***Child Nutrition Program Waiver Request***

***Maine Child Nutrition DOE***

***Submitted March 7, 2020***

**1.State agency submitting waiver request and responsible State agency staff contact information:**

Maine Child Nutrition Department of Education, Walter Beesley walter.beesley@maine.gov 207-624-6875

Walter Beesley

Child Nutrition DOE

136 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0136

**2. Region:** NERO

**3. Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing:** This would be for eligible summer sponsors.SP 04-2020

**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]:** This request is for the ability to provide meals during an unanticipated school closure pandemic outbreak that caused a school(s) to close. The waiver would allow meals to be offered under current regulations/guidance but consumed off site in a non-group setting.

**5. Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(i) of the NSLA]:** Regulation 7 CFR 225.6(e)(15)

**6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring:**  meals would be provided to students once approved by State Agency. All regulations and requirements still would be met except meals would be allowed to be consumed off site. We anticipate no impacts on technology, state systems, or monitoring.

**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]:** educate DOE and local administrators of current methods under Federal and State regulations. There are currently no state level regulatory barriers that would impact this issue.

**8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:** communication and education about the availability of the program during outbreak. Instructions on how to file claims for reimbursements.

**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]:** This is simply to allow same meal consumed off site. The only additional cost will be the staff costs to review waivers and any follow-up USDA wishes to do.

**10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:** This is unknown if actually will be needed but in preparation Maine wants to be ready. Currently 2 schools have been closed for flu. The two schools closed do not participate in the NSLP. But demonstrates the possibility is real. The waiver would be for the period of March 9th, 2020, through September 30th, 2020.

**11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:** District will contact CN/DOE of their intent to serve meals under this waiver. DOE staff will monitoring implementation of this waiver.

**12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS):**  Maine DOE will report to FNS the number of sponsors that used this waiver, the number of non-congregate meals claimed by each sponsor, and the number of non-congregate operating days for each sponsor. This information will be provided to FNS by December 31st of each year.

**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]:** this was shared in a DOE webinar to all districts and interested parties. [**https://www.maine.gov/doe/covid-19**](https://www.maine.gov/doe/covid-19)

**14. Signature and title of requesting official:**

Director Child Nutrition **Title**: Requesting official’s email address for transmission of response:

walter.beesley@maine.gov

**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:**