Child and Adult Care Food Program: USDA Waivers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a series of child nutrition program waivers, based on 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. Below is a list of nationwide child nutrition waivers applicable to CACFP.

- **At-Risk Afterschool Area Eligibility Waiver:** Allows schools and afterschool care providers to serve At-Risk afterschool meals and snacks to students regardless of their location, extended through December 31, 2020 ([fns.usda.gov/cn/nationwide-waiver-of-area-eligibility-in-at-risk-afterschool-care](https://fns.usda.gov/cn/nationwide-waiver-of-area-eligibility-in-at-risk-afterschool-care)).
- **Meal Times Waiver:** Allows CACFP meals to be served to children outside traditional times to maximize flexibility for meal pick-up, extended through December 31, 2020 ([fns.usda.gov/resource/cn-covid-19-meal-times-nationwide-waiver](https://fns.usda.gov/resource/cn-covid-19-meal-times-nationwide-waiver)).
- **Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver:** Allows meal pattern modifications when certain foods are not available due to the COVID-19 pandemic and simplifies food procurement rules, extended through December 31, 2020 ([fns.usda.gov/resource/covid-19-nationwide-waiver-allow-meal-pattern-flexibility-child-nutrition-programs](https://fns.usda.gov/resource/covid-19-nationwide-waiver-allow-meal-pattern-flexibility-child-nutrition-programs)).
- **Onsite Monitoring Requirements Waivers:** Allows State agencies and sponsoring organizations to conduct virtual monitoring activities via a desk audit or other means to maintain program integrity while supporting social distancing ([fns.usda.gov/resource/CN/nationwide-waivers-child-nutrition-monitoring](https://fns.usda.gov/resource/CN/nationwide-waivers-child-nutrition-monitoring)).

**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. See FRAC’s [Food and Nutrition Resources During COVID-19](https://frac.org/covid19).
- View USDA’s map of child nutrition waivers by state ([fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/cn-waivers-flexibilities](https://fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/cn-waivers-flexibilities)).

For updates and additional information on COVID-19, please see [FRAC’s website](https://frac.org/covid19).