



CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM STATE WAIVER REQUEST

Subject of waiver request: Waiver to allow Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Meals and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Meals during unanticipated school closures, as well as in a non-congregate setting during Novel Coronavirus outbreaks

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

Name of State Agency: New Jersey Department of Agriculture
State Agency staff contact: Rose Tricario
Mailing address: PO Box 334, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0334
Telephone number: 609-984-0692
Email address: rose.tricario@ag.nj.gov

2. Region:
MARO

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

Statewide waiver request for all participating SFSP and SSO sponsor organizations, in good standing, to provide meals during unanticipated school closures, as well as in a non-congregate setting during Novel Coronavirus outbreaks.

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(l)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(l)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]:

The State Agency is requesting a waiver of SFSP requirement 7 CFR 225.6(d)(1)(iv) which would allow the State of New Jersey to approve the operation of SFSP and SSO meal service at school sites during unanticipated school closures. Additionally, the State Agency is requesting a statewide waiver to provide flexibility to the regulatory requirement, 7 CFR 225.6(e)(15), that stipulates that sponsors of the SFSP and SSO must maintain children on site while meals are consumed. Together these waivers would allow the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Food and Nutrition, to approve SFSP and SSO sponsors in good standing to provide meals during an unanticipated school closure in a non-congregate setting.



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

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture requests a waiver for regulation 225.6(d)(1)(iv), allowing schools to serve as a meal site during an unanticipated school closure. Additionally, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture requests a waiver of regulation 7 CFR 225.6(e)(15), which requires SFSP and SSO sponsors to maintain children on site while meals are consumed.

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

If approved, this will allow schools with an unanticipated school closure as a result of the coronavirus to serve meals to students in a non-congregate setting through SFSP and SSO of sponsors in good standing. Approval of this waiver will ensure that children have the necessary nutrition needed, assist with conserving other community resources for populations not served through the child nutrition programs and promote social distancing.

The State Agency will track the number of school sites and sponsors that were approved to utilize the waiver as well as number of meals served during the unanticipated school closure.

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

No state level barriers have been identified.

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

No state level challenges have been identified.

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(l)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]:

The State Agency does not anticipate that this waiver will increase the overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government.

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture is requesting this waiver effective immediately. We are anticipating school closures in the very immediate future due to growing concerns over COVID-19.



11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:

The State Agency will continue to follow required SFSP and SSO review procedures.

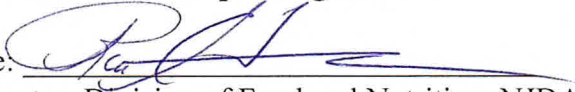
12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS):

The State Agency will report as required by approval of this waiver request.

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

<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/fn/pdf/childnutritionwaiver.pdf>.

14. Signature and title of requesting official:

Signature: 
Title: Director, Division of Food and Nutrition, NJDA

Requesting official's email address for transmission of response: rose.tricario@ag.nj.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:

• Date Received: _____

☐ Check this box to confirm that the State agency has provided public notice in accordance with Section 12(l)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA

• **Regional Office Analysis and Recommendations:**

☐ Recommend Approval

☐ Recommend Denial

Explanation: