



## Child and Adult Care Food Program: New USDA Waivers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a series of child nutrition program waivers, based authorities granted in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. These waivers will support Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) providers and programs in maintaining access to nutritious meals for children in the current COVID-19 public health emergency. The waivers will do the following:

- allow meal pattern modifications when certain foods are not available due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and simplify food procurement rules, issued on March 25, 2020, and extended through July 31, 2020 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/resource/covid-19-nationwide-waiver-allow-meal-pattern-flexibility-child-nutrition-programs>);
- allow non-congregate feeding in CACFP programs, including offering meals offsite, via “grab and go,” and through delivery, issued on March 20, 2020, and extended through August 31, 2020 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/resource/cn-covid-19-non-congregate-feeding-nationwide-waiver>);
- allow parents or guardians to pick up non-congregate meals for their children, issued on March 25, 2020, and extended through August 31, 2020 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/resource/covid-19-nationwide-waiver-allow-parents-and-guardians-pick-meals-children>);
- allow the suspension of meal times as needed in CACFP, issued on March 20, 2020, and extended through August 31, 2020 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/resource/cn-covid-19-meal-times-nationwide-waiver>);
- allow CACFP At-Risk programs to waive the activity requirement, issued on March 20, 2020, and effective through June 30, 2020 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/resource/cn-covid-19-afterschool-activity-waiver>);
- allow state, sponsoring organizations, and programs to waive onsite monitoring requirements to maintain program integrity and support social distancing, issued on March 27, 2020, and extended through August 31, 2020 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/resource/CN/nationwide-waivers-child-nutrition-monitoring>); and
- extend the reporting deadline for child nutrition monitoring and review for January and February 2020 by 30 calendar days from the original required date of submission, issued on April 1, 2020 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/waiver-60-day-reporting-requirements>).

### Take Action

- Providers, programs, sponsors, advocates, and State agency staff can work in partnership to implement these waivers to provide meals to all participants in a safe and accessible manner.
- View USDA’s map of child nutrition waivers by state (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/cn-waivers-flexibilities>).

For updates and additional information on COVID-19, please see [FRAC’s COVID-19 Updates](https://frac.org/COVID-19-Updates) webpage (<https://frac.org/COVID-19-Updates>).