

# NC CACFP Monthly Institution Call



All information presented on this call is true and accurate as of the date of the call.

# Agenda

- 1) Waiver Discussion and Clarification
- 2) Child Nutrition Program Emergency Operating Costs During COVID-19
- 3) State Plan for Pandemic EBT: Children in School and Child Care
- 4) Q&A



# Nationwide Waivers



# Afterschool Activity Nationwide Waiver

- This waiver expired June 30, 2020 with no extensions
- Regulation waived:
  - 7 CRF 226.17a(b)(1)(ii) and (iii)
- Afterschool meals and snacks must be served in a school or program with an educational or enrichment purpose.
- Eligible schools and At-Risk afterschool care centers to serve afterschool meals and snacks in a structured and supervised environment, with an educational or enrichment activity.

# Afterschool Activity Nationwide Waiver

- What this means now:
  - Now all meals and snacks must be served in a school or program with an educational or enrichment activity provided.



# Waiver to Allow Meal Service Time Flexibility

- This waiver has been extended through June 30, 2021
- Regulation waived:
  - 7 CFR 226.20(k)
- Child Nutrition Program meals must follow meal service time requirements.



# Waiver to Allow Meal Service Time Flexibility

- What this means now:
  - Institutions/facilities are permitted to adjust the time of meal service, including suspension of mealtimes as needed.
  - Institutions must submit a plan to the State agency that describes how meal service times have been adjusted or suspended.

# Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Feeding

- This waiver has been extended through June 30, 2021
- Regulation waived:
  - 7 CFR 226.19(b)(6)(iii)
- Meals must be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed by participants on site.



# Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Feeding

- What this means now:
  - Institutions must provide meals to all participants in a safe and accessible manner.
  - Institutions must submit a plan to the State agency that describes:
    - How the institutions will provide all participants in a safe manner
    - Where meals will be provided
    - How the institution will ensure meals are served to enrolled participants

# Waiver to all Meal Pattern Flexibility

- This waiver has been extended through June 30, 2021
- Regulation waived:
  - 7 CFR 226.20
- Meals must meet the meal pattern requirement



# Waiver to all Meal Pattern Flexibility

- During the public emergency of the pandemic, it was difficult to obtain all meal components due to limited or non-existent supply.
- What this means now:
  - If the supply of required components are available, institutions are required to meet the meal pattern.
  - Ex: 1% Milk is available in gallon cartons; however, you are an At-Risk Center and you prefer to offer pint size cartons. It is the institutions responsibility to serve milk during breakfast, lunch, and supper meal services.

# Waiver to all Meal Pattern Flexibility

- Institutions must submit a plan to the State agency that describes:
  - What food components are not available
  - What steps the institution will use to ensure access to nutritious meals



# Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick up Meals for Children

- This waiver has been extended through June 30, 2021
- Regulation waived:
  - 7 CFR 226.2 (Meals)
- Meals must be served to eligible children

This waiver also applies to guardians picking up meals for adult participants in CACFP Adult Day Care programs.

# Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick up Meals for Children

- What this means now:
  - Institutions may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their children
  - Institutions must submit a plan to the State agency that describes:
    - Process to ensure that meals are distributed only to parent or guardians of eligible children
    - Duplicate meals are not distributed to any child

# Waiver of Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors

- This waiver expired August 31, 2020, with no extensions
- Regulation waived:
  - 7 CRF 226.16(d)(4)(iii)

CACFP Sponsors must review each facility three times each year and

- 1) At least two of the three reviews must be unannounced
- 2) At least one unannounced review must include observation of meals service
- 3) At least one review must be made during each new facility's first four weeks of program operations
- 4) Not more than six months may elapse between reviews

# Waiver of Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors

- What this means:
  - For a sponsor's current review year, CACFP sponsors may conduct two reviews of the CACFP facilities
  - For a sponsor's current review year, only one CACFP facility review is required to be unannounced
  - Allows sponsoring organization to review new CACFP facilities as a desk review

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Waiver Regarding Monitoring and Sponsoring Organizations

# Waiver of Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors

- This waiver remains in effect through September 30, 2021
- Regulation waived:
  - 7 CRF 226.16(d)(4)(iii)

CACFP Sponsors must review each facility three times each year and

- 1) At least two of the three reviews must be unannounced
- 2) At least one unannounced review must include observation of meals service
- 3) At least one review must be made during each new facility's first four weeks of program operations
- 4) Not more than six months may elapse between reviews

# Waiver of Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors

- What this means:
  - This waiver allows for offsite monitoring in addition to the flexibilities that were provided in the previous waiver.



