal service times for each site. | |</p>
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<td>CACFP 09, SFSP 08, SP15-2020</td>
<td>Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks: Questions and Answers #4</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP</td>
<td>April 21, 2020</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>• Allows Head Start programs to deliver meals to enrolled children previously receiving CACFP or NSLP meals.</td>
<td>• CACFP sites that have closed may operate as SFSP sites under an SFSP sponsor with state approval. CACFP sites that are still open may also be approved as SFSP sites under an approved SFSP sponsor if they serve a separate group of kids. The non-discrimination statement must still appear on informational materials. Operators must still make meal accommodations for participants with disabilities.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #18</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver of Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments in the NSLP and SBP</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP</td>
<td>April 23, 2020</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>• Extends the deadline to complete the triennial assessment of compliance with school wellness policies from June 30, 2020 to June 30, 2021.</td>
<td>• In states that elect to be subject to this waiver, LEAs taking advantage of the new deadline must notify their state agency by June 30, 2020. LEAs that take advantage of the new deadline, the next triennial assessment of compliance must be completed by June 30, 2024.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #19</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver of Food Service Management Contract Duration in the NSLP and SFSP</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP</td>
<td>April 24, 2020</td>
<td>September 30, 2020</td>
<td>• Waives FSMC contract duration and extension limits.</td>
<td>• Allows FSMC contracts that may expire on or around June 30, 2020 to be extended through SY2020-2021 (to June 30, 2021) using emergency non-competitive procurement. Contracts negotiated or extended through emergency procurement may not be renewed.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #20</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver of Annual Review Requirements for State Agencies in the CACFP</td>
<td>CACFP</td>
<td>April 24, 2020</td>
<td>September 30, 2020</td>
<td>• Waives all CACFP monitoring requirements for state agencies included in Section 17(d)(2)(C) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and in the regulations at 7 CFR 226.6(m)(6) and 226.6(m)(6)(i) through (ii).</td>
<td>• This broadens COVID-19 #8 in recognition of closures and other barriers to completing required administrative reviews. USDA encourages states to prioritize next year the institutions scheduled to be reviewed this year. States must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #21</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Extend Unanticipated School Closure Operations through June 30, 2020</td>
<td>SSO, SFSP (later clarified to apply to CACFP At-Risk)</td>
<td>April 27, 2020</td>
<td>June 30, 2020</td>
<td>• Waives the limit on unanticipated school closure operations to October through April, allowing operators to continue current operations through June 30, 2020. • Waives the federal application deadline of June 15, 2020 for SFSP and SSO operators.</td>
<td>Operators may continue current operations regardless of school closure status. States and operators may resume usual SFSP or SSO operations before June 30, 2020. States may set their own application deadline.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #22</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs - EXTENSION</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP</td>
<td>May 14, 2020</td>
<td>August 31, 2020</td>
<td>Extended to June 2021 (NSLP, SBP, CACFP and SFSP/SSO) • Permits consumption of meals off-site and outside of group settings.</td>
<td>Allows for serving models like grab-n-go, curbside pick-up, mobile/bus routes, and home delivery.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #23</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Service Time Flexibility in the NSLP, SBP, and CACFP</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP, CACFP</td>
<td>May 14, 2020</td>
<td>August 31, 2020</td>
<td>Extended to June 2021 (NSLP, SBP, CACFP) • Allows for distribution of multiple meals at the same time, including meals for more than one day at a time.</td>
<td>Extends COVID-19 #1. SFSP and SSO meal service time flexibility was extended to September 30, 2020 through COVID-19 #17. Operators must still establish service or delivery times. This flexibility does not end when the public health emergency ends.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #24</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs – EXTENSION 2</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP</td>
<td>May 14, 2020</td>
<td>June 30, 2020</td>
<td>Extended to June 2021 (NSLP, SBP, CACFP and SFSP/SSO) • Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components.</td>
<td>Operators must get advance approval from their state agency. State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis. USDA instructs states to consider if the request is due to supply issues. Elections and approvals under COVID-19 #4 or #13 may continue without further action. Available to operators transitioning from unanticipated school closure to traditional summer operations prior to expiration date.</td>
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<td>Waiver or Memo #</td>
<td>Waiver Name</td>
<td>Programs Covered</td>
<td>Release Date</td>
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<td>What It Does</td>
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| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #25 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children – EXTENSION | NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP | May 14, 2020 | August 31, 2020 | • Allows parents or guardians to pick up meals for their child.  
• Allows for distributing meals to a guardian of an adult participant in the CACFP without the participant present. | States need to ensure integrity and are instructed to work with operators on ways to verify adults have eligible children or adult participants and ensure that duplicate meals are not served. |
| SP 18, SFSP 10-2020 | SFSP and SSO Nationwide Waivers – Questions and Answers | SSO, SFSP | May 19, 2020 | N/A | • Provides clarification and guidance related to nationwide waivers COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #14 to #17.  
• Confirms that operators may request waivers if their state agency does not opt in to the nationwide waiver or request its own statewide waiver.  
• Allows OVS for non-congregate SFSP meals if sites implement it safely and correctly.  
• Confirms that the meal service time waiver, combined with the non-congregate waiver, allows for multiple meals to be distributed at the same time. | Camps may not utilize the waiver allowing closed enrolled sites to use area eligibility in lieu of applications.  
The first week site visit waiver only applies to sites that successfully participated in the SFSP the previous year as well as CACFP and NSLP sponsors in good standing.  
The OVS waiver may not be used to circumvent the meal pattern; all components must be offered.  
Although the meal service time waiver does not expire until September 30, 2020, the non-congregate waiver expires on August 30, 2020. |
| SP 19-2020 | FFVP During COVID-19: Questions & Answers #2 | FFVP | May 19, 2020 | N/A | • Directs SFAs to request a waiver to distribute FFVP produce at locations other than participating elementary schools.  
• Confirms that funds may be reallocated from participating schools that are not distributing meals to those that are.  
• Allows schools that participated in 2019-2020 and participate again in 2020-2021 to use the signatures on file if none of the signatories has changed. | Confirms that FFVP produce may be distributed or delivered to children of all ages, not just students at participating elementary schools.  
Participating elementary schools that are not distributing meals may not use FFVP funds to purchase produce to donate to other sites.  
Participating schools that are not selected to participate in 2020-2021 may not retain funds for use next school year; they must be returned.  
States may not extend the deadline to obligate funds but may extend some reporting deadlines. |
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<th>Waiver or Memo #</th>
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<th>Notes</th>
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| CACFP 11, SFSP 11, SP 20-2020 | Questions and Answers on the Nationwide Waiver to Extend Unanticipated School Closure Operations through June 30, 2020 | SSO, SFSP, CACFP | May 29, 2020 | N/A | • Reviews the requirements and elements of the law addressed by the waiver.  
• Clarifies that COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response #21 also allows CACFP At-Risk Afterschool operations to continue for as long as unanticipated school closure operations continue, regardless of the school calendar.  
• Confirms that other waivers and flexibilities that have not yet expired still apply to SFSP and SSO operators after they transition to summer operations.  
• Allows non-profit SFSP sponsors to initiate home delivered meals if the public in eligible areas are notified and permitted to sign up.  
• As with all nationwide waivers, states may or may not opt in to this waiver.  
• If a state does not opt in to COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response #21, CACFP At-Risk Afterschool operations must end as soon as the planned school year ends, and programs must transition to usual summer options through SFSP or SSO, including the completion of required application materials.  
• SFSP and SSO sponsors delivering meals to homes should not treat each home as a site (in the same way that stops along a mobile route are). They should comply with the guidelines in the meal delivery Q&A.  
