

**SFSP/SSO/CACFP Meal Service by Sponsors during COVID-19 Unanticipated School Closures
Waiver Request**

Utah State Board of Education - Child Nutrition Programs

State agency staff contact information:

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Region: USDA Southwest Region

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

Any Utah State Board of Education approved Sponsor in good standing, operating during an unanticipated school closure due to COVID-19 outbreak.

Sponsors that would operate under this waiver are operating in communities where schools and/or childcare centers are closed in connection with the COVID-19 outbreak.

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(I)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(I)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]:

The Utah State Board of Education (USB E) is requesting a state-wide waiver for SP 04-2020, CACFP 03-2020, SFSP 032020 *Meal Service During Unanticipated School Closures*.

Requiring sponsors to serve meals at an alternate location during unanticipated school closures increases the administrative and financial burden on sponsors by requiring them to find an alternative location for meal service. Transporting meals to this alternate location may or may not be possible. The current flexibilities allow for streamlined program operations for sponsors. Continuing to allow meal service at school sites during unanticipated school closures would ensure access to child nutrition programs and reduce administrative and financial burden on sponsors during an already trying situation. Sponsors would continue to serve reimbursable meals to children at area eligible schools during unanticipated school closures.

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

The State Agency is requesting that requirements are waived under 7 CFR 225.6(d)(1)(iv) "If it is a site proposed to operate during an unanticipated school closure, it is a non-school site".

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

Description of alternative procedures: Sponsors will be allowed to serve meals at school sites during unanticipated school closures if the State Agency determines the school site to be a safe location for meal service. All other SFSP/SSO regulations will be followed.

Description of anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring: This waiver will allow for streamlined program operations and reduced administrative burden for sponsors as they would not have to locate alternative eligible sites to serve meals during an unanticipated closure.

Additionally, this waiver will ensure access to meals for children as they will not have to travel to a new location to receive a meal during the school day.

Additional costs would be incurred to re-train sponsors and State Agency staff on new requirements. The State Agency will continue to ensure program integrity through an application approval process. As outlined in 7 CFR 225.7(d)(1)(i) pre-approval visits of sponsors operating the program during an unanticipated school closure will be conducted at the discretion of the State agency. Sponsors will continue to be monitored according to regulation (7 CFR 225.7(d))

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]:

The flexibility rescinded by the USDA FNS on November 5, 2019 through SP 04-2020, CACFP 03-2020, SFSP 03-2020 *Meal Service During Unanticipated School Closures* will create barriers to program access and effective program operation. To address this barrier, the Utah State Board of Education is submitting this waiver.

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

There are no anticipated challenges with waiver implementation. Internal processes and procedures are already in place to ensure program integrity.

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]:

There is no anticipated impact on Federal administrative costs for State agency oversight with implementation of this waiver.

Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:

This waiver will be implemented immediately upon approval and remain in effect for a period of three years.

Proposed monitoring and review procedures:

Sponsors will continue to be monitored by the State Agency as outlined in 7 CFR 225.7 (2)(ii). Standard review procedures will continue to be followed; if noncompliance is identified, the State Agency will implement a corrective action plan and conduct follow-up reviews, as needed.

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

Our State Agency will provide FNS with any required reports, including review findings and technical assistance provided. This information will be available as needed.

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

Notice to be released:

The Utah State Board of Education is seeking four waivers from the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services. The purpose of these waivers is to support schools and program operators in providing meals to children in areas experiencing school closures in response to COVID-19. The first waiver would allow for an alternate or grab and go meal service that would limit participants’ interaction and proximity to other participants and therefore decrease the risk of COVID-19 exposure. The second waiver would allow for schools in areas not designated as high need to cover meals provided to students under the Emergency School Closure provision of the Summer Food Service Program or Seamless Summer Option. The third waiver would allow for Sponsors to provide reimbursable meals pending availability of meal pattern components. The fourth waiver allow meals to be served at school sites during an unanticipated school closure, if the school site is determined a safe location for meal service.

Signature and title of requesting official:

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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:

Date received:

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

- Regional Office Analysis and Recommendations:
 - Recommend Approval
 - Recommend Denial