

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 Waive Onsite Monitoring Requirements for Child and Adult Care Food Program Sponsors during COVID-19 Outbreaks

Summary

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is requesting that the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) waive onsite monitoring requirements for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) sponsors. This will allow CACFP sponsoring organizations to perform off-site monitoring reviews through desk audits to support program oversight, compliance, and integrity; while providing sponsors the ability to meet regulatory requirements and minimize potential exposure and spread of COVID-19.

Waiver Request

Under normal circumstances, CACFP sponsors are required to perform monitoring reviews onsite. While USDA's recently issued Nationwide Waivers create some flexibilities in the review requirements, they do not eliminate all requirements for sponsors to be physically onsite. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of Connecticut's CACFP institutions and family day care home (FDCH) providers were closed in March, April, and May due to COVID-19 outbreaks and social distancing and health and safety measures. Furthermore, CACFP institutions and FDCHs that have partially or fully re-opened have implemented strict health and safety protocols that include not letting outside visitors enter the premises. These measures are critical to the health and safety of participants and employees, but prohibit sponsoring organizations from conducting onsite reviews. Additionally, sponsoring organizations must ensure the health and safety of their own employees and contracted service providers to reduce the potential exposure to and spread of COVID-19.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public_Announcement18_Waiver_CACFP_OnsiteMonitoring_COVID19.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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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.