• Other streamlining measures and flexibilities for SFAs and CACFP At-Risk sponsors transitioning to summer meals program operations are still available. | |
| CACFP 12, SFSP 12, SP 21-2020 | Questions and Answers Related to FSMC Contract Extensions and Allowable Costs During the Pandemic | NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP | June 3, 2020 | N/A | • Provides guidance on:  
  o Maintenance fees charged by a FSMC  
  o Implications of additional costs to fixed-price contracts  
  o Paying staff who are not currently working and providing hazard pay  
  o Non-refundable costs for cancelled events & activities  
  o Provides guidance to SFAs on documentation needed regarding health inspections.  
  • Confirms that PPE, bottled water, and packaging and delivery costs are allowable.  
  • CACFP was not covered by the FSMC contract extension waiver because it does not have contract duration limits like other programs.  
  • For guidance on extending contracts other than FSMC contracts, consult state and local procurement standards.  
  • Although meal packaging and delivery costs are allowable, there is no additional funding available for these costs.  
  • State administrative expense (SAE) funds may not be used for local-level costs. | |
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #26</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs – EXTENSION 3</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP</td>
<td>June 8, 2020</td>
<td>July 31, 2020 (Extended to June 2021)</td>
<td>- Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components.</td>
<td>Operators must get advance approval from their state agency. State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis. USDA instructs states to consider if the request is due to supply issues. Elections and approvals under COVID-19 #4, #13 or #24 continue without further action.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #27</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver of Monitoring Requirements for CACFP Sponsors – EXTENSION</td>
<td>CACFP</td>
<td>June 8, 2020</td>
<td>August 31, 2020 (Extended to Sept. 2021)</td>
<td>- Allows sponsors to monitor facilities two times (instead of three) this fiscal year, and only one must be unannounced.</td>
<td>Available to sponsors that elect to be subject to the waiver; it is our understanding that sponsors do not need their state to opt-in for them. Elections and approvals under the original waiver may continue without further action. New facility reviews must still be done within the facility’s first four weeks of operation.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #28</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for CACFP State Agencies – EXTENSION</td>
<td>CACFP</td>
<td>June 8, 2020</td>
<td>August 31, 2020 (Extended to Sept. 2021)</td>
<td>- Waives the in-person component of the state agency’s required monitoring activities.</td>
<td>Elections and approvals under the original waiver may continue without further action. States must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #29</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs – EXTENSION</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP, SSO</td>
<td>June 8, 2020</td>
<td>August 31, 2020 (Extended to June 2021)</td>
<td>- Waives the in-person component of the state agency’s and SFA’s required monitoring activities. - Allows states to postpone required reviews of SFAs that are closed and request an extension on their review cycle as needed.</td>
<td>Elections and approvals under the original waiver may continue without further action.</td>
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<td>Waiver or Memo #</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #30</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP Sponsoring Organizations – EXTENSION</td>
<td>SFSP</td>
<td>June 8, 2020</td>
<td>August 31, 2020</td>
<td>• Waives the requirement for an in-person site visit during the first week of a site’s operation and the review of the site’s food service within the first four weeks of operation.</td>
<td>• Elections and approvals under the original waiver may continue without further action. • Sponsors must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits. • COVID-19 #15 waived the first week site visit requirement for SFSP sites and sponsors that meet certain criteria.</td>
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #31</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP State Agencies – EXTENSION</td>
<td>SFSP</td>
<td>June 8, 2020</td>
<td>August 31, 2020</td>
<td>• Waives the in-person component of the state agency’s required monitoring activities.</td>
<td>• Elections and approvals under the original waiver may continue without further action. • States must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits. • Reminds states that pre-operational visits may be waived for sponsors operating during school closures and that SFSP reviews are not required in the same year as a satisfactory NSLP review as long as the same person runs both programs.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #32</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers</td>
<td>SSO, SFSP</td>
<td>June 10, 2020</td>
<td>August 31, 2020</td>
<td>• Extends all individually-issued state waivers allowing SFSP and SSO sponsors in good standing to operate open summer meals sites located in areas that do not meet the definition of “areas in which poor economic conditions exist,” or areas where more than half of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.</td>
<td>• States must notify USDA if they elect to utilize this extension. • This applies to all sites approved under the previous waiver and plan. • States must continue to work with sponsors and operators to target benefits to children in need. • USDA reserves the right to withdraw approval based on funding availability.</td>
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| N/A             | FFCRA Opt-In Waiver for SY2020-2021 NSLP USDA Foods Entitlement Calculations | NSLP           | June 16, 2020  | N/A              | • Allows SDAs to keep their preliminary SY2020-2021 USDA Foods entitlement, based on SY2018-2019 lunches served.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | • SDAs must notify the USDA if they plan to opt in by September 15, 2020.  
• Allows SDAs to forgo the usual November reconciliation in 2020 that would adjust the preliminary entitlement to reflect SY2019-2020 lunches served.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #33 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs – EXTENSION #2 | NSLP, SBP, CACFP | June 25, 2020  | June 30, 2021    | • Permits consumption of meals off-site and outside of group settings.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | • This allows for serving models like grab-n-go, curbside pick-up, mobile or bus routes, and home delivery.  
• Partial or complete building closures that are planned will not count as unanticipated school closures during SY2020-2021 and may not be claimed through SFSP or SSO.  
  ○ **Note: This provision was superseded by COVID-19 #56 & #59.**                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
• Allows for serving multiple meals for the same day at one time and also meals for multiple days at the same time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | • Operators must still establish meal service times or delivery times.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #35 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children – EXTENSION #2 | NSLP, SBP, CACFP | June 25, 2020  | June 30, 2021    | • Waives the requirement that meals are served directly to the eligible child or participant.  
• Allows parents or guardians to pick up meals for their child.  
• Allows for distributing meals to a guardian of an adult participant in the CACFP without the participant present.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | • States need to ensure integrity and are instructed to work with operators on ways to verify adults have eligible children or participants and ensure that duplicate meals are not served.                                                                                                   |
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| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #36 | Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs – EXTENSION #4         | NSLP, SBP, CACFP   | June 25, 2020 | June 30, 2021            | • Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components.                                                                                           | • Operators must get advance approval from their state agency.  
• State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis and must inform their regional office when, where, and for which components the waiver is in effect.  
• USDA instructs states to consider if the request is due to supply issues. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #37 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow OVS Flexibility for Senior High Schools in the NSLP for SY 2020–2021 | NSLP               | June 25, 2020 | June 30, 2021            | • Eliminates the requirement for senior high schools participating in the NSLP to implement OVS.                                                                                                                              | • This is intended to make it easier for schools to serve pre-plated meals in the classroom if needed or to offer multi-day meal kits to students engaged in distance learning. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #38 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the SFSP - EXTENSION 5 | SFSP               | July 30, 2020 | August 31, 2020          | • Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components.                                                                                           | • Operators must get advance approval from their state agency.  
• State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis.  
• USDA instructs states to consider if the request is due to supply issues.  
• Elections and approvals under COVID-19 #4, #13, #24 or #26 continue without further action.                                                                 |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #39 | Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for CACFP Sponsors          | CACFP              | August 4, 2020 | September 30, 2021       | • Waives the in-person component of a sponsor’s required monitoring activities.                                                                                                                                             | • Unlike previous monitoring waivers for CACFP sponsors, this does not waive other monitoring requirements (like the annual number or how many must be unannounced).  
• Sponsors must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits. |
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- States must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits.  
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #41 | Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs – Revised – EXTENSION 2 | NSLP (SSO), SBP  | August 4, 2021 | June 30, 2021 (Extended to 30 days after the end of the public health emergency) | - Waives the onsite monitoring requirement for state agencies and SFAs.  
- Waives the requirement to complete the onsite portion of an administrative review within the same school year that the review was begun.                                                                 | - Applies to both state agencies and SFAs that elect to use it without further application.  
- State agencies that choose to conduct the onsite portion at a later time should submit an amendment to any previously provided documentation when significant changes or updates occur. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #42 | Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for SFSP Sponsoring Organizations – EXTENSION 2 | SFSP             | August 4, 2020 | September 30, 2021 | - Waives the requirement for an in-person site visit during the first week of a site’s operation and the review of the site’s food service within the first four weeks of operation.                                                                 | - Elections and approvals under the [original waiver](http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/resource/summary-current-covid-19-child-nutrition-program-response-nationwide-waivers) or its [extension](http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/resource/summary-current-covid-19-child-nutrition-program-response-nationwide-waivers) may continue without further action.  
- Sponsors must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits.  
- States must continue to ensure integrity to the maximum extent practicable through remote activities, such as through desk audits. |
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #44</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the SFSP – Extension 3</td>
<td>SFSP</td>
<td>August 20, 2020</td>
<td>September 30, 2020 (Extended to June 2021)</td>
<td>• Permits consumption of meals off-site and outside of group settings.</td>
<td>• This allows for serving models like grab-n-go, curbside pick-up, mobile or bus routes, and home delivery.</td>
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<td>• Partial or complete building closures that are planned will not count as unanticipated school closures during SY2020-2021 and may not be claimed through SFSP or SSO. (\text{Note: This provision was superseded by COVID-19 #56 &amp; #59.})</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #45</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the SFSP - Extension 6</td>
<td>SFSP</td>
<td>August 20, 2020</td>
<td>September 30, 2020 (Extended to June 2021)</td>
<td>• Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components.</td>
<td>• Operators must get advance approval from their state agency.</td>
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<td>• State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis and must inform their regional office when, where, and for which components the waiver is in effect.</td>
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<td>• USDA instructs states to consider if the request is due to supply issues.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #46</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers – EXTENSION</td>
<td>SFSP, SSO</td>
<td>August 20, 2020</td>
<td>September 30, 2020 (Extended to June 2021)</td>
<td>• Extends all individually-issued state waivers allowing SFSP and SSO sponsors in good standing to operate open summer meals sites located in areas that do not meet the definition of “areas in which poor economic conditions exist,” where more than half of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.</td>
<td>• States must notify USDA if they elect to utilize this extension.</td>
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<td>• This applies to all sites approved under the previous waiver and plan.</td>
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<td>• States must continue to work with sponsors and operators to target benefits to children in need.</td>
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<td>• USDA reserves the right to withdraw approval based on funding availability.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #47</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children – Extension 3</td>
<td>SFSP</td>
<td>August 20, 2020</td>
<td>September 30, 2020 (Extended to June 2021)</td>
<td>• Waives the requirement that meals are served directly to the eligible child. • Allows parents or guardians to pick up meals for their child.</td>
<td>• States need to ensure integrity and are instructed to work with operators on ways to verify adults have eligible children and ensure that duplicate meals are not served.</td>
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| SP 23-2020     | Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Operations for SY 2020-21 during COVID-19 | FFVP             | August 21, 2020 | N/A      | - Confirms that serving produce through FFVP is permitted, without a waiver, outside of the school day, along with other meals, in a non-congregate setting, and without an educational component.  
- Reiterates that parent or guardian pick-up of FFVP produce and serving FFVP produce at sites other than the approved elementary school(s) do require waivers.  
- Reminds state agencies that they can provide flexibility on reporting deadlines as long as all federal reporting and fund recovery deadlines are met. | - Schools that participated in FFVP during SY 19-20 that do not participate in SY 20-21 cannot use SY 19-20 funds after July 1, 2020. Unexpended funds must be returned to the state.  
- State agencies and SFAs must still obligate all FY20 funds by September 30, 2020. |
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<tr>
<td>CACFP 13,</td>
<td>Questions and Answers for the Child Nutrition Programs during School Year</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP,</td>
<td>August 21,</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>• Provides guidance related to:</td>
<td>• Schools and CACFP providers are not obligated to utilize flexibilities like the non-congregate waiver, but if they do, they must make meals for all enrolled children, including remote learners and those who are not physically present.</td>
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<td>SFSP 13,</td>
<td>2020-21 #5</td>
<td>CACFP</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<td>o School reopening, including virtual schools and remote learning</td>
<td>• If schools close unexpectedly but provide remote instruction, then those days do not count as unanticipated school closures.</td>
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<td>SP 24-2020</td>
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<td>o Four-day school weeks</td>
<td>• Students or their parents/guardians may pick up meals at any school within the SFA, but meals must be claimed correctly.</td>
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<td>o Meal distribution locations</td>
<td>• SFAs may create agreements to share data so that students could pick up meals outside their SFA.</td>
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<td>o Displaying the Justice For All civil rights poster</td>
<td>• Virtual, remote, or take-home activities like enrichment packets can fulfill the enrichment activity requirement for afterschool meals and snacks. As usual with CACFP At-Risk, activities must be available to all who receive meals, but participation is not required.</td>
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<td>o Meal patterns and meal pattern waivers</td>
<td>• States are permitted to approve meal pattern waivers related to challenges providing safe and nutritious meals; they do not have to be directly related to supply chain disruptions. This can include waivers for NSLP vegetable subgroups or age/grade group differences.</td>
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<td>o Potable water availability at breakfast &amp; lunch and for remote learners</td>
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<td>o Afterschool enrichment activities</td>
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<td>o Meals for distance learners in child care</td>
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<td>• Reiterates that planned building closures or remote learning do not qualify as unanticipated school closures, nor does delaying the start of the school year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19:</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites in</td>
<td>SFSP, SSO</td>
<td>August 31,</td>
<td>December 31,</td>
<td>• Allows closed enrolled sites to determine site eligibility through area eligibility (instead of collecting income eligibility applications).</td>
<td>• State agencies may elect to be subject to this waiver or their traditional waiver, if requested and approved. Traditional waivers will remain in effect until April 30, 2022 or until a final rule supersedes them.</td>
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<td>Child Nutrition</td>
<td>SFSP and SSO - EXTENSION</td>
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<td>Response #48</td>
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| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #49 | Nationwide Waiver to Waive First Week Site Visits in the SFSP - EXTENSION | SFSP            | August 31, 2020 | December 31, 2020 Extended to June 2021 | • Waives the requirement that SFSP sponsors visit each of their sites at least once during their first week of operation.  
  • Waiver applies to the following:  
  o Sites that successfully operated SFSP the previous year.  
  o SFSP sponsors in good standing that successfully operate the CACFP or NSLP. | State agencies may elect to be subject to this waiver or their traditional waiver, if requested and approved. Traditional waivers will remain in effect until April 30, 2022 or until a final rule supersedes them. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #50 | Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions in SFSP and SSO - EXTENSION | SFSP, SSO       | August 31, 2020 | December 31, 2020 Extended to June 2021 | • Waives Federal rules on the amount of time that must elapse between the beginning of one meal and the beginning of the next, and the duration of a meal service.  
  • Waives meal service time parameters for SSO. | Sponsors are still required to establish meal service times for each site.  
  State agencies may elect to be subject to this waiver or their traditional waiver, if requested and approved. Traditional waivers will remain in effect until April 30, 2022 or until a final rule supersedes them. |
  • Allows the use of OVS by both non-SFA and SFA sponsors in good standing. | Provides details of SFSP OVS meal service parameters.  
  State agencies may elect to be subject to this waiver or their traditional waiver, if requested and approved. Traditional waivers will remain in effect until April 30, 2022 or until a final rule supersedes them. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #52 | Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers – EXTENSION 2 | SFSP, SSO       | August 31, 2020 | December 31, 2020 Extended to June 2021 | • Extends all individually-issued state waivers allowing SFSP and SSO sponsors in good standing to operate open summer meals sites located in areas that do not meet the definition of “areas in which poor economic conditions exist,” where more than half of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. | States must notify USDA if they elect to utilize this extension.  
  This applies to all sites approved under the previous waiver and plan.  
  States must continue to work with sponsors and operators to target benefits to children in need. |
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<th>Waiver or Memo #</th>
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| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #53 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the SFSP and SSO – Extension 7 | SFSP, SSO        | August 31, 2020 | December 31, 2020 Extended to June 2021 | • Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components. | • Operators must get advance approval from their state agency.  
  • State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis and must inform their regional office when, where, and for which components the waiver is in effect. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #55 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children – Extension 4 | SFSP, SSO        | August 31, 2020 | December 31, 2020 Extended to June 2021 | • Allows parents or guardians to pick up meals for their child.                                | States need to ensure integrity & are instructed to work with operators on ways to verify adults have eligible children. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #56 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP and SSO Operations through December 2020 | SFSP, SSO        | August 31, 2020 | December 31, 2020 Extended to June 2021 | • Allows the SFSP and SSO to continue to operate after the beginning of the school year, regardless of school operating status. | Operators must get advance approval from their state agency.  
  • SFAs may choose either SFSP or SSO. This waiver does not require SFAs to transition to SFSP or SSO operations. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #57 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow Reimbursement for Meals Served Prior to Notification of Approval and Provide Flexibility for Pre-Approval Visits in the SFSP | SFSP             | Sept. 11, 2020  | December 31, 2020 Extended to June 2021 | • Permits state agencies to reimburse SFSP sponsors and sites for meals served prior to receiving written notification of approval.  
  • Allows approved SFSP sponsors to be reimbursed meals served before 8/31/20.  
  • Waives the requirement for state agencies to conduct pre-approval visits to SFSP sponsors and sites. | If a sponsor or site application is ultimately not approved by the state agency, the meals will not be eligible for retroactive reimbursement.  
  • Sponsors must still have an agreement with the state.  
  • State agencies are encouraged to streamline the application and approval process.  
  • State agencies may conduct pre-approval visits at their discretion. |
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| **CACFP 14, SFSP 14, SP 25-2020** | Questions and Answers Relating to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP and SSO Operations through December 2020 | SFSP, SSO, CACFP At-Risk | Sept. 11, 2020 | N/A | • Confirms that non-school sponsors may operate SFSP.  
• Confirms that both school and non-school sponsors may operate both summer meals and CACFP At-Risk Afterschool concurrently.  
• Reiterates the guidelines for state agencies prioritizing applications to avoid duplication of services.  
• Allows meals served through NSLP/SBP this school year before August 31 to be reimbursed through SFSP or SSO.  
• Allows SFAs to operate NSLP/SBP at some schools and SFSP or SSO at other schools.  
• Allows states agencies to amend their area eligibility waiver plan to include new areas that were not previously identified as being in need.  
• Reassures operators that USDA will provide advance notice if a shortage of funds is projected and set a date when the option for the summer meals programs will end. Meals served through the summer programs prior to that date would be reimbursed. | • State agencies have discretion on procedures to update applications but are encouraged to streamline the process as much as possible.  
◦ Sponsors must update site and operating information.  
• As noted in prior guidance, SFAs may choose to operate through NSLP/SBP instead of the summer meals programs.  
• As permitted by earlier guidance, meals may be served through SFSP or SSO on or for weekends and holidays during the school year.  
• As noted in prior guidance, schools that utilize the non-congregate waiver must make meals available to all enrolled students, not just those present in the building for fully in-person instruction or hybrid models.  
◦ Schools may utilize the non-congregate waiver for one meal but not another. Meals must only be made available to all students if the non-congregate waiver is utilized for that meal.  
• States may approve new sponsors and/or sites to operate in areas eligible under the area eligibility waiver if previously approved sponsors or sites cannot continue through December. |
| **COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #58** | Nationwide Waiver of Area Eligibility in the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Care Component | CACFP At-Risk | Sept. 18, 2020 | December 31, 2020 | • Waives the requirement that CACFP At-Risk Afterschool sites be located within the attendance zone of a school where at least half of students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. | • State agencies must have a plan for targeting benefits.  
• Aligns CACFP At-Risk Afterschool with the SFSP and SSO, which have an area eligibility waiver. |
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| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #59 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP & SSO Operations through School Year 2020-2021 – EXTENSION | SFSP, SSO | October 9, 2020 | June 30, 2021 | • Allows the SFSP and NSLP SSO to continue to operate through the school year, regardless of school operating status.  
• Supersedes Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP and SSO Operations through December 2020. | Operators must get advance approval from their state agency.  
SFAs may choose either SFSP or SSO. This waiver does not require SFAs to transition to SFSP or SSO operations. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #60 | Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers – EXTENSION 3 | SFSP, SSO | October 9, 2020 | June 30, 2021 | • Extends all individually-issued state waivers allowing SFSP and SSO sponsors in good standing to operate open summer meals sites located in areas that do not meet the definition of "areas in which poor economic conditions exist," where more than half of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. | This applies to all sites approved under the previous waiver and plan.  
States must continue to work with sponsors and operators to target benefits to children in need. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #62 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children – EXTENSION 5 | SFSP, SSO | October 9, 2020 | June 30, 2021 | • Waives the requirement that meals are served directly to the eligible child.  
• Allows parents or guardians to pick up meals for their child. | States need to ensure integrity and are instructed to work with operators on ways to verify adults have eligible children and ensure that duplicate meals are not served. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #63 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the SFSP & SSO - EXTENSION 8 | SFSP, SSO | October 9, 2020 | June 30, 2021 | • Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components. | Operators must get advance approval from their state agency.  
State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis and must inform their regional office when, where, and for which components the waiver is in effect. |
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #64</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites in the SFSP &amp; SSO – EXTENSION 2</td>
<td>SFSP, SSO</td>
<td>October 9, 2020</td>
<td>June 30, 2021</td>
<td>• Allows closed enrolled sites to determine site eligibility through area eligibility (instead of collecting income eligibility applications).</td>
<td>State agencies may elect to be subject to this waiver or their traditional waiver, if requested and approved. Traditional waivers will remain in effect until April 30, 2022 or until a final rule supersedes them.</td>
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| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #65 | Nationwide Waiver to Waive First Week Site Visits in the SFSP - EXTENSION 2 | SFSP | October 9, 2020 | June 30, 2021 | • Waives the requirement that SFSP sponsors visit each of their sites at least once during their first week of operation.  
• Waiver applies to the following:  
  o Sites that successfully operated SFSP the previous year.  
  o SFSP sponsors in good standing that successfully operate CACFP or NSLP. | State agencies may elect to be subject to this waiver or their traditional waiver, if requested and approved. Traditional waivers will remain in effect until April 30, 2022 or until a final rule supersedes them. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #66 | Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions in the SFSP & SSO – EXTENSION 2 | SFSP, SSO | October 9, 2020 | June 30, 2021 | • Waives Federal rules on the amount of time that must elapse between the beginning of one meal and the beginning of the next, and the duration of a meal service.  
• Waives meal service time parameters for SSO. | Sponsors are still required to establish meal service times for each site.  
State agencies may elect to be subject to this waiver or their traditional waiver, if requested and approved. Traditional waivers will remain in effect until April 30, 2022 or until a final rule supersedes them. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #67 | Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities in the SFSP – EXTENSION 2 | SFSP | October 9, 2020 | June 30, 2021 | • Waives the limitation on the use of Offer versus Serve (OVS) to SFAs.  
• Allows the use of OVS by both non-SFA and SFA sponsors in good standing. | Provides details of SFSP OVS meal service parameters.  
State agencies may elect to be subject to this waiver or their traditional waiver, if requested and approved. Traditional waivers will remain in effect until April 30, 2022 or until a final rule supersedes them. |
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #68</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver of Area Eligibility in the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Care Component - EXTENSION</td>
<td>CACFP At-Risk</td>
<td>October 9, 2020</td>
<td>June 30, 2021</td>
<td>• Waives the requirement that CACFP At-Risk Afterschool sites be located within the attendance zone of a school where at least half of students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.</td>
<td>• State agencies must have a plan for targeting benefits. • Aligns CACFP At-Risk Afterschool with the SFSP and SSO, which have an area eligibility waiver.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #69</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Reimbursement for Meals Served Prior to Notification of Approval and Provide Flexibility for Pre-Approval Visits in the SFSP - EXTENSION</td>
<td>SFSP</td>
<td>October 9, 2020</td>
<td>June 30, 2021</td>
<td>• Permits state agencies to reimburse SFSP sponsors and sites for meals served prior to receiving written notification of approval. • Waives the requirement for state agencies to conduct pre-approval visits to SFSP sponsors and sites.</td>
<td>• If a sponsor or site application is ultimately not approved by the state agency, the meals will not be eligible for retroactive reimbursement. • Sponsors must still have an agreement with the state. • State agencies are encouraged to streamline the application and approval process. • State agencies may conduct pre-approval visits at their discretion.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #70</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs – EXTENSION 5</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP, CACFP</td>
<td>October 9, 2020 (Effective July 1, 2020)</td>
<td>June 30, 2021</td>
<td>• Supersedes Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs – EXTENSION 4 issued on June 25, 2020. • Allows operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components. • Waives the requirement for schools operating the NSLP and SBP to offer at least two different varieties of fluid milk.</td>
<td>• Operators must get advance approval from their state agency. • Operators are encouraged to meet all nutrition requirements to the greatest extent possible. • State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis and must inform their regional office when, where, and for which components the waiver is in effect.</td>
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<td>CACFP 01, SFSP 01, SP 01-2021</td>
<td>Questions and Answers Relating to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP and SSO Operations through SY 2020-2021 – EXTENSION – #2</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP, SFSP, SSO, CACFP</td>
<td>October 14, 2020</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>• Permits schools to operate as closed enrolled summer meals sites, even though that is not allowed for summer school.</td>
<td>SFAs may choose either SSO or SFSP; they are not obligated to select one or the other based on usual or past summer operations.</td>
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<td>• Clarifies that SFAs’ 30 day carryover period for free or reduced-price eligibility determinations “pauses” while operating SFSP or SSO. The 30 operating day countdown begins or resumes when SFAs begin or resume NSLP/SBP.</td>
<td>Summer meals sites operating during the school year are <strong>not</strong> required to be open sites.</td>
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<td>• Confirms that USDA is working with the Department of Education on how waivers may affect education funding for SY 21-22 and directs questions to <a href="mailto:OESE.TitleI-a@ed.gov">OESE.TitleI-a@ed.gov</a>.</td>
<td>SFAs that began the school year serving meals through NSLP/SBP but retroactively sought reimbursement through SFSP or SSO instead should <strong>not</strong> count that time against students’ 30 day carryover eligibility.</td>
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<td>• Allows SFAs operating SFSP or SSO to sell a la carte foods.</td>
<td>A la carte foods served on the school campus must meet competitive food standards. Food sold by the SFA off campus or outside of the school day are not required to meet those standards.</td>
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<td>• Allows SFAs to operate NSLP Afterschool Snacks in conjunction with SFSP or SSO.</td>
<td>Enrichment activities are still required for NSLP Afterschool Snacks but may be virtual or take-home as with CACFP At-Risk.</td>
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<td>• Reiterates that operators may serve meals/snacks through multiple programs but may not give children more than the maximum number allowable per program per day.</td>
<td>CACFP At-Risk operators may serve meals on/for the weekends, even if they have not in the past, as long as enrichment activities are offered.</td>
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<td>• Clarifies that when CACFP At-Risk operators provide meals/snacks along with in-person activities, they must be served after the end of students’ official school day. When care or activities are not provided on-site, meals may be distributed at any time.</td>
<td>Organizations providing care for children during virtual learning days should seek approval to serve meals through SFSP in order to provide meals during the virtual school day since CACFP At-Risk meals/snacks can only be served after the school day ends.</td>
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<td>• CACFP child care operators may only serve weekend meals if licensed for weekend care and the child is enrolled for weekend care.</td>
<td>CACFP child care operators may provide meals for enrolled children using waiver flexibilities for any time that they would have been in care if not for COVID-19 closures or restricted capacity.</td>
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| SP 03-2021      | FFVP Operations for SY 2020-21 during COVID-19 | FFVP | Oct. 23, 2020 | N/A | • Clarifies that flexibilities on service time and setting apply to schools that are:  
  o Not operating in person as well as those operating with hybrid schedule models.  
  o Operating SFSP or SSO as well as those operating NSLP.  
  • Allows FFVP produce to be served to all children who receive meals through SFSP or SSO at elementary schools that participate in FFVP. The produce is not limited to students at that school or to children of a certain age.  
  • Permits SFAs to reallocate FFVP funds from participating elementary schools that are not serving meals to participating elementary schools that are. | • Reiterates and adds some additional clarification to the Aug. 21, 2020 Q&A, which permitted non-congregate FFVP produce to be served outside of school hours and alongside other meals. A waiver is not necessary to utilize these flexibilities.  
• A waiver is necessary to serve FFVP produce to parents or guardians without their child present as well as to serve from sites that are not approved FFVP elementary schools. |
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| CACFP 03, SFSP 03, SP 04-2021 | Questions and Answers Relating to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP and SSO Operations through SY 2020-2021 – Q&As #3 | NSLP, SBP, SFSP, SSO, CACFP | November 2, 2020 | N/A       | • Confirms that SFAs are not limited to serving enrolled students and may serve all children when operating open sites through SFSP/SSO.  
  • Confirms that operators may serve both in-person and non-congregate meals from the same site since some but not all participants may be able to eat on site safely.  
  • Confirms that LEAs that have collected free and reduced-price applications this school year must complete verification, even if operating SFSP/SSO, and extends the verification deadline to **February 28, 2021**.  
  • Directs LEAs operating SFSP/SSO to still conduct direct certification matching with SNAP at least three times per year. States are encouraged to be flexible on requiring schools to review partial match data.  
  • Offers guidance to schools that want to transition to Provision 2 and to schools in the fourth year of a Provision 2 cycle.  
  • Permits RCCIs to operate SFSP or SSO this school year.  
  • Allows CACFP sponsors to reclassify Tier II family day care homes as Tier I based on one month of income.  
  • Permits CACFP child care providers with limited hours to provide a combination of in-person and non-congregate meals to take home. | In all cases, daily per child meal maximums in each program must be followed, whether in person, non-congregate, or a combination.  
  • Severe-need breakfast reimbursements and NSLP two-cent reimbursements are based on SY18-19 data and will not affect this school year for schools utilizing NSLP/SBP. USDA will issue guidance on how these reimbursements will be calculated in future years.  
  • Afterschool operators should consider participants’ access to technology when developing virtual or take-home activities to pair with non-congregate meals.  
  • As noted in the prior Q&A, CACFP At-Risk operators providing in-person care during the day may **not** serve more than one meal and/or one snack daily through CACFP At-Risk. They may seek approval as CACFP child care providers to serve up to two meals and one snack daily or seek approval to serve through SFSP. |
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| CACFP 04, SFSP 04, SP 05-2021 | Questions and Answers Relating to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP and SSO Operations through SY 2020-2021 – Q&As #4 | NSLP, SBP, SFSP, SSO, CACFP | January 5, 2021 | N/A      | • Confirms that non-profit child nutrition program operators can receive donated food from other child nutrition program operators as long as state and local safety standards are met.  
• Encourages flexibility in methods for safely recording attendance for CACFP At-Risk Afterschool sites serving non-congregate meals with take-home or virtual activities.  
• Clarifies that stimulus payments do NOT count as income in determining eligibility for free or reduced-price school or CACFP meals, but unemployment benefits do.  
• Provides guidance for how state agencies can calculate eligibility for severe need funding in SY 22-23 for schools operating SFSP or SSO this school year.  
• Gives state agencies flexibility to choose the best data source in order to determine eligibility for FFVP for SY21-22 as long as the same data and method are used statewide.  
• Confirms that schools operating SFSP or SSO this school year are still eligible for school equipment grants.  
• Provides guidance for operators who received Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans. | SFAs that do not participate in NSLP or SBP this school year do NOT need to terminate or amend their agreements with the state agency, nor will they be treated as new SFAs next school year.  
