**CHILD CARE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS**

**Question**

If a parent needs school age care and the child is not currently enrollment in a nearby childcare program, is the program allowed to accept children if doing so causes them to go over their license capacity?

Example: home provider cannot care for more than 5 preschoolers and 3 school aged children.

**Answer**

This is a question for the institution’s local licensing representatives.

**FOOD SHORTAGES**

**Question**

Childcare facilities are experiencing shortages in specific meal pattern food components, including skim or fat milk, whole grains, and more. What should institutions do?

**Answer**

Institutions are encouraged to provide what they can and document what they cannot purchase due to shortages. The State agency has been granted flexibly to support the provision of meals, with or without milk, in emergency situations. When emergency conditions prevent an institution or facility normally having a supply of milk from temporarily obtaining milk deliveries, the State agency may approve the service of breakfast, lunches, or suppers without milk during the emergency period.

Additionally, a nationwide waiver to allow meal pattern flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs was issued on March 25, 2020.

**INSTITUTION MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

**Question**

What are the parameters or requirements of a desk review? How does an institution conduct a desk review?
The State agency put out guidance on Friday, March 20, 2020 about how to conduct a desk review in lieu of on-site monitoring. The written procedures will be available at https://www.nutritionnc.com/snp/forms.htm under CACFP Forms Fiscal Year 2020.

Question
Does a desk review count as one of the two non-meal service reviews?

Answer
A desk review may count for one of the two required monitoring visits that do not require a meal service observation.

Question
Are institutions able to skip pre-operation visits for newly licensed facilities and conduct training over the phone?

Answer
The State agency has not received guidance to date that pre-operation visits may be waived.

RECORDKEEPING

Question
Should institutions continue completing meal counts and turning in menus during this time?

Answer
Yes, providers should continue to comply with all recordkeeping requirements. Institutions should document when certain meal components are not available due to food shortages.

TRAINING

Question
What is the plan of action for the CACFP as far as trainings for this fiscal year? Can institutions conduct virtual training for their centers and homes?

Answer
It is too early to waive certain program requirements for the fiscal year. Institutions would need to revise their training plans to tell the State agency how they are going to document required training, address questions, assess understanding, and follow-up with poor performers.

WAIVER REQUESTS
Question

[INSTITUTION] has received notification from the Office of Head Start regarding flexibility in providing meals and snacks during center closures. Head Start and Early Head Start programs may provide meals and snacks to children during center closures. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has waived its group setting meal requirement for closed schools and authorized special flexibilities for many states. Could the State agency provide us with additional guidance regarding these waivers and how the meals and snacks are to be distributed to children?

Answer

No waivers were approved for the Child and Adult Day Care Food Program (CACFP) until Wednesday, March 18, 2020 when the President signed HR6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Any flexibilities available prior to the bill signing were for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

The State agency has implemented the following flexibility:

- Fluid Milk Requirement: when emergency conditions prevent an institution or facility normally having a supply of milk from temporarily obtaining milk deliveries, the State agency is approving the service of breakfasts, lunches, or suppers without milk during the emergency period.

Four nationwide waivers were included under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act:

- Nationwide waiver of congregate feeding requirement through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency
- Nationwide waiver of meal service times requirement through June 30, 2020, or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, including suspension of meal service times
- Nationwide waiver of the activity requirement in At-Risk Afterschool Meals (ARAM) program through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency
- Nationwide waiver to allow meal pattern flexibility in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The waiver is in effect until April 30, 2020 or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier

In order to request to utilize any of the above waivers, please complete this WAIVER REQUEST FORM.

The State agency has request guidance from the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) of Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA on how to operationalize the nationwide waivers. No guidance has been provided to date.

The State agency has requested the following waivers (none of which are approved as of March 24, 2020):
• Suspension of On-Site Monitoring for the State agency and Sponsoring Organizations
• Waiver of Requirement for Sponsoring Organizations to Disburse Funds within 5 Days
• Waiver to Classify all CACFP Participants as Categorically Eligible for Free Meals
• Waiver of the 60-Day Claim Deadline

**Question**

Can institutions provide shelf-stable lunches and/or breakfasts for five days at the beginning of the week? Can at-risk afterschool meals (ARAM) programs provide meals on weekends as well?

**Answer**

The State agency has requested guidance from the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) of Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA on how to operationalize the non-congregate feeding waiver, including how many meals may be distributed through a grab-and-go or delivery set up.

At-Risk Afterschool Meals (ARAM) programs may serve up to one main meal and a supplement or two supplements during the week and on the weekends. **CACFP and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)/Seamless Summer Option (SSO) may not be operated at a site simultaneously. The site may offer one program or the other.**

Questions about the CACFP, including ARAM, should be directed to the Special Nutrition Programs office at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Questions about After School Snack Program under the National School Lunch Program should be directed to the Department of Public Instruction.

Questions about the Summer Food Service Program and/or the Seamless Summer Option should be directed to Cynthia Ervin at the Department of Public Instruction at [Cynthia.ervin@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Cynthia.ervin@dpi.nc.gov).

**Question**

Can institutions serve meals using drive-up service for families to take the meals back to their home? Institutions are still open for working families, but other families have been asking if they can get the usual meals and not be in official attendance?

**Answer**

Yes, institutions may serve grab-and-go meals to enrolled participants not in attendance. Institutions should continue to document point of service meal counts.

**Question**

Can this be extended to the larger community for all children 1-18?
**Answer**

Grab-and-go meals may not be extended to the larger community unless the children enroll in the child care program (typically limited to ages 12 and younger) through the CACFP. The larger community 0-18 should be directed to a Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in the area.