

USDA Extends Area Eligibility Waiver for CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Care Programs

On Oct. 9, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued an extension of the [Nationwide Waiver of Area Eligibility in the Child and Adult Care Food Program At-Risk Afterschool Component](#). This waiver allows schools and afterschool care centers, regardless of their location, to serve at-risk afterschool meals and snacks to students after the regular school day, through June 30, 2021.

Waiving area eligibility for CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Care Programs is consistent with the Summer Food Service Program and Summer Seamless Option and allows a smooth transition to these models, eases administrative burdens associated with traditional school meal operations, and ensures student safety. It also ensures that schools and afterschool care centers are able to meet the nutrition needs of students by providing each child with the maximum meal benefits available through the Child Nutrition Programs.

To implement this waiver, program operators must have a plan for ensuring that new meal sites are targeting benefits to children in need, for example, children who may be newly eligible for benefits due to the impacts of COVID-19. Sponsors would submit this plan along with the new site(s) application documents.

For a list of previous COVID-19 waivers and flexibilities in Illinois, visit the USDA website at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/illinois> and scroll down to the “Child Nutrition Programs” section. Please visit and bookmark www.isbe.net/nutrition for What’s New? announcements and resources from the ISBE Nutrition Department.

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