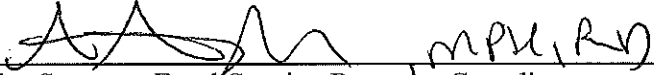


January 10, 2020

Waiver Request to continue SFSP 12-2011, SP 07-2013, SFSP 04-2013, SP 06-2014, SFSP 06-2014, CACFP 03-2014

- 1. State agency submitting waiver request and responsible State agency staff contact information:** Maine Department of Education Child Nutrition, Adriane Ackroyd, [adriane.ackroyd@maine.gov](mailto:adriane.ackroyd@maine.gov), 207-624-6726, 136 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333
- 2. Region:** Northeast
- 3. Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing:** Maine is requesting a state-wide waiver. During summer 2019, 122 sponsors received reimbursement by operating at 467 sites.
- 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]:**  
Maine has historically offered this waiver to sponsors. In 2019, Maine decided to not apply for the waiver to implement this flexibility. However, based on feedback from experienced sponsors, conducting first week visits was burdensome. Maine has many sponsors who operate with limited staff. Some of these sponsors have many sites so they found it very challenging, if not impossible, to physically get to every site to conduct the visit within the required timeframe. This is especially poignant in Maine, one of the most rural states in the country. Sponsor representatives often have to drive long distances to get from one site to another, which can be challenging, and costly, when trying to meet the first week visit requirement.
- 5. Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(i) of the NSLA]:** 7 CFR 225.15(d)
- 6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring:**  
Maine Department of Education has done training for SFSP sponsors on the required monitoring visits to be conducted. Last year, we adjusted training to indicate that the first week visit would be required for all sites. We will adjust our training accordingly to make it optional. Training is always tailored to address concerns observed on reviews and guidance from USDA.
- 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]:** Prior to 2019 Maine has waived the first week visit for returning SFSP sponsors since the waiver was adopted. It was a burden to not have the waiver in place in 2019. Obtaining the waiver would remove the burden.

- 8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:** Prior to 2019, this waiver has been in place in Maine. Maine does not anticipate any additional challenges as a result of implementation.
- 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]:** Maine does not anticipate there to be any additional cost to the Federal Government. Limited IT program changes will be needed.
- 10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:** Through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 with the option of extending to future years if allowable.
- 11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:** Maine will continue to review per federal regulations. Maine keeps track of Summer compliance review findings by category and uses this data for training and technical assistance.
- 12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS):** Maine will collect the number of sponsors and sites that make use of this waiver, including the number of meals served. Maine will also report on the number of eligible sites not visited in the first week. This data can be submitted by December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 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://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/programs/sfsp>
- 14. Signature and title of requesting official:** Adriane Ackroyd, Summer Food Service Program Coordinator for Maine

  
Title: Summer Food Service Program Coordinator  
Requesting official's email address for transmission of response:  
adriane.ackroyd@maine.gov

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**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:**

- 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:**