

Oversight and Monitoring CACFP Waiver

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

Ohio Department of Education
Office of Nutrition
Brigette Hires, Director
25. S. Front St.
Columbus, OH 43215
614-425-9760
Brigette.Hires@education.ohio.gov

2. **Region:**

Midwest

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

Ohio Child Nutrition School Food Authorities and Sponsors currently in good standing and approved to operate the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

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]:**

COVID-19 has changed the operation of sponsor and state agency operations. Childcare capacity and meal counts are still below pre-pandemic levels. Sponsors report concerns maintaining staffing and the additional burdens that COVID-19 practices of social distancing, cleaning and monitoring place on overall operations. In proposing this alternative monitoring plan to increase efficiency of reviews for both the Sponsor and agency, the Ohio Department of Education will maintain integrity of the programs, provide extensive technical assistance and support to community sponsors and complete compliance reviews as programmatically necessary.

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

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

[7 CFR 226.6(m)(3)(i)] Recordkeeping (including all records listed at [7 CFR 226.15(e)]): Due to travel restrictions, social distancing and technological sponsor

barriers, Ohio requests a waiver to limit the documentation review to only the selected site(s). The state agency has 207 CACFP Reviews currently scheduled for the 2022-2023 program year. The state agency plans to conduct these reviews to the maximum extent possible given the circumstances. Limiting the documentation review initially to only the sites selected for review will decrease the administrative burden on the sponsor and the state agency while still completing the compliance review. Should the limited documentation review indicate concerning errors, additional sites will be added for documentation review. The State Agency will provide technical assistance via bi-weekly email blasts to sponsors, periodic webinar based training and current on-demand web based training.

[7 CFR 226.6(m)(6)] Frequency and number of required institution reviews. Annually review at least 33.3% of all institutions according to the schedule:
[7 CFR 226.6(m)(6)(i)] (i) Review independent centers and sponsoring organizations of 1 to 100 facilities at least once every three years and include reviews of 10% of their facilities;
[7 CFR 226.6(m)(6)(ii)] (ii) Review sponsoring organizations with more than 100 facilities at least once every two years and include reviews of 5 percent of the first 1,000 facilities and 2.5 percent of the facilities in excess of 1,000
Ohio has 207 3-year CACFP reviews currently scheduled for the 2022-2023 program year and intends on completing them to the maximum extent possible. Should a review not be able to be completed due to COVID related issues, Ohio is requesting permission to carry these reviews into 2023-2024 without penalty.

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

The state agency will provide technical assistance through bi-weekly emails to all sponsors, conduct webinar based trainings, Education Program specialist will conduct “office hours” on a regular basis and individually contact each assigned sponsor at least twice in the program year and conduct virtual regional trainings. Additionally, the state agency will monitor claims in comparison to 2021-22 to identify any abnormal claim submissions.

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]:

There are currently no State level regulatory barriers related to this specific issue.

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

At this time, the Ohio Department of Education does not anticipate challenges from the waiver. Rather, the waiver will decrease the administrative burden on sponsors and the state agency while maintaining integrity of the program and the expected compliance to the regulations.

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 establishment of this waiver will not increase the overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government.

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:

Waiver implementation would start immediately and expire September 30, 2023.

11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:

State agency staff in the Office of Nutrition will monitor implementation of this waiver.

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

Ohio Department of Education will adhere to all reporting requirements as prescribed by the USDA.

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://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Food-and-Nutrition/Resources-and-Tools-for-Food-and-Nutrition/Food-and-Nutrition-Waivers>

14. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Director

Requesting official's email address for transmission of response:

Brigitte.Hires@education.ohio.gov

Phone: 614-466-0522

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

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;**
 - (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or**
 - (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.**
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