



IOWA

Department of Education

Chad L. Aldis, Director

Kim Reynolds, Governor
Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

April 17, 2023

Cole Hauser
Food & Nutrition Service
Midwest Regional Office
United States Department of Agriculture
77 W. Jackson Blvd., 20th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60604

RE: SFSP Streamlining Requirements and Improving Integrity in the SFSP Final Rule
Compliance Date_2022-23

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

Iowa Department of Education (Department), Bureau of Nutrition & Health Services

Kala Shipley, Bureau Chief, kala.shipley@iowa.gov, 515-681-2307
Stephanie Dross, Education Program Consultant, stephanie.dross@iowa.gov, 515-281-4760

2. Region: Midwest

3. Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing:

The Iowa Department of Education is requesting this waiver as the USDA Child Nutrition Program State Agency (SA) and on behalf of all sponsoring organizations participating in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) during the 2022-23 program year, who are deemed by the Iowa SA to be in good standing.

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(I)(2)(A)(iiii) and 12(I)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]:

The State agency needs to prioritize our limited resources to meet the requirements of the newly passed omnibus legislation which includes systems changes to meet the new provisions for non-congregate meal service in rural areas, which must be met this summer, while implementing the new requirements in the *Streamlining Program Requirements and Improving Integrity in the SFSP Final Rule*, simultaneously.

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5. Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(I)(2)(A)(i) of the NSLA]:

The SA is requesting a waiver of the compliance date May 1, 2023, as published in the *Streamlining Program Requirements and Improving Integrity in the SFSP Final Rule*, extended to January 1, 2024.

6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring:

The SA will ensure that all sponsors are meeting requirements with regard to financial viability, financial management, administrative capability and program accountability, in addition to continuing to meet all program integrity measures as outlined in regulations while utilizing this waiver.

The SA will continue to use existing strategies to develop and deliver training, collect and assess sponsor applications and monitor compliance with program requirements. The SA will also work with the software vendor to begin making the necessary system edits required within the SFSP Final Rule.

7. Description of any steps the State has taken to address regulatory barriers at the State level. [Section 12(I)(2)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:

No barriers have been identified.

8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:

The SA does not anticipate any additional challenges due to this waiver.

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(I)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]:

The requested waiver does not impact the overall cost of the program to the State or Federal government. The waiver will provide the State agency and sponsoring organizations more time to come into compliance with these new regulations.

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:

This waiver will begin May 1, 2023 and be effective through December 31, 2023.

11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:

The State agency will continue to carry out normal monitoring via administrative reviews.

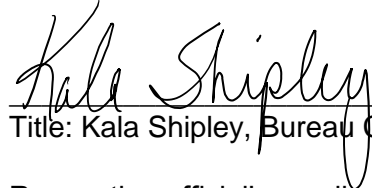
12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS):

No later than December 31, 2024, the Department will report to FNS the number of sponsors that operated under this waiver.

13. Link to or a copy of the public notice informing the public about the proposed waiver [Section 12(I)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:

Public notice posted at: <https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/summer-food-service-program>

14. Signature and title of requesting official:


Title: Kala Shipley, Bureau Chief

Requesting official's email address for transmission of response:

kala.shipley@iowa.gov

stephanie.dross@iowa.gov

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Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. Mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-9410; or
2. Fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. Email:
program.intake@usda.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:**