

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM STATE WAIVER REQUEST

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

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development
Child Nutrition Programs
[Jo Dawson](#), Program Manager
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Juneau, AK 99811-0500
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- **Region:** Western Region
- **Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing:**

This waiver request is for the Alaska Family Child Care Association from Anchorage, Alaska. This sponsoring organization is in good standing with Alaska Department of Education and Early Learning, Child Nutrition Programs (DEED).

- **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(1)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(1)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]:**

A long-time sponsoring organization of family day care homes (30 plus years) in Fairbanks, Alaska is closing on September 30, 2019. DEED has reached out to other non-profit organizations in the area and we were very hopeful that the resource and referral agency would be able to add the CACFP for family day care homes to the list of services they could provide. Unfortunately, their board of directors declined to add this to their services at their last board meeting at the end of April. DEED then reached out to the Alaska Family Child Care Association in Anchorage and asked if they would be interested in taking on another area of Alaska since they have the capability to manage another community's family day care homes.

Alaska Family Child Care Association took over the Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak Alaska last year at DEED's request, as the sponsoring organization in those areas closed their CACFP for providers as of September 30, 2018. DEED provided expansion funds to Alaska Family Child Care Association for the month of September 2018 to do outreach, conduct preapproval visits and training sessions prior to the October 1, 2018 start-up. They fully satisfied their obligation and actually returned unused funds with their final report on October 4, 2018. They were authorized for \$4,987 and returned \$677.00 for a final expansion amount of \$4,310.00.

DEED would like to offer the expansion funds to Alaska Family Child Care Association to sue in September, 2019 in order to follow similar protocol to do outreach, conduct pre-approval visits and hold trainings for the Fairbanks providers so they can expand and fill the void in Fairbanks, Alaska. The amount would not exceed \$5,800.

Without Alaska Family Child Care Association stepping in and offering the CACFP reimbursement to Fairbanks and the surrounding communities these providers would no longer be able to receive the much needed reimbursement to feed the young children in their care. This amounts to roughly 4,250 breakfasts, 5,125 snacks, 4,900 lunches, and 970 suppers **per month** that would potentially be discontinued. This could negatively impact approximately 40 family day care home providers and 225 young children on a daily basis in this community.

- **Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(1)(2)(A)(i) fo the NSLA]:**

- **7 CFR 226.12 (b)(1) (b) *Start-up and expansion payments.* (1) ...** Participating sponsoring organizations of day care homes which meet the criteria in paragraph (b)(2) of this section shall be entitled to receive expansion payments to initiate or expand Program operations in day care homes in low-income or rural areas. The State agency shall approve start-up payments only once for any eligible sponsoring organization, but may approve expansion payments for any eligible sponsoring organization more than once, provided that: the request must be for expansion into an area(s) other than that specified in their initial or prior request; **and 12 months has elapsed since the sponsoring organization has satisfied all obligations under its initial or prior expansion agreement.**

- DEED is requesting a waiver of the 12 month timeframe that must elapse between expansion requests

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

DEED is confident Alaska Family Child Care Association can expand into the Fairbanks and surrounding community by use it's online Minute Menu system for family day care homes to document menus and meals served. They will travel to the Fairbanks area as needed to provide training, pre-approval visits, and required monitoring, but initial expansion into this area prior to receiving administrative reimbursement is a burden.

- **Description of any steps the State has taken to address regulatory barriers at the State level. [Section 12(1)(2)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:**

DEED has reached out to non-profit organizations in the Fairbanks area to avoid having to ask the sponsoring organization from Anchorage to fill the void left behind when the Fairbanks Daycare Food Program closes. No other sponsoring organization has responded with interest.

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

DEED CNP does not anticipate these waivers will present any challenges to the SA or Sponsoring Organization. The challenges DEED CNP, Sponsoring organization and family day care homes may face if the waiver is **not approved** include:

- Family day care home providers in the Fairbanks area could lose the ability to receive CACFP reimbursement because there is no longer a sponsoring organization in the area after September 30, 2019. Fairbanks is the second largest city in Alaska and currently has 31 family day care homes receiving reimbursement under CACFP and they offer meals to approximately 210 young children daily. There are other licensed providers that are not currently part of the CACFP that would lose the opportunity for CACFP as well.
- If Alaska Family Child Care Association does not receive expansion funds they may decide against the expansion. Fairbanks is approximately 375 miles from Anchorage and can take six and a half to seven hours to drive from Anchorage, or would be a one hour plane ride.

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

There would be minimal cost for this waiver as it is an expansion request for a sponsoring organization for one month in order to do pre-approval visits and train 35-40 family day care homes in one area of the state. This request would not exceed \$5,310.00

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

To be effective for August and September 2019 in order to do pre-approval visits and training for family day care homes prior to FY20 starting.

- **Proposed monitoring and review procedures:**

DEED will receive documentation of expended expansion funds with close-out no later than November 30, 2019. DEED will monitor on-site records during the next CACFP review of the sponsoring organization.


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

DEED CNP will report to FNS any compliance issues noted with this flexibility as requested.

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

[Child Nutrition Programs Webpage](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 & 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:

Regional Office Analysis and Recommendations: