

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM WAIVER REQUEST

1. State agency submitting waiver request and responsible State agency staff contact information:

Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Child Care Food Programs
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-17
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Renee Kane, Bureau Chief
850-245-4598
Renee.kane@flhealth.gov

Brenda Lane, Policy Manager
850-245-4360
Brenda.lane@flhealth.gov

Joyce Harrison, Claims Administrator
850-245-4361
Joyce.harrison@flhealth.gov

2. Region:

Southeast Regional Office (SERO)

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

The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Child Care Food Programs (CCFP) is requesting this waiver on behalf of all participating at-risk afterschool meals program (AMP) organizations that are reimbursed based on area eligibility and are currently in good standing with the State Agency (SA).

4. 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]:

CCFP is requesting the following statewide waiver due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

For all participating Afterschool Meals Program sites that are approved to serve meals in a **non-congregate setting** due to the COVID-19 pandemic, waive the area eligibility requirement that the AMP site must be located in the attendance area of a school in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled children are certified eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Due to schools being temporarily closed and many parents being left unemployed, the State Agency is requesting that new AMP sites be deemed area eligible if the site is located in the attendance area of a school in which at least 25 percent of the enrolled children are certified eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

The SA anticipates that if the waiver is granted, there will not be an interruption in reimbursements to at-risk afterschool meals program sites who serve meals to children throughout the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

7 CFR 226 Citation	Requirement to be Waived
7 CFR 226.17a(i)(1)	An at-risk afterschool care center is in an eligible area if it is located in the attendance area of a school in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled children are certified eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

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

CCFP will provide detailed information and instructions to all participating institutions on the waiver process. CCFP contractors will be required to request approval for the use of the waiver(s). The alternative procedures would allow CCFP AMP contractors in good standing to add new sites to serve meals to children in a non-congregate setting during unanticipated school closures due to a public health emergency (i.e., COVID-19, novel coronavirus); and would allow for more children to participate in receiving meals through an AMP site by expanding area eligibility to include sites that serve an attendance area of a school in which at least 25 percent of the enrolled children are certified eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

7. 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.

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

We do not anticipate that this waiver will present any challenges to the State Agency or to CCFP contractors.

9. 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]:

The requested waiver does not increase the overall cost of the program to the Federal Government. The waiver is intended to provide meals to children who are now income eligible due to the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:

The waiver will begin the date that the non-congregate meal waiver was approved and is requested to remain in place through the end of the Federal Fiscal Year (September 30, 2020).

11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:

CCFP will work with approved contractors on the approval, implementation, and reporting of this waiver. During the review process, State Agency staff will confirm whether the waiver(s) have been implemented correctly and in compliance with regulatory requirements through an extensive review of the contractor's CCFP records.

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

CCFP will provide a report about the use of the waiver to USDA by December 31, 2020. This report will provide data and an analysis of the waiver impact to include:

1. A description of how the waiver impacted meal service operations, children's access to nutritious meals, and participation in the CCFP
2. A description of how the waiver impacted the quantity of paperwork necessary to administer the program
3. The number of CCFP contractors that used the waiver
4. The number of meals served at sites that used the waiver

5. A summary of findings, if any, associated with the use of the waiver

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

www.floridahealth.gov/ccfp

14. Signature and title of requesting official:

Renee Kane

Renee Kane, MPH, RD, LD

Bureau Chief

Bureau of Child Care Food Programs

Address: 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-17, Tallahassee, FL 32399

Requesting official's email address for transmission of response: Renee.Kane@flhealth.gov

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: