
MEMORANDUM

TO: School Administrators, Business Managers, Food Service Directors
FROM: Rosie Krueger, State Director of Child Nutrition Programs
SUBJECT: Child Nutrition Waiver Extensions through June 2021
DATE: October 13, 2020

Purpose

On Friday, Oct. 9, 2020, USDA announced 12 waiver extensions through June 30, 2021. These waiver extensions allow schools and sponsors to continue using the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and At-Risk After School Meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to provide up to three meals per day to all children 18 and under through the end of June. USDA has not yet issued additional guidance to State agencies along with these waivers, so much remains unknown. However, this memo addresses what we do know at this time.

Waivers Issued

In combination, the waiver extensions allow school food authorities and child nutrition sponsors to continue all existing flexibilities through June 30, 2021. The 12 waiver extensions are as follows:

- [COVID-19 Response #59](#) – Nationwide waiver to allow SFSP and SSO operations through SY 2020-21 – extension
- [COVID-19 Response #60](#) – Nationwide waiver to extend area eligibility waivers – extension #3
- [COVID-19 Response #61](#) – Nationwide waiver to allow non-congregate feeding in SFSP/SSO – extension #5
- [COVID-19 Response #62](#) – Nationwide waiver to allow parents and guardian to pick up meals for children – extension #5
- [COVID-19 Response #63](#) – Nationwide waiver to allow meal pattern flexibility in SFSP/SSO – extension #8
- [COVID-19 Response #64](#) – Nationwide waiver to allow area eligibility for closed enrolled sites in SFSP/SSO – extension #2
- [COVID-19 Response #65](#) – Nationwide waiver to waive first week site visits in SFSP – extension #2

Contact Information:

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information please contact:

Rosie Krueger, State Director of Child Nutrition Programs, at mary.krueger@vermont.gov or 802-828-1589.

- [COVID-19 Response #66](#) – Nationwide waiver of meal service time restrictions in SFSP/SSO – extension #2
- [COVID-19 Response #67](#) – Nationwide waiver to allow OVS flexibilities in SFSP – extension #2
- [COVID-19 Response #68](#) – Nationwide waiver of area eligibility in the CACFP at risk afterschool care component – extension
- [COVID-19 Response #69](#) – Nationwide waiver to allow reimbursement for meals served prior to notification of preapproval and provide flexibility for preapproval visits in SFSP – extension
- [COVID-19 Response #70](#) – Nationwide waiver to allow meal pattern flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs – extension #5

Extension of SFSP

Before Dec. 18, 2020, SFAs should amend questions B1 and L1 in their existing 2021 SFSP site applications in the CNPWeb system to extend the end date to June 30, 2021, or the last day of planned operation, whichever is sooner. If the SFA is unsure of what the last day will be, please enter June 30, 2021, and remember to amend the application again in the future if that date changes. Please resubmit the application after making these changes.

Communication with Households

Please announce to households that free meals are available through the remainder of the school year. If you have open sites in the SFSP, please communicate to households that younger siblings and other children not enrolled in the school may receive meals. If your sites are closed-enrolled, you may refer households to the [USDA meal finder](#) to find free meals for children who are not enrolled in your school. Make sure that all households have information on how to access meals on remote-learning days. Use newsletters, automated phone calls, social media and daily announcements to communicate the availability of meals.

Applications and Verification

USDA has provided no guidance on whether schools should continue to process and conduct verification of free and reduced meal applications. Until we hear otherwise from USDA, we recommend that schools continue to accept and process meal applications, as approval for free and reduced price meals may be helpful for households in accessing [other benefits](#). However, verification activities should be suspended until otherwise directed by USDA. If you have already initiated verification activities, you may send an update to the households selected for verification letting them know that the process is being suspended until further notice and that they do not need to submit anything until otherwise instructed. Please save any documentation that has been submitted, but do not act on it.

Extension of CACFP At-Risk Area Eligibility Waiver

All Vermont schools now have an option to provide a third meal and/or an additional snack each day under the waiver of Area Eligibility requirements in the Child and Adult Care Food

Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Care Component, if a virtual or in-person enrichment or educational activity is offered. This waiver provides the flexibility to allow afterschool care programs located in non-area eligible locations to apply and participate in the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program. This waiver runs through June 30, 2021.

SFAs who already participate in the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program for some locations are encouraged to consider adding this program for all of their locations. Please contact [Rebecca Cochran](#) or [Anastasia Tsekeris](#) to amend the CACFP application to add additional sites.

SFAs that are not currently participating in the CACFP may apply to participate in the Program provided that the site offers the enrichment or educational activity on-site or in a non-congregate style. All requirements related to onboarding new Sponsors and sites remain in effect and must be followed. SFAs will be required to complete and submit a CACFP application and hardcopy documents prior to participating, complete the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program Webinar, and receive a pre-approval visit from the State agency. Sponsors with FSMC contracts will also need to amend these contracts to add the CACFP.

Please see the following resources for more information on the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program:

- [At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program Fact Sheet](#)
- [At-Risk Afterschool Meals Guide](#)
- [At-Risk Afterschool Care Handbook](#)
- [At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program Webinar](#)
- [At-Risk Afterschool Snack Meal Record](#)
- [At-Risk Afterschool Supper Meal Record](#)
- [At-Risk Afterschool Meal Count Sheet](#)
- [Child Meal Pattern](#)

SFA's interested in applying to the CACFP should review the [Application Process document](#) for information on how to apply to the CACFP. SFA's will need to complete the [Statement of Intent to Participate](#) document to begin the application process. Detailed instructions to the application will be provided once the State agency receives the Statement of Intent to Participate form. Please contact [Rebecca Cochran](#) or [Anastasia Tsekeris](#) for more information.

Food Service Management Companies

SFAs with Food Service Management Companies may need to amend their contracts to encompass the SFSP and CACFP extension through June 30, 2021. However, AOE is awaiting further guidance from USDA about how these extensions should be conducted. Please hold off on initiating extensions pending further guidance. If you have questions, please contact [Michael Carr](#) directly.