# What Questions Do You Have?



# Waiver Approval

# State Agency Waiver Approval

The State agency received approval to waive the following statutory and regulatory requirements:

- 1) 7 CFR 226.6(m)(6)(i)
- 2) 7 CFR 226.16(d)(4)(iii) Frequency and type of required facility reviews
- 3) 7 CFR 226.16(d)(4)(iii)(A) At least two of the three reviews must be unannounced
- 4) 7 CFR 226.16(d)(4)(iii)(B) At least one unannounced review must include observation of a meal service

# Written Guidance

Written guidance will be provided to sponsoring organizations.

Sponsors will receive guidance regarding:

- The unannounced review
- Announced meal service observation



# Hot off the Press

- Child Nutrition Program Emergency Operating Costs During COVID-19:
- Pandemic EBT: Children in School and Child Care, 2020-2021

- State Agency will be pursuing both opportunities offered by USDA. Upon approval of the grant award, the State Agency will provide more information about the implementation of the grant.
- For more information, please review the guidance on <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/emergency-operating-costs-during-covid-19-implementation-guidance>. ”

# Program Emergency Operating Costs During COVID-19

Purpose of the grant opportunity:

- This reimbursement program makes funding available via State agencies to institutions for the purposes of covering emergency operating costs incurred during the public health emergency.



# Program Emergency Operating Costs During COVID-19

USDA acknowledges, “institutions experienced widespread and significant gaps in funding, and in many cases were forced to expend their savings, draw funds from other sources, and cut or even suspend operations. The relief provided by these reimbursements is intended to help address such shortfalls and ensure that program operators are in the best position to rebuild while continuing to serve their communities.”

# Program Emergency Operating Costs During COVID-19

- Summary:
  - This grant opportunity will provide additional reimbursement to:
    - Sponsoring Organizations
    - Independent Child Care Centers
    - Adult Care Centers
    - Outside-School-Hours Care Centers
    - At-Risk Afterschool centers
    - Emergency Shelters

# Program Emergency Operating Costs During COVID-19

- CACFP reimbursements will cover the months of March – June 2020
- Upon FNS approval, disbursement of funds should begin June 30, 2021



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Grant Opportunity

# Pandemic EBT: Children in School and Child Care 2020-2021

Purpose of this grant opportunity:

- This grant opportunity will provide more money to low-income families and millions of children missing meals due to school and child care closures.
- This grant opportunity makes P-EBT available for school children as well as children in child care.

# Pandemic EBT: Children in School and Child Care 2020-2021

A child is eligible for benefits under P-EBT's child care component if three conditions are met:

- 1) The child is a member of a household that received SNAP benefits at any time since October 1, 2020,
- 2) The child is enrolled in a covered child care facility\*, and
- 3) The facility is closed or is operating with reduced attendance or hours for at least 5 consecutive days, resulting in the child's inability to attend the facility; or one or more schools in the area of the facility, or in the area of the child's residence, is closed or is operating with reduced attendance or hours.

# Pandemic EBT: Children in School and Child Care 2020-2021

\* Under the latest amendment to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), USDA shall deem all children under the age of 6 to be enrolled in a covered childcare facility.

- State agency is currently working aggressively, seeking guidance, and gathering the appropriate documentation to submit both grant opportunities.
- As additional information is provided, the State agency will update institutions.

# Current and Upcoming Projects

New Staff: Marcus Braithewaite

New Trainings: available on our website



# Q&A

Please use the chat function to submit your questions. We will review what we have time for that pertains to the good of the group. Questions that apply to one specific institution will be handled offline.

