

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:**

All Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Child Nutrition Program (DEED CNP) sponsors in good standing.

- **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]:**

In preparation for the COVID-19, Alaska program sponsors are anticipating possible school and/or child care closures, as has been seen in other states. There are currently no cases of COVID-19 in Alaska; however, this remains an evolving situation.

CDC recommendations include social distancing in the mitigation of COVID-19, SFSPSSO regulations require consumption of meals at meal sites, increasing the potential of exposure among program participants. We are requesting a statewide waiver to be in place should COVID-19 cause closures and allow for program sponsors to establish non-congregate feeding sites.

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

7 CFR 225.6(e)(15) "Maintain children on site while meals are consumed".

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

Alaska DEED/CNP will provide detailed information and instructions to the SFSP/SSO sponsors on the waiver process; affected SFSP/SSO Sponsors will be required to apply for the waiver. The use of the waiver will be limited to times of documented closures due to COVID-19.

Existing Sponsors

- Be in good standing

- Participated in SFSP in current year or prior two years
- Located in an area experiencing a documented unanticipated school closure
 - Sponsor must maintain this documentation
- Sponsor must ensure that the site supervisor is available at the site to document the number of meals served and ensure the integrity of meal service
- Meals served in sealed containers such as sealed sack lunch bags must contain all required meal components

New Sponsors

- Exempt from SFSP application submission deadline
- Area eligibility requirements still apply

- **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]:**

No barriers have been identified at the state agency level. There are currently no state-level regulatory barriers related to this specific issue. The state agency will be in contact with program sponsors with sites impacted by closures.

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

Alaska DEED CNP does not anticipate this waiver will present any challenges to the state agency or sponsoring organizations. The challenge Alaska DEED CNP and sponsors may face if the waiver is not approved include the absence of meals provided to children during unanticipated closures in response to COVID-19.

- **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]:**

Alaska DEED CNP does not anticipate that this waiver will increase the overall cost of the program to the Federal government. The waiver will allow program sponsors and Alaska DEED CNP to continue meal service operations in areas impacted by unanticipated school closures.

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

To be effective for the remainder of federal fiscal year 2020; to be revisited if COVID-19 remains an issue into the next federal fiscal year.

- **Proposed monitoring and review procedures:**

Alaska DEED CNP will work with approved sponsors on the application and reporting on this waiver. Monitoring will include documentation of unanticipated school closure. Implementation of this waiver will be monitored by state agency staff during both the application process and through Administrative Reviews.

- **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 sponsors that operated feeding sites during unanticipated closures
2. The number of sites that operated during unanticipated closures
3. The number of meals served at each site/sponsor during unanticipated closures

- **Link to or copy of the public notice informing the public about the proposed waiver [Section 12(I)(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: