



Questions and Answers related to 2022-2023 Oregon Waivers

This Q & A accompanies a memo announcing the release of additional USDA Nationwide waivers for Seamless Summer Option and Summer Food Service Program sponsors. The following questions and answers have been formulated to assist sponsors in determining next steps.

Acronyms:

NSLP – National School Lunch Program
SSO – Seamless Summer Option
SFSP – Summer Food Service Program
CDC – Centers for Disease Control

Nationwide Waivers:

- 1. Can you provide a more detailed explanation of site eligibility for Waiver #107 - Nationwide Waiver to extend Area Eligibility?**
 - The nationwide waiver extends the waiver that allows Open sites to operate in areas that are not located in “*Areas in which poor economic conditions exist*” provided that meal sites continue to target benefits to children in need.
 - This means that a sponsor may opt in and elect to operate an Open site, regardless of whether the site is not located in the boundaries of a school site with 50 percent free/reduced eligibility or in a census block that meets the requirements for 50 percent free/reduced eligibility.

- 2. Previously my site was not area eligible and I could not participate in SSO. Instead, I had to operate a site under NSLP for summer school. May I now elect to operate an open SSO for my summer school site instead?**
 - If a sponsor is currently approved for NSLP and is operating a Closed Enrolled site, that site must become an Open site (open to all children ages 1-18 who wish to participate in meals) in order to elect Waiver #107 - Nationwide Waiver to extend Area Eligibility and participate in SSO.

- 3. I am interested in opting in to Waiver #107 - Nationwide Waiver to extend Area Eligibility what are my next steps?**
 - The first step is to complete the [2022-2023 Oregon Waivers Form](#) to opt in to Nationwide and/or State waivers.

SSO sponsors

- Sponsors that would like to add a new site must complete an [Add Site Form](#) and submit it to ode.cnp@ode.oregon.gov. When completing the form, select School Nutrition Programs under “Programs to be operated”.
 - Once the sponsor is notified, via email, that the new site has been added to CNPWeb, the sponsor will log in to CNPWeb, select the “Add” button, and populate the Site Information Sheet with current service information. The following information must be included:
 - Line 120: Participation – Select “Participating – Area Eligibility Waiver”
 - Line 123: Type of Site – Select “Open”

Questions and Answers related to 2022-2023 Oregon Waivers

- Complete Lines 124-130 as applicable
 - Submit the Site Information Sheet for approval.
- Sponsors that will be operating a currently approved site in CNPWeb must make modifications to the site information sheet as follows:
 - Line 120: Participation – Select “Participating – Area Eligibility Waiver”
 - Line 123: Type of Site – Select “Open”
 - Complete Lines 124-130 as applicable
 - Submit information sheet for approval.

SFSP Sponsors

- If a site operated under the Summer 2021 Area Eligibility Waiver and still appears as a site option under the Applications tab in CNPWeb, the sponsor can select the “Add” button to the far right of the site name, and review/update all service information.
 - Under the General Information section, update the Eligibility section as follows:
 - Line 27: How is the Site Eligible for the selected type? – Scroll to the bottom of the list and mark “Other”
 - Line 37: If Other, describe the method for determining eligibility – Enter “Area Eligibility Waiver due to COVID-19”
 - If the sponsor plans to operate Non-Congregate Meal Service, the Non-Congregate Feeding Section must be completed as follows:
 - Line 55- Select “Yes”
 - Line 56- Mark “No”
 - Line 57- Mark “Yes”
 - Line 59- Mark “Other”
 - Line 60- Enter “Non-congregate waiver due to COVID- 19”
 - Submit the Site Information Sheet. If Non-Congregate waiver information is entered, the sponsor will receive a “Section 9” Error message. This is ok, please email your Child Nutrition Specialist to alert them that site information sheets have been submitted and are in Error status.
- Sponsors that would like to add a new site must complete an [Add Site Form](#) and submit it to ode.cnp@ode.oregon.gov.
 - Once the sponsor is notified, via email, that the new site has been added to CNPWeb, the sponsor will log in to CNPWeb, then add and populate the Site Information Sheet with current service information. The following information must be included:
 - Under the General Information section, update the Eligibility section as follows:
 - Line 27: How is the Site Eligible for the selected type? – Scroll to the bottom of the list and mark “Other”
 - Line 37: If Other, describe the method for determining eligibility – Enter “Area Eligibility Waiver due to COVID-19”
 - If the sponsor plans to operate Non-Congregate Meal Service through the Waiver #111 Non-Congregate Feeding for Summer 2022, the Non-Congregate Feeding Section must be completed as follows:
 - Line 55- Select “Yes”

