

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

Request to Extend Waiver of Area Eligibility in the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option due to Ongoing Economic Impacts and Health and Safety Concerns due to COVID-19

Summary

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) requests that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) waive the area eligibility definition in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) during summer 2020, to allow SFSP and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors operating during unanticipated school closures due to COVID-19 to continue to serve meals to any child 18 years old and younger at any authorized SFSP or SSO meals distribution location.

Waiver Request

Under normal circumstances, SFSP area eligibility is defined in [42 U.S.C. 1761(a)(1)(A)(i)(I)] as an area where at least 50 percent of the children have been determined eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. During the public health emergency due to COVID-19, children 18 years old and younger, who have been receiving meals during unanticipated school closures, might not be able to access meal distribution locations that are exclusively located in traditionally defined area eligible locations. To address this important issue, the CSDE has requested a waiver from the USDA enabling sponsors currently operating SFSP and SSO meal distributions during unanticipated school closures to continue to serve meals to any child 18 years old and younger at any authorized SFSP or SSO meals distribution location during summer 2020.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public_Announcement15_Waiver_AreaEligibility_SummerMonths_SSO_SFSP.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.



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- (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.

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