

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM STATE WAIVER REQUEST

- **State agency submitting waiver request and responsible State agency staff contact information:**

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
Child Nutrition Programs
Jo Dawson, Program Manager
PO Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500
907-465-8708

- **Region:** Western Region
- **Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing:**

Limited to Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Child Nutrition Program (DEED CNP) SFSP/SSO sponsors with sites in other communities.

- **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(l)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(l)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]:**

We are requesting authorization to allow sponsoring organizations of the Summer Food Service Program and/or Seamless Summer Option to conduct monitoring in an off-site manner for the summer of 2022, if necessary. While COVID-19 cases in Alaska are currently declining, again, we would like to provide an option for agencies should they need this flexibility to stay in compliance with federal requirements.

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

7 CFR 225.15(d) Management Responsibilities of Sponsors, Training & Monitoring. While it is not clearly stated, it is generally assumed and is standard practice that monitoring visits are done in-person.

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

Although currently COVID-19 cases are declining, there may be travel restrictions in place which could impact a sponsor from traveling to different communities. Monitoring requirements will not be waived; this request is to allow DEED/CNP to authorize a sponsor to conduct a SFSP/SO site review in an off-site manner for sites that require significant travel.

- **Description of any steps the State has taken to address regulatory barriers at the State level. [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:**

No barriers have been identified at the state agency level. There are currently no state-level regulatory barriers related to this specific issue. The local sponsoring organization will still be required to conduct monitoring on-site as applicable, but allow the option to eliminate travel if periods restricted travel arise.

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

Off-site monitoring does provide its own unique challenges; however, the challenge sponsoring organizations may face if the waiver is not approved would primarily be out of compliance with USDA requirements.

- **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(l)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]:**

Alaska DEED CNP does not anticipate that this waiver will increase the overall cost of the program to the Federal government.

- **Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:**

To be effective for the summer of 2022.

- **Proposed monitoring and review procedures:**

DEED CNP will continue to use the current monitoring forms.

- **Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS);**

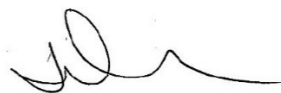
DEED CNP will report to FNS by the following information by December 31st each year that the waiver is in place:

1. The number of sponsoring agencies monitored under the waiver
2. The number of sites monitored under the waiver

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

[Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Child Nutrition Programs \(https://education.alaska.gov/cnp\)](https://education.alaska.gov/cnp)

- **Signature and Title of requesting official:**



Name: [Jo Dawson](#)

Title: Child Nutrition Programs Manager

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

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:

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

Regional Office Analysis and Recommendations: