

TO: National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors

FROM: Dustin Melton, Director, Child Nutrition Programs

DATE: September 2, 2020

RE: CN COVID-19 Nationwide SFSP/SSO Waivers Q/A

With the recent USDA announcement to extend the flexibility to operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Program (SSO) through December 2020 the Oregon Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs (ODE CNP) has received many questions related to Program operations. ODE CNP continues to reach out to USDA for answers to questions and will communicate with sponsors as guidance is received, however below are common questions we have been receiving with answers.

What we know:

Funding -

Question: In the COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #56- *Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Operations through December 2020* there is a statement that reads “*Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) reserves the right to withdraw this approval subject to availability of funding.*” If the FNS withdrew this approval, would we still be guaranteed to be reimbursed for the meals served PRIOR to the withdrawal date? Also, would we be notified of any withdrawal to have sufficient time to switch back to NSLP, if necessary?

- **Answer:** The language included in the waiver is legal language that FNS must include as it relates to funding. USDA is not anticipating a lack of funding and is committed to reimbursing for meals served through SFSP and/or SSO through December 2020.

SFSP and SSO Operations -

Question: Can Sponsors do bus routes with the SFSP/SSO Extension?

- **Answer:** Yes. The Nationwide waivers released on August 31, 2020 allow the same meal delivery systems that sponsors utilized in spring and summer to continue through December 2020.

Question: Are home deliveries also extended through December 31, 2020?

- **Answer:** Yes. The Nationwide waivers released on August 31, 2020 allow the same meal delivery systems that sponsors utilized in spring and summer to continue through December 2020.

Question: Can a sibling pick up a meal in lieu of a parent/guardian?

- **Answer:** Yes. Siblings are allowed to pick up meals if they are able to provide proof of parent/guardian permission to do so

Question: If a sponsor did not previously operate SSO, are we able to approve them now under the waivers?

- **Answer:** Yes. Please work with your assigned Child Nutrition Specialist.

Question: Is the SFSP reimbursement rate the same as it was in March?

- **Answer:** Yes. The reimbursement rate for SFSP meals is the same as it was in March

Question: Can new sites that are not area eligible, and were not previously approved in the spring or summer, still be approved under the area eligibility waiver?

- **Answer:** Yes. ODE CNP will follow the same process to review and approve non-area eligible sites as it did in the spring and summer.

Question: Do sponsors need to add all schools that are doing instruction and/or non-congregate feeding to their SFSP application?

- **Answer:** Please do not submit any SFSP Add Site forms at this time. To facilitate ODE CNP's approval for Sponsors to operate SFSP September 2020 through December 2020, ODE CNP developed a form titled, [Continuation of Summer Meals](#) into FY2021. This is a short form that Sponsors who intend to participate in SFSP at any point between September 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 must complete. This form will address how sites will be added during this period of time as well. Please complete this form by Tuesday, September 8 2020.

Question: Can a private non-profit CACFP sponsor add SFSP to their agreement at this time?

- **Answer:** No. New SFSP sponsors are not being added at this time.

Question: Can CACFP At-risk Afterschool Meals be served at the same time as SFSP meals?

- **Answer:** Yes. This can be offered in the same manner as in the spring 2020. Sponsors could offer breakfast and lunch through SFSP and an At-Risk Afterschool supper or snack through CACFP.

Question: For schools operating a hybrid model, can separate sites within a district operate NSLP while other sites operate SFSP or SSO?

- **Answer:** ODE CNP strongly encourages school districts to operate one Program for all sites.

Question: When operating hybrid models, can schools still operate SSO/SFSP for students that are in the building?

- **Answer:** Yes, but if the site is not on SFSP ODE CNP recommends the site operate SSO. ODE CNP will not be adding new SFSP sponsors at this time.

What guidance we are seeking from USDA:

Question: If Sponsors decide to extend SSO/SFSP service, can they serve meals for weekends like they were doing with previous waivers?

Question: Can Program approval be retroactive?

ODE CNP is seeking guidance from USDA and will communicate to sponsors once information is received.

ODE CNP appreciates your patience as we provide answers to your important questions. ODE CNP will send additional guidance as we receive it. Please contact your assigned Child Nutrition Specialist if you have additional questions.