In states with a single agreement across child nutrition programs, SFAs that are operating SFSP now but have not in the past should amend their agreements to reflect this.  
For SFAs that collected free or reduced-price applications, the verification sample size should be based on the number of approved applications on file as of October 1, 2020, even though the deadline for verification was extended to February 28, 2021.  
SFAs operating SFSP or SSO are permitted but not required to collect applications. SFAs are strongly encouraged to collect applications from students new to the LEA in order to establish eligibility for P-EBT.  
If a PPP loan is forgiven, costs covered by the loan cannot be counted as child nutrition program costs since they were already covered by another federal program.  
If a PPP loan is not forgiven, it may be repaid using child nutrition program funds if the loan was used to cover an otherwise allowable expense.  
Interest on loan repayments, including but not limited to PPP loans, is not an allowable program cost. |
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• Allows FSMC contracts that may expire on or around June 30, 2021 to be extended through SY2021-2022 (to June 30, 2022) using emergency non-competitive procurement.  
• Contracts negotiated or extended through emergency procurement may not be renewed. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #72 | Selected Child Nutrition Program Reporting Requirements | NSLP, SBP        | January 7, 2021 | N/A – specific to reports | • Waives specific state agency reporting requirements due to capacity limitations and operational changes:  
  o FNS-10 Report of School Program Operations, Part B, Data Elements 15a & 15b;  
  o FNS-640 Administrative Review Report Form  
  o FNS-828 School Food Authority Paid Lunch Price Report;  
  o FNS-834 State Agency (NSLP/SNAP) Direct Certification Rate Data Element Report;  
  o FNS-874 Local Educational Agency Second Review of Applications;  
  o Ameliorative Action Plans for Verification Results;  
  o State Agency Food Safety Inspections report; and  
  o Performance-Based Reimbursement (7 Cents) Quarterly Report |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| N/A             | FFCRA Opt-In Waiver for SY2021-2022 NSLP USDA Foods Entitlement Calculations | NSLP | January 15, 2021 | N/A | • Allows the final USDA Foods entitlement calculation for SY2020-2021 to serve as the basis for the preliminary SY2021-2022 calculation.  
• States that USDA will forgo the reconciliation of initial SY2020-2021 calculations to actual SY2020-2021 lunch counts that would normally occur in November 2021.  
• States that USDA plans to resume reconciliation in November 2022. | • SDAs must notify the USDA if they plan to opt in by January 31, 2021.  
• For the November 2022 reconciliation, calculations would be based on actual SY2021-2022 lunch counts, with the positive or negative balance carried to SY2022-2023. |
| CACFP 05, SP 06-2021 | Child Nutrition Program Emergency Operating Costs During COVID-19: Implementation Guidance for State Agencies | NSLP, SBP, CACFP | January 26, 2021 | N/A | • Provides guidelines for two emergency operating cost reimbursement programs:  
  o School program operators (SFAs)  
  o CACFP operators, including sponsoring organizations, independent institutions, sponsored centers, and family day care homes operating any CACFP component (such as At-Risk Afterschool)  
• Instructs state agencies to submit an application to USDA to participate in one or both programs by February 25, 2021.  
• Describes the eligibility criteria and funding formula laid out in the authorizing legislation. For more details on this, see our separate guidance. | • State agencies must give USDA a more detailed plan for calculating and disbursing payments, including an estimate of the total payment amount, by April 26, 2021.  
• State agencies must obligate funds no later than September 30, 2021 and liquidate fund by January 31, 2022.  
• By March 31, 2022, state agencies must return unexpended funds to USDA and submit a report on the use of funds.  
• Payments made to program operators are considered expended upon receipt. As also discussed in the Q&A, there is no particular record keeping or reporting required beyond normal expectations unless the funds are used to repay other funding sources. However, operators will need to tell the state the planned or eventual use of the funds to support the March 2022 report. |
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| Q&As for CACFP 05, SP 06-2021 | Child Nutrition Program Emergency Operating Costs During COVID-19: Implementation Guidance for State Agencies – Questions & Answers | NSLP, SBP, CACFP       | January 26, 2021 | N/A      | • Confirms that all US states and territories can apply for one or both reimbursement programs.  
  • Clarifies that multiple agencies may need to apply (e.g. states where separate agencies run CACFP sub-components).  
  • Directs agencies to implement data sharing agreements if needed (e.g. states where NSLP is administered in a separate agency from SFSP).  
  • Confirms that SFAs that operate CACFP, including At-Risk Afterschool Meals, can receive funding under both reimbursement programs.  
  • Clarifies that the value of USDA Foods is **not** part of any reimbursement formula.  
  • Clarifies that administrative funding for states is up to one percent on top of the payments under either program.  
  • Directs states to calculate payments separately for each month, but payments may be issued in a lump sum.  
  • Clarifies that payments to CACFP family day care home sponsors is not subject to the ten percent carryover limit and should be excluded from calculations at FY21 closeout.  
  • Permits SFAs and CACFP operators to refuse funds.  
  • Allows SFAs and CACFP operators to use funds to repay any other funding sources used to cover costs during the reimbursement period, with adequate documentation. | • If one agency administers all child nutrition programs, it may submit one application for both reimbursement programs.  
  • If a state agency chooses to implement either reimbursement program, it must make payments available to all eligible operators.  
  • To be eligible for March-June 2020 payments, SFAs must have:  
    • An agreement with the state.  
    • Filed a valid claim for any month between January-June 2020.  
    • Filed a valid claim for any month between September-December 2020 or assure the state agency that the SFA will serve meals within the first semester after the end of the pandemic.  
  • To be eligible for March-June 2020 payments, CACFP operators must have:  
    • An agreement with the state or a sponsoring organization.  
    • Filed a valid claim for any month between January-June 2020.  
    • Filed a valid claim for any month between September-December 2020 or assure the state agency that they will serve meals within the first 90 days after the end of the pandemic.  
  • State agencies should calculate payments. CACFP family day care homes or unaffiliated centers must calculate payments unless the state has site-level claims data.  
  • CACFP sponsors of unaffiliated centers may withhold the agreed-upon administrative fee, up to 15 percent of the monthly payment. |
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #74</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibilities for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 9</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP, SSO</td>
<td>March 9, 2021</td>
<td>September 30, 2021</td>
<td>• Allows SSO operators to claim for reimbursement even if a meal does not meet all meal pattern requirements or include all meal components. &lt;br&gt; • <strong>Meal pattern waivers for SFSP operators expire June 20, 2021.</strong></td>
<td>• Operators must get advance approval from their state agency. &lt;br&gt; • State agencies can only grant this waiver on case-by-case basis and must inform their regional office when, where, and for which components the waiver is in effect. &lt;br&gt; • USDA instructs states to consider if the request is targeted and justified.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #75</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Feeding for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 6</td>
<td>SFSP, SSO</td>
<td>March 9, 2021</td>
<td>September 30, 2021</td>
<td>• Permits consumption of meals off-site and outside of group settings.</td>
<td>• Allows for serving models like grab-n-go, curbside pick-up, mobile/bus routes, and home delivery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #76</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 6</td>
<td>SFSP, SSO</td>
<td>March 9, 2021</td>
<td>September 30, 2021</td>
<td>• Waives the requirement that meals are served directly to the eligible child. &lt;br&gt; • Allows parents or guardians to pick up meals for their child.</td>
<td>• States need to ensure integrity and are instructed to work with operators on ways to verify adults have eligible children and ensure that duplicate meals are not served.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #77</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 4</td>
<td>SFSP, SSO</td>
<td>March 9, 2021</td>
<td>September 30, 2021</td>
<td>• Extends all individually-issued state waivers allowing SFSP and SSO sponsors in good standing to operate <strong>open</strong> summer meals sites located in areas that do not meet the definition of “areas in which poor economic conditions exist,” where more than half of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.</td>
<td>• This applies to all sites approved under the previous waiver and plan. &lt;br&gt; • States must continue to work with sponsors and operators to target benefits to children in need. &lt;br&gt; • <strong>Note:</strong> For SY21-22, schools operating SSO are not subject to area eligibility per <strong>COVID-19 #85</strong>.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #78</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 3</td>
<td>SFSP, SSO</td>
<td>March 9, 2021</td>
<td>September 30, 2021</td>
<td>- Waives Federal rules on the amount of time that must elapse between the beginning of one meal and the beginning of the next, and the duration of a meal service.  &lt;br&gt; - Waives meal service time parameters for SSO.</td>
<td>- Sponsors must still establish meal service times for each site.  &lt;br&gt; - Elections and approvals under the prior waiver may continue without further action needed.  &lt;br&gt; - State agencies may elect to be subject to this waiver or their traditional waiver, if requested and approved. Traditional waivers will remain in effect until April 30, 2022 or until a final rule supersedes them.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #79</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities in the SFSP for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 3</td>
<td>SFSP</td>
<td>March 9, 2021</td>
<td>September 30, 2021</td>
<td>- Waives the limitation on the use of Offer versus Serve (OVS) to SFAs.  &lt;br&gt; - Allows the use of OVS by both non-SFA and SFA sponsors in good standing.  &lt;br&gt; - Provides details of SFSP OVS meal service parameters.</td>
<td>- Provides details of SFSP OVS meal service parameters.  &lt;br&gt; - State agencies may elect to be subject to this waiver or their traditional waiver, if requested and approved. Traditional waivers will remain in effect until April 30, 2022 or until a final rule supersedes them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #80</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 3</td>
<td>SFSP, SSO</td>
<td>March 9, 2021</td>
<td>September 30, 2021</td>
<td>- Allows closed enrolled sites to determine site eligibility through area eligibility (instead of collecting income eligibility applications).</td>
<td>- State agencies may elect to be subject to this waiver or their traditional waiver, if requested and approved. Traditional waivers will remain in effect until April 30, 2022 or until a final rule supersedes them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #81</td>
<td>Nationwide Waiver to Waive First Week Site Visits in the SFSP for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 3</td>
<td>SFSP</td>
<td>March 9, 2021</td>
<td>September 30, 2021</td>
<td>- Waives the requirement that SFSP sponsors visit each of their sites at least once during their first week of operation.  &lt;br&gt; - Waiver applies to the following:  &lt;br&gt; o Sites that successfully operated SFSP the previous year.  &lt;br&gt; o SFSP sponsors in good standing that successfully operate CACFP or NSLP.</td>
<td>- State agencies may elect to be subject to this waiver or their traditional waiver, if requested and approved. Traditional waivers will remain in effect until April 30, 2022 or until a final rule supersedes them.</td>
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| CACFP 07, SP 09-2021 | Child Nutrition Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Programs: State Agency Implementation Plan Template and Q&A Guidance | NSLP, SBP, CACFP | March 15, 2021 | N/A      | • Announces the release of the supplemental implementation plan template that state agencies must use to supply information about their emergency operational cost reimbursement plans.  
• Reiterates key dates and deadlines.  
• Instructs states to wait until receiving approval of their application before submitting the implementation plan.  
• Instructs states to submit separate plans for School Programs vs. CACFP.  
• Clarifies that child nutrition program reimbursements paid for March-June 2020 that were paid with CARES Act funds must be included in the emergency operational cost reimbursement calculation, but any other CARES Act funds received by operators should not be included.  
• Confirms that only federal reimbursements, not any other state reimbursements, should be included in the calculations.  
• Confirms that operators should not need to apply for funds.  
• Confirms that operators are still eligible for these funds even if they have a positive fund balance.  
• Instructs state agencies to deposit funds into operators’ nonprofit foodservice account.  
• Allows states to pay CACFP unaffiliated centers and homes directly or via their sponsor.  
• The supplemental implementation plan is due May 10, 2021.  
• Plans must include: o Number of recipients by type.  
  o Estimate of funding needed by reimbursement month.  
  o Any substantive updates to the process by which payments are calculated and disbursed.  
  o Projected timeline for payments.  
  o Description of how the state agency will ensure accuracy, notify operators, and collect and document use of these funds.  
• New operators that only submitted a claim for January or February 2020 (not both) should still have the two months averaged to determine the reimbursement amount during their alternative reference period.  
• Operators that did not file claims for any or all months March-June 2020 may still be eligible for payments as long as other requirements are met.  
• Operators that submitted a consolidated March/April 2020 claim should receive payments based on a comparison of March/April 2020 to April 2019. March 2020 should be treated as $0 reimbursement.  
• Operators that began participating and receiving reimbursements after February 2020 are not eligible for these payments.  
• CACFP centers or homes changing sponsor at any point should not affect their payments.  
• States may charge the 1 percent administrative funds for allowable costs incurred Dec. 27, 2020 through Sept. 30, 2021. |
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #82</td>
<td>Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Deadlines</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP</td>
<td>March 26, 2021</td>
<td>September 30, 2021</td>
<td>• Extends deadlines for various tasks within the CEP data release and election process.</td>
<td>• ISPs may be calculated based on data drawn any time between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.</td>
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<td>• The LEA notification, state agency notification, and state agency publication deadlines are now June 30, 2021.</td>
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<td>• The new deadline to declare intent to elect CEP is September 30, 2020.</td>
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<td>• States may set their own deadlines.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #83</td>
<td>Allow Sponsors that Successfully Participated in the SFSP in FY 2019 to Operate as Experienced Sponsors in FY 2021</td>
<td>SFSP</td>
<td>April 1, 2021</td>
<td>September 30, 2021</td>
<td>• Allows state agencies to use the streamlined application process for experienced SFSP sponsors if the sponsor operated in FY 2019 in good standing but did not operate in FY 2020 due to COVID-19.</td>
<td>• State agencies must develop criteria for sponsor participation in this waiver.</td>
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<td>• Waives the requirement for state agencies to conduct a pre-approval visit if the sponsor operated in FY 2019 but did not in FY 2020.</td>
<td>• State agencies may still request information required of new sponsors.</td>
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<td>• State agencies may still conduct pre-approval visits to sponsors that did not participate in FY 2020.</td>
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<td>CACFP 08-2021</td>
<td>Reimbursement for Meals and Snacks Served to Young Adults in the CACFP: Implementation Guidance for State Agencies</td>
<td>CACFP</td>
<td>April 9, 2021</td>
<td>When the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted</td>
<td>• Pursuant to the authorization in the American Rescue Plan, allows states to reimburse meals and snacks served to adults under age 25 (now including those ages 18 through 24) who:</td>
<td>• This extended age provision only applies to approved meal types served at emergency shelters with an agreement with the state agency.</td>
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<td>o Reside in an emergency shelter participating in the CACFP; or</td>
<td>• For new agreements, reimbursement may be paid for the month prior to the month in which the agreement is executed.</td>
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<td>o Receive services from an approved emergency shelter that participates in the CACFP as an At-Risk Afterschool center.</td>
<td>• With proper documentation, meals maybe reimbursed retroactively back to the passage of the American Rescue Plan on March 11, 2021. Claims must be submitted before June 1, 2021.</td>
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<td>• Extends the usual 60-day claim deadline for valid retroactive claims.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #84</td>
<td>Child Nutrition Nationwide Waiver Update for School Year 2021-2022</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP, SSO, CACFP</td>
<td>April 20, 2021</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>• Summarizes the waivers and waiver extensions available for School Year 2021-2022.</td>
<td>• Operators are expected to utilize the flexibilities for the duration and to the extent needed for safe operations and to accommodate ongoing virtual learning, reduced attendance, and other social distancing measures.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #85</td>
<td>Allow the Seamless Summer Option through School Year 2021-2022</td>
<td>SSO</td>
<td>April 20, 2021</td>
<td>June 30, 2022</td>
<td>• Gives all schools, regardless of site type, location or usual area eligibility, the option to utilize SSO during the regular school year in lieu of NSLP and SBP.</td>
<td>• This will allow schools to serve free meals to all students, which will speed meal service, eliminate the need for cash transactions, and support alternative service models like outdoor meal distribution or meals in the classroom. • As a new waiver, state agencies must elect to use it.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #86</td>
<td>Allow SFSP Reimbursement Rates in School Year 2021-2022</td>
<td>SSO</td>
<td>April 20, 2021</td>
<td>June 30, 2022</td>
<td>• Provides the higher SFSP reimbursements rates for meals and snacks served through SSO during SY21-22.</td>
<td>• This is done in recognition of the higher operational costs that schools have faced and will continue to face through the coming year. • As a new waiver, state agencies must elect to use it.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #87</td>
<td>Non-Congregate Meal Service for School Year 2021-2022</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP, SSO, CACFP</td>
<td>April 20, 2021</td>
<td>June 30, 2022</td>
<td>• Permits consumption of meals off-site and outside of group settings.</td>
<td>• Allows for serving models like grab-and-go, curbside pick-up, mobile/bus routes, and home delivery. • State agencies must elect to be subject to this waiver; previous election to use this flexibility for Summer 2021 does not automatically extend to SY21-22.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #88</td>
<td>Meal Times Requirements for School Year 2021-2022</td>
<td>NSLP, SBP, SSO, CACFP</td>
<td>April 20, 2021</td>
<td>June 30, 2022</td>
<td>• Provides flexibility for serving times. • Allows for serving multiple meals for the same day at one time and also meals for multiple days at the same time.</td>
<td>• State agencies must elect to be subject to this waiver; previous election to use this flexibility for Summer 2021 does not automatically extend to SY21-22.</td>
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| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #89 | Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children for School Year 2021-2022 | NSLP, SBP, SSO, CACFP | April 20, 2021 Effective July 1 | June 30, 2022 | • Waives the requirement that meals are served directly to the eligible child.  
• Allows parents or guardians to pick up non-congregate meals for their child. | • States need to ensure integrity and are instructed to work with operators on ways to verify adults have eligible children and ensure that duplicate meals are not served.  
• State agencies must elect to be subject to this waiver; previous election to use this flexibility for Summer 2021 does not automatically extend to SY21-22. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #90 | Specific School Meal Pattern Flexibility for School Year 2021-2022 | NSLP, SBP, SSO | April 20, 2021 Effective October 1 | June 30, 2022 | • Allows state agencies to grant requests for flexibility on usual requirements to:  
  o Meet sodium restrictions specified at 7 CFR 210.10(b), (c), & (f); and 220.8(b), (c), & (f);  
  o Serve only whole grain-rich grains;  
  o Serve to preschoolers at least one whole grain-rich item per day;  
  o Offer a variety of vegetables from the vegetable subgroups;  
  o Offer at least two different milk options;  
  o Serve low-fat milk that is unflavored only;  
  o Plan menus and offer food components for specified age/grade groups in the stated combinations, at 7 CFR 210.10(c) & 220.8(c). | • Schools are expected to meet the usual meal pattern requirements to the greatest extent possible.  
• Flexibility is provided to support meal service with appropriate safety measures and accommodate reliance on more shelf-stable foods.  
• As a new waiver, state agencies must elect to use it.  
• Unlike other waivers, schools must request and receive approval to implement these flexibilities.  
• With the exception of the sodium requirement flexibility, which should be granted to all schools that request it, state agency approval should be given on a case-by-case basis to address a targeted and justified need. |
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| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #91 | Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility in the CACFP for School Year 2021-2022 | CACFP            | April 20, 2021 Effective July 1 | June 30, 2022 | - Allows state agencies to grant requests for flexibility on usual requirements to:  
  o Serve at least one whole grain-rich item daily across all eating occasions;  
  o Credit grains by ounce equivalents by Oct. 1, 2021;  
  o Offer low-fat milk that is unflavored only. | CACFP operators are expected to meet the usual meal pattern requirements to the greatest extent possible.  
As a new waiver, state agencies must elect to use it.  
Unlike other waivers, operators must request and receive approval to implement these flexibilities.  
State agency approval should be given on a case-by-case basis to address a targeted and justified need. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #92 | Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibility for Senior High Schools in School Year 2021-2022 | NSLP, SSO        | April 20, 2021 Effective July 1 | June 30, 2022 | - Eliminates the requirement for senior high schools participating in the NSLP to implement OVS.                                                                                                         | This is intended to make it easier for schools to serve pre-plated meals in the classroom if needed or to offer multi-day meal kits to students engaged in distance learning.  
State agencies must elect to use this waiver for SY21-22. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #93 | Area Eligibility in the Afterschool Programs and for Family Day Care Home Providers in School Year 2021-2022 | NSLP, CACFP      | April 20, 2021 Effective July 1 | June 30, 2022 | - Waives the area eligibility requirement to participate in the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals component and NSLP Area-Eligible Snacks.  
- Waives the area eligibility requirement for family day care homes to qualify for Tier I reimbursements in the CACFP.                                                                 | This allows all schools, regardless of location, to serve free afterschool snacks to all students through NSLP.  
This allows all schools and community-based afterschool programs, regardless of location, to apply for CACFP At-Risk Afterschool and serve free meals and/or snacks.  
This allows all CACFP family day care homes, regardless of location, to receive the Tier I reimbursement rates for meals and snacks served.  
Unlike the previous CACFP At-Risk Afterschool area eligibility waivers, this does not include a requirement to target benefits to areas of highest need.  
State agencies must elect to use this waiver for SY21-22. |
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- Waives the requirement to complete the onsite portion of an administrative review within the same school year that the review was begun. | Monitoring activities should continue off-site, such as through desk audit.  
Elections and approvals under past waivers may continue without further action. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #95 | Onsite Monitoring Requirements for State Agencies in the Child and Adult Care Food Program – Extension 3 | CACFP            | April 20, 2021 | 30 Days After the End of the Public Health Emergency | • Waives the in-person component of the state agency’s required monitoring activities. | Monitoring activities should continue off-site, such as through desk audit.  
Elections and approvals under past waivers may continue without further action. |
| COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #96 | Onsite Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors in the Child and Adult Care Food Program – Extension | CACFP            | April 20, 2021 | 30 Days After the End of the Public Health Emergency | • Waives the in-person component of a sponsor’s required monitoring activities. | Monitoring activities should continue off-site, such as through desk audit.  
Elections and approvals under past waivers may continue without further action. |
Glossary of Acronyms & Terms

- **CACFP**: Child and Adult Care Food Program
- **FFCRA**: Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- **Families First Coronavirus Response Act**: a COVID-19 relief bill passed by Congress in March that gave the USDA nationwide waiver authority
- **FFVP**: Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- **FSMC**: Food Service Management Company
- **ISP**: Identified Student Percentage
- **LEA**: Local Education Agency (typically a school district)
- **NSLP**: National School Lunch Program
- **PPE**: Personal protective equipment, which includes items like face masks
- **Program Operator**: Includes SFAs, public and private non-profit sponsoring organizations, and independent organizations that work directly with their state agency to run one or more of the child nutrition programs
- **RCCI**: Residential Child Care Institution
- **Residential Child Care Institution**: Includes locations like orphanages, group homes, and other shelters that provide residential care for children; meets the definition of a school in the NSLP regulations
- **SBP**: School Breakfast Program
- **SDA**: State Distributing Agency
- **State Distributing Agency**: The state government agency that oversees USDA Foods
- **SFA**: School Food Authority
- **School Food Authority**: The governing body responsible for operating school meal programs at one or more schools within one or more school districts
- **SFSP**: Summer Food Service Program
- **SMP**: Special Milk Program
- **SSO**: NSLP Seamless Summer Option
- **SY**: School Year
- **OVS**: Offer Versus Serve