



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Braddock
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Place
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DATE: June 30, 2022

SUBJECT: Child Nutrition Nationwide Waiver Update for Summer 2022 and School Year 2022-2023

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

State Directors
Child Nutrition Programs
All States

This memorandum announces a new suite of Child Nutrition Program (CNP) nationwide waivers and flexibilities to support continuity of program operations and ensure access to meals in summer 2022 and school year (SY) 2022-2023.

Child Nutrition Program operators across the nation continue their exceptional efforts to maintain program access in the face of numerous challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing the widespread nature of these challenges and their impacts, on June 25, 2022, President Biden signed the Keeping Kids Fed Act, Public Law 117-158 (KKFA). This critical new law will provide relief to CNP operators in a variety of ways, including temporary increased reimbursements in the school meal programs and in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, as well as a partial extension of USDA's nationwide waiver authority.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is initiating implementation of the KKFA with the establishment of four nationwide waivers. The waivers will streamline CNP access, enhance CNP flexibility, and reduce administrative burden on State and local partners, as well as program participants. These nationwide waivers are extensions of nationwide waiver flexibilities offered in summer 2021 and SY 2021-2022.

The following nationwide waivers are effective immediately for States that choose to adopt them:

- Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers for Summer 2022 Operations – EXTENSION 5
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites for Summer 2022 Operations – EXTENSION 4
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program Reimbursement Rates for the Seamless Summer Option in Summer 2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Fiscal Action Flexibility for Meal Pattern Violations Related to COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions Impacting School Meals in School Year 2022-2023 – EXTENSION

Looking ahead, FNS anticipates the announcement of further KKFA implementation activities, and remains committed to providing CNP operators with needed resources and flexibilities. State and local program operators across the country have worked tirelessly to make sure children have access to nutritious meals despite unprecedented challenges, and we will do our part to continue to support our partners.

Sincerely,

J. Kevin Maskornick
Director
Community Meals Policy Division