



CCFP Roundtable
1000 N. Alameda St., Suite 240
Los Angeles, CA 90012

National CACFP Forum
2751 Buford Hwy NE, Ste 500
Atlanta, GA 30324

June 9, 2020

Angela Kline, Andrea Farmer, Kristen Hyatt, and Sarah Smith Holmes
United States Department of Agriculture, Food & Nutrition Service
1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear USDA:

The [Child Care Food Program \(CCFP\) Roundtable](#) and the [National CACFP Forum](#) greatly appreciate the waiver extensions issued on June 8th, 2020 to provide continued support and flexibility to CACFP operators. These will certainly help sponsors and child and adult operators through the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the waivers did not provide extensions for claim deadlines or onsite monitor visits. Immediate and decisive action is needed.

- **Suspension of onsite monitoring visits and state audits**

While the most recent waiver clarifies that state agencies should “*continue monitoring activities of Program activities offsite*,” sponsors of providers have not received the same guidance. USDA must provide guidance to suspend onsite visits from sponsors and to conduct desk reviews until it is deemed safe to restore social interaction. Travel subjects staff to personal risk and continuing to require on-site reviews by CACFP sponsors and state agencies is inconsistent with CDC and local public health mandates. As increases in positive COVID-19 cases are emerging as a result of some stay-at-home orders being lifted, we urge vigilance against exposure by suspending on-site monitoring activities during the COVID-19 emergency.

- **Provide extension for claim deadlines.**

Many counties throughout the country are limiting gatherings to no more than 10 people, including work locations. CACFP organizations that have had to move operations to remote or home locations, no longer have normal or regular access to company mail,

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software, and the hardware needed to process accurate claims within the current deadlines. Many centers are just reopening their doors to find out that their March paperwork was returned by the Post Office while they were closed. States are requiring that sponsors use a one-time exception, only allowed once every three years, in order to claim meals for centers that were open in March but closed through April and May due to COVID-19.

As a nation, we are facing a significant challenge. CACFP sponsors and providers are looking to USDA to continue to show bold and visionary leadership. We look forward to working with you in the weeks to come to address these targeted and necessary solutions.

The CCFP Roundtable and the National CACFP Forum sincerely appreciate your consideration of the unique needs of CACFP as you work to craft the necessary federal response to the coronavirus pandemic. If you have any questions, please contact Elyse Homel Vitale (elyse@ccfproudttable.org), Reynaldo Green (rgreen@qccaga.org) or Jodi Kuhn (jkuhn@gmail.com). We stand ready to work with you to address both the health and economic impacts of this disease.

Sincerely,



Elyse Homel Vitale, MPH
Executive Director, CCFP Roundtable



Reynaldo Green
President, National CACFP Forum