Nationwide Waiver Authority

- Congress did not extend FNS’ nationwide waiver authority
- Current nationwide authority only permits FNS to issue nationwide waivers that apply to the 2021-22 school year
- FNS identified options for supporting program operators in transitioning back to "normal" operations

12(l) Waiver Authority

Waivers may be granted provided certain conditions are met, including:

- Requester provides notice and information to public; and
- Waiver will not increase overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government
- If it does increase cost, additional cost will be paid from non-Federal funds

The Secretary cannot waive certain requirements, including:

- Nutritional content of meals or snacks
- Federal reimbursement rates
- Provision of free and reduced-price meals

Current Nationwide Waivers for CACFP

Through June 30, 2022

- Meal Service Time Restrictions
- Non-Congregate Feeding
- Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children
- Meal Pattern Flexibility
- Area Eligibility for At-risk Afterschool and Family Day Care Home Providers
Meal Service Waivers: CACFP

Flexibilities Available for SY 2022-2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

- Non-Congregate
- Meal Service Times
- Parent/Guardian Pick Up

Expired Waivers

- Waivers of meal pattern requirements
- Area Eligibility

Area Eligibility

Programs Impacted:
- CACFP at-risk afterschool
- CACFP family day care homes

Note: SFAs that operated regular NSLP in SY 21/22 will have school data available and are not eligible to use any new flexibilities. Only those that operated SSO.

Area Eligibility

Option 1:
- Use School Year 2019-2020 free and reduced-price application data
- Area Eligibility determinations made with School Year 2019-2020 data will be valid for the next two program years (through SY 2024-2025)

Option 2:
- Use a process like the schools Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
- Can only be used to qualify sites for area eligibility in SY 2022-2023

Note: These options only apply to SY 22-23 – these options are not available to use in future years without FNS guidance or approval

Collection of Race and Ethnicity Data

Collection of Race and Ethnicity Data by Visual Observation and Identification in CACFP and SFSP – Policy Rescission (CACFP 11-2021, SFSP 07-2021):

Removes visual observation and identification as an allowable practice in obtaining race and ethnicity data from CACFP and the Summer Food Service Program participants

Rules

Recently Published

- Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Final Rule
- Published on February 7, 2022
- Effective July 1, 2022

https://www.fns.usda.gov/building-back-better-school-meals
Ounce Equivalents for Grains

- Ready-to-eat cereal for 6-11 month infants at snack is \( \frac{1}{4} \) ounce equivalent
- Milk for ages 3-5 at snack is 4 ounces
- Cooked dry beans or peas for anyone 6 and up at snack is \( \frac{1}{4} \) cup
- \( \frac{1}{4} \) cup is equivalent to 2 ounces of yogurt
- \( \frac{1}{2} \) cup is equivalent to 4 ounces of yogurt


Research Studies

Recently Published
- Study of Nutrition and Activity in Childcare Settings in USDA’s Child and Adult Care Food Program I (SNACS-I)

In Progress
- Study of Nutrition and Activity in Child Care Settings II (SNACS-II)
- School Meals Operations Study (SMO-I and SMO-II)

SNACS-I Key Findings

The diets of children in early child care programs were higher in quality (that is, better aligned with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans) on child care days than on non-child care days, as measured by Healthy Eating Index (HEI) scores.


P-EBT

Pandemic EBT

Eligibility for School Children

- Public Health Emergency designation
- School closure, reduced attendance, or reduced hours for at least 5 consecutive days
- Child would have received free or reduced price school meals if not for the school’s closure, reduced attendance, or hours
Pandemic EBT
Children in Child Care

- Public Health Emergency designation
- Child is a SNAP recipient
- Child is enrolled in a “covered child care facility”
- Closure or reduced attendance/hours of child care facility or area school

Pandemic EBT: Program Status to Date

- $48.4 billion in benefits to children from spring of 2020 through January 2022
- An estimated 37 million preschool and school-age beneficiaries
- States are now working with USDA on P-EBT child care plans for SY 2021-2022

USDA P-EBT Website:
State Plan Template, Q&As, and Approved State Plan Documents


OFFICE OF FOOD SAFETY

Food Safety Resources

Family Child Care Food Safety Kits
- Launched in 2021
- ICN sharing at conferences
- Survey to determine preferred training modalities
- Spanish translation in progress
Child Care Center Food Safety Kits

• Prototype developed
• Sharing at conferences to gather feedback
• Coming in 2023

NEW!

Food Allergy Fact Sheet Sets for CACFP Audiences

Adult Care
Child Care Centers
Family Child Cares

Includes sesame as ninth major food allergen as designated by FASTER Act of 2021.
Available at https://theicn.org/icn-resources-a-z/food-safety

COMING SOON!

Online Training Course Series

Food Allergies in Adult Day Care Sites

Six Individual Modules
Recognizing and Responding to Food Allergies
Nine Major Food Allergens and Food Intolerances
Reading Labels
Avoiding Cross Contact
Outside Foods
Accommodating Participants

https://theicn.docebosaas.com/learn

Program Monitoring and Operational Support Division Update

Andrea Farmer
Branch Chief
Community Meals Program Monitoring Branch

Child Nutrition Emergency Operational Costs

Total Funds Disbursed

113 implementation plans have been approved from 54 States and U.S.
Territories
• 56 School Program plans approved
• 57 Child and Adult Care Food Program plans approved

A total of $1.47 Billion in funding has been approved, of which $350 million was for CACFP operators.