Questions and Answers related to 2022-2023 Oregon Waivers

- Line 56- Mark “No”
 - Line 57- Mark “Yes”
 - Line 59- Mark “Other”
 - Line 60- Enter “Non-congregate waiver due to COVID- 19”
 - Submit the Site Information Sheet. If Non-Congregate waiver information is entered, the sponsor will receive a “Section 9” Error message. This is ok. Please email your Child Nutrition Specialist to alert them that site information sheets have been submitted and are in Error status.
 - Note – **For SFSP sites**, the meal service approval date is based on the date the Site Information Sheet is added and submitted in CNPweb (for existing sites) **OR** the Site Add Form is sent in to ODE for processing (for new sites).
- 4. If I choose to operate SSO, what meal pattern am I required to follow?**
- Operators of the SSO must follow the same meal pattern as the NSLP
- 5. How is the Nationwide Waiver #111 Non-Congregate Feeding for Summer 2022 different from the State waiver for Non-Congregate Feeding and do I have to opt in to the Nationwide waiver if I am already approved for a State waiver?**
- The Oregon State Waivers originally issued on June 16, 2022 only allow for non-congregate feeding if a sponsor is located in a county designated as a High COVID Risk area as determined by the [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#) and/or if the sponsor is dealing with staffing shortages due to current staff being out with illness/quarantine. Sponsors must maintain documentation supporting these instances and must resume congregate feeding when the COVID risk level decreases and/or staffing levels return to normal.
 - The Nationwide Waiver released by USDA on July 6, 2022 does not require either instances of High COVID Risk or limited staffing due to current staff being out with illness/quarantine. Additionally, Sponsors are only required to opt-in to this waiver one time and may continue Non-Congregate operations until the end of their Summer 2022 operations or September 30, 2022, whichever comes first.
 - Sponsors are encouraged to opt in to the Nationwide waiver for Non-Congregate Feeding even if they are currently operating under a State waiver for Non-Congregate Feeding. If Sponsors choose to remain on a State waiver for Non-Congregate Feeding rather than opting into the Nationwide waiver, they must continue to follow all requirements of the State waiver.
- 6. Can I opt in to Waiver #112 Parent Pick Up Waiver for Summer 2022 without opting in to the Nationwide Non-Congregate Waiver?**
- A Sponsor may only opt in to Waiver #112 if they have first opted in to Waiver #111 Non-Congregate Feeding for Summer 2022.
- 7. When do I need to submit a Meal Distribution Plan (MDP)?**
- Sponsors that opt into Waiver #111 Non-Congregate Feeding for Summer 2022 through the [2022-2023 Oregon Waivers Form](#) will be prompted to complete an MDP detailing their

Questions and Answers related to 2022-2023 Oregon Waivers

procedures for providing meals via non-congregate service. A Child Nutrition Specialist will review the plan and may contact the sponsor for further details before the plan may be approved. Sponsors may begin service after submission of the MDP.

- If a Sponsor makes changes in their procedures for meal distribution, they must contact their Child Nutrition Specialist to inform them of the updates to the MDP.

8. Can you clarify how I should complete my site claim if I am operating Non-Congregate meal service for SFSP?

- SFSP sponsors must report non-congregate meals served in the site claim. When completing the site claim, Sponsors will enter the total operating days, total number of meals served (to include both congregate and non-congregate meals) and will then complete the “Non-Congregate Meals” section. The “Non-Congregate Meals” section will ask the sponsor to enter:
 - The number of operating days
 - The specific dates that non-congregate meals were served
 - Total Non-Congregate meals served

9. I have been serving NSLP at my site for the first half of July, but will be opting in to the Nationwide waivers and serving SSO for the last half of July. Can I claim both types of meals under my July claim?

- Yes. Sponsors who are currently operating NSLP/SBP and will be switching to SSO mid month, must make sure that they do the following when making edits to the site information sheet
 - Under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program sections, keep the “Participating” option selected
 - Make sure the month of July is selected under NSLP/SBP
 - Under Seamless Summer Option – Select “Participating” and make updates as instructed in Question 3 above
 - Make sure the month of July is checked under the Seamless Summer Option
- When completing the site claim, sponsors will enter meals served under NSLP in the appropriate sections and meals served under SSO in the appropriate section.
 - Sponsors should be careful not to double claim. Ensure good record keeping is maintained to determine separation of meal types.

10. Can you clarify the expiration date for the Nationwide waivers; I thought that they expired on September 30, 2022. Does this mean that I can begin the school year providing non-congregate meals through NSLP/SBP?

- No. During recent webinars USDA emphasized that the Nationwide waivers provided for Summer 2022 only apply to summer program operations.
- If a Sponsor is operating a summer program such as SSO or SFSP until August 12th and the school year begins on August 29th, approval for the Nationwide waivers expires for that sponsor on August 13th.
- When school begins and NSLP/SBP service starts, the sponsor will have the option to apply for a State waiver based on COVID data (either High Risk area per the CDC or staffing shortages due to illness/quarantine.)