

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 Allow Reimbursement for Meals Served Prior to Notification of Approval in the Summer Food Service Program

Summary

As sponsors continue to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is requesting a waiver to reimburse Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors in good standing for meals served prior to receiving written approval from the CSDE. This waiver will be in effect June 1, 2022, through July 31, 2022.

Waiver Request

The SFSP regulations do not allow payment of reimbursements for meals served at a site before the sponsor has received written notification that the site has been approved for participation in the SFSP. As SFSP sponsors transition from operating during the school year to operating in the summer months, they need to remain nimble and able to pivot quickly in order to maintain service delivery. Additionally, many SFSP sponsors have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19 and will experience additional hardships if they are not able to claim reimbursements for meals served prior to receiving written notification.

Therefore, the CSDE requests a waiver of the USDA regulations 7 CFR 225.9(d) for the period of June 1, 2022, through July 31, 2022, to reimburse SFSP sponsors in good standing for meals served prior to receiving written approval.



This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public_Announcement_2022_03_Waiver_Reimbursement_Meals_Served_Prior_to_Notification_of_SFSP_Approval.pdf. For more information, visit the “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, audiotape, 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: <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-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.