

Vermont Waiver Request to USDA to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the CACFP during the COVID-19 Outbreak

1. State agency submitting waiver request and responsible State agency staff contact information:

Vermont Agency of Education, Child Nutrition Programs
Rosie Krueger, State Director of Child Nutrition Programs
802-828-1589, mary.krueger@vermont.gov
1 National Life Drive, Davis 5, Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

2. Region:

Northeast Region

3. Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing:

Any participating Child and Adult Care Food Program Organization located in an area which experiences a food shortage of meal components during COVID-19.

4. Description of the challenge the State agency is seeking to solve, the goal of the waiver to improve services under the Program, and the expected outcomes if the waiver is granted. [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(l)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]:

The State agency is seeking the ability to allow flexibility in meeting meal pattern requirements on a case-by-case basis if an issue arises with the availability of meal components during the COVID-19 outbreak. The State agency will work with affected providers to ensure food is given to all eligible participants in a manner that best utilizes available food inventories during this public health emergency.

5. Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(i) of the NSLA]:

We are seeking a waiver of the requirement at 7 CFR 226.20(a)(i), 7 CFR 226.20(a)(ii), 7 CFR 226.20(a)(iii), and 7 CFR 226.20(a)(iv), to allow flexibility with the type of milk served at meals and snacks during the COVID-19 outbreak in areas that experience short-term food shortages. In addition, we are seeking a waiver of the requirements at 7 CFR 226.20(a)(4)(i)(A) to allow flexibility in meeting the whole grain-rich requirement during the COVID-19 outbreak in areas that experience short-term food shortages.

6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring:

Sponsors requesting to use this waiver will need to submit a waiver request and have it approved by the State agency prior to modifying meal pattern requirements. The Sponsor will need to submit a written request via email identifying the pertinent issues to the State agency. If granted the waiver, the State agency will allow temporary flexibility in meeting the above-sited meal pattern requirements.



7. Description of any steps the State has taken to address regulatory barriers at the State level. [Section 12(I)(2)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:

There are no regulatory barriers at the State level.

8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:

There are no anticipated challenges with this waiver at this time.

9. Description of how the waiver will not increase the overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government. If there are anticipated increases, confirm that the costs will be paid from non-Federal funds. [Section 12(I)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]:

Initiation of this waiver will not increase the overall costs of the Program to the Federal Government. Implementation will ensure that participants continue to be fed nutritious, alternative meal components when a food shortage exists.

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:

March 18, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:

Sponsors will need to have an approved CACFP application on file, and approval from the State agency to implement meal pattern flexibilities prior to meal service.

12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS):

The State agency will report the number of Sponsors, sites, and meals-served using the waiver no later than December 31, 2020.

13. Link to or a copy of the public notice informing the public about the proposed waiver [Section 12(I)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:

See in email.

14. Signature and title of requesting official :



Title: State Director of Child Nutrition Programs

Requesting official's email address for transmission of response: mary.krueger@vermont.gov

TO BE COMPLETED BY FNS REGIONAL OFFICE:

FNS Regional Offices are requested to ensure the questions have been adequately addressed by the State agency and formulate an opinion and justification for a response to the waiver request based on their knowledge, experience and work with the State.

Date request was received at Regional Office:

Check this box to confirm that the State agency has provided public notice in accordance with Section 12(I)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA

Regional Office Analysis and Recommendations: