

Waiver Request from the Connecticut State Department of Education to the U. S Department of Agriculture

Operation of Child Nutrition Programs during COVID-19 Outbreaks Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Operations

Summary

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) is a federally assisted program, administered by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). The FFVP provides free fresh fruits and vegetables to children at eligible authorized elementary schools during the school day. During school closures due to COVID-19, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) requests that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) waive the requirement for the physical presence of the child for FFVP service, and also allows FFVP distribution to occur at different locations from the originally approved elementary school.

Waiver Request

The CSDE requests a waiver of 42 U.S. Code § 1769a(a), (b), (d)(1)(A)(i) and (ii), and (g) to allow approved FFVP sponsors of emergency meals programs during COVID-19 to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables at locations that may not be the originally approved elementary school, and to allow parents or guardians to pick-up the fresh fruits and vegetables on behalf of the children in their household.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public_Announcement12_Waiver_FFVP_Parent_PickUp.pdf. For more information, visit the CSDE's [Operation of Child Nutrition Programs during Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Outbreaks](#) section of the CSDE's Child Nutrition Programs webpage.



Waiver Request from the Connecticut State Department of Education to the U. S Department of Agriculture

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of age, ancestry, color, criminal record (in state employment and licensing), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability (including blindness), race, religious creed, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, sex (pregnancy or sexual harassment), sexual orientation, veteran status or workplace hazards to reproductive systems, unless there is a bona fide occupational qualification excluding persons in any of the aforementioned protected classes.

Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie, Equal Employment Opportunity Director/Americans with Disabilities Coordinator (ADA), Connecticut State Department of Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 505, Hartford, CT 06103, 860-807-2071, levy.gillespie@ct.gov.