Nationwide Waivers of On-Site Monitoring

Allows off-site monitoring (desk audits) in CACFP and School Meal Programs for State agencies and local level operators

Waivers are in effect until 30 days after the official end of the public health emergency (PHE)
What happens when the PHE ends?

State agencies can request waivers of onsite visits

Still related to COVID conditions

Part of the transition to "normal" operations

Memorandum CACFP 02-2022

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Flexibilities During COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions

Prioritize technical assistance in lieu of fiscal action for COVID-related supply chain disruptions in FY 2022

Exercise discretion around determining a serious deficiency due to COVID-related supply chain disruptions in FY 2022

Tips and Best Practices for Off-Site Monitoring

Communicate & Plan

Develop Standard Processes

Consider Hybrid Approach

Develop Tools & Checklists

Documentation Considerations

Practice Procedures

Tips for Supply Chain Disruptions

Product Shortages & Food Delivery

Communicate With Vendors

Substitutions & Food Buying Guide

Identify Alternates

Food Buying Guide

State Agency Oversight Waivers and Plans

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency created need for flexibilities

FNS provided waivers to State Agencies
State Agency Oversight Waivers and Plans

20 CACFP waiver requests approved for FY22

Many States Requested
Plans Included

Moving Forward

Continue to work closely with FNS
Looking to the future
FNS appreciates your effort!

Community Food Systems

Farm to School Grant Program

- In FY 2021, USDA awarded $12 million to 177 grantees
- Since 2013, USDA has awarded nearly $64 million to 896 projects across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto Rico

https://www.fns.usda.gov/cfs/farm-school-grant-program

USDA FARM to SCHOOL 2019 CENSUS

www.farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov
Fact Sheets and E-Letter

FarmToSchool@usda.gov

Team Nutrition Resources

Team Nutrition Initiative Supports the Child Nutrition Programs by:
1. Developing nutrition education resources to help children make healthy food and physical activity choices as part of a healthy lifestyle.
2. Providing training and technical assistance for child nutrition professionals to enable them to prepare and serve nutritious meals that appeal to participants.
3. Providing technical resources to support healthy school & child care environments.

TeamNutrition.USDA.gov

Team Nutrition Web Quizzes
Topics include:
- Infant Nutrition
- Toddler Nutrition
- Older Adult Nutrition
- Milk in the CACFP
...and more!

fns.usda.gov/tn/quizzes

Quick and Easy Lunch and Supper Recipes

New CACFP Recipes Available

Try

Something

New!

fns.usda.gov/tn/team-nutrition-recipes

Key Features of Quick and Easy Recipes

Safety Tips
- Hand washing
- Cooking

Limited Ingredients
- Average 5-7 ingredients per recipe
- Common ingredients

Allergen Information
- Contains

4/20/2022
New!
Let’s Make a Snack!
CACFP Snack Menu Planner
fns.usda.gov/tn/lets-make-snack

Thursday, April 21
1:15 to 3:30 pm

Coming Soon:
It’s Breakfast Time! CACFP Breakfast Menu Planner

CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays Training Webinars

May 5, 2022: Serving Adult Participants in the CACFP
July 21, 2022: Breakfast Basics

English: 2-2:30 p.m. ET
Spanish: 3-3:30 p.m. ET
Over 20 recorded webinars available on demand!

Team Nutrition CACFP Grains Oz Eq Resources Webpage
fns.usda.gov/tn/grains-ounce-equivalents-resources-cacfp

CACFP Meal Pattern Training Slides
• Designed for interactive 30-minute trainings
• Over 20 presentations available in both English and Spanish

fns.usda.gov/tn/meal-pattern-training-slides-cacfp
Food Buying Guide Digital Resources

- Easy search & navigation
- Compare
- Favorites list
- Select serving size (fruits & vegetables)

[Link: fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs]

Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs: Training Resources

- Webinar Recordings
- Now available with Spanish Captioning:
  - Navigating the Food Buying Guide Calculator
  - How to Maximize the Exhibit A Grains Tool
- Training Videos
- Interactive Training Modules

[Link: fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-training-resources]

Revised Crediting Handbook for the CACFP

- Introduction
- Definitions and Explanations
- Updated Meal Patterns
- Meal Components
- Crediting in Action
- Resources


Team Nutrition Resource Webpages in English and Spanish

Team Nutrition CACFP Organizations

- Enrolled Team Nutrition CACFP Organizations:
  - Receive exclusive printed materials (Milk Bingo, Stickers, etc.)
  - Are displayed in the online network

[Link: fns.usda.gov/tn/cacfp]
Thank you!

TeamNutrition.USDA.gov
@TeamNutrition
TeamNutrition@USDA.gov

Questions?

Evaluate This Session

Use the NCNC22 app to evaluate sessions you attend and be automatically entered to win a $100 Visa gift card.

* * * * *

Void where prohibited or restricted by law.