

**South Carolina Department of Social Services
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
Waiver Request Template
State Agency Monitoring FFY22**

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

Agency- [South Carolina Department of Social Services](#)
 Contact Name and Title- [Cheryl Evans-McDonald, CACFP Program Compliance Manager](#)
 Contact Phone Number- [\(803\) 898-0971](#)
 Contact Email- cheryl.evans-mcdonald@dss.sc.gov

2. Region: [Southeast](#)

3. Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing: [NA; this waiver request only applies to the State Agency \(SA\).](#)

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]:

The SA does not feel that it can successfully complete the FFY22 monitoring reviews under the current guidelines of 7CFR 226.6(m).

For FFY2021, the SA has paid the following CACFP reimbursements as of August 12, 2021:

Institution Type	Number of Institutions	Reimbursement Paid
Adult Care	35	\$1,537,869.59
At-Risk	35	\$2,925,994.94
Child Care	198	\$13,390,224.76
Emergency Shelter	2	\$13,883.68
Grand Total	270	\$17,867,972.97

As a direct result of the Covid 19 pandemic SA staff processes have been greatly impacted.:

- a. The SCDSS CACFP monitoring unit was made up of a total of 11 staff—1 manager, 1 administrative person, 2 supervisors, and 7 field staff. Currently, three (3) field staff persons are no longer employed with the SA and one (1) field staff person is on an indefinite leave status. These staff have chosen telecommuting opportunities or have opted to care full-time for immediate family members who are vulnerable. The SA is in the process of filling vacancies but does not feel that staff will be hired and fully trained to work independently on meeting the annual review requirements for October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022.
- b. Child and Adult Care institutions have now varied their operating hours and days, and some are functioning on limited staff; institutions have had to sporadically close due to COVID-19 infections amongst staff and participants. Therefore, CACFP institutions may not be available to readily respond to inquiries and provide records when needed.

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- c. When contacted regarding the desk review, institutions are provided a specific list of records needed and are told that records can be made available to the SA via mail, fax, scan, photo, in-person delivery and in-person pickup if needed. Some institutions do not have all the technological capabilities that facilitate the most efficient, complete, and cost-effective methods of making records available off-site to the SA. Completing reviews has taken more time than usual.

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

State Agency Monitoring Requirements	Waiver Request	State Agency Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> [7 CFR 226.6(m)(6)] Frequency and number of required institution reviews. Annually review at least 33.3% of all institutions according to the schedule:	Yes	<p>SCDSS is requesting to waive the 33.3% total number of reviews performed requirement but will still review institutions according to the review cycle schedule of once every 3 years, large sponsors every 2 years, and new sponsors with 5 or more facilities within the first 90 days of operations. If the number of reviews based on the review schedule do not equate to 33.3% of the total number of institutions receiving reimbursement for the FFY2020 program year, additional institution reviews will not be added to the review list to bring the total number of reviews conducted up to the 33.3% total. See the calculations below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of reviews <i>required</i> based on 33.3%—104 institution reviews based on data that shows that 311 institutions received a FFY2020 program year reimbursement • Total Reviews <i>requested</i> to be performed—82 full reviews based on the 2 or 3-year review cycle cited in 7 CFR 226.6(m)(6)]— <p>In addition to the 82 full reviews, the SA will also be performing 7 targeted follow-up reviews of Serious Deficiency institutions</p> <p>Due to the ongoing Pandemic environment, the waiver to perform 82 full reviews for FFY22 will allow the State Agency to complete the FFY22 reviews by September 30, 2022.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> [7 CFR 226.6(m)(3)] Review content:	No	

6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring: [Based on the scope and substance of the waiver being](#)

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requested, the SA will not have to develop alternative procedures and the waiver content will not impact program operations.

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]: **The SA does not foresee any regulatory barriers at the state level for this waiver.**

8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation: **The SA does not foresee any challenges at the state level for 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(l)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]: **There will not be an increase in costs.**

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period: **The waiver request is applicable to the FFY22 monitoring requirements for October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.**

11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures: **The State Agency will utilize training sessions, technical assistance, review of monitoring activities if a sponsor, and claims verification techniques to assess and improve program operations. These activities will be performed via phone, virtual, desk review, and in-person (if needed).**

12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS): **The SA will provide the list of reviews to be performed during FFY22 and provide an update on the status of the performance of reviews for the quarters ending Dec 31, 2021, March 31, 2022, June 30, 2022, and September 30, 2022.**

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://scchildcare.org/news-and-announcements/cacfp-covid19-waivers.aspx>

14. Signature and title of requesting official:



Name: Michele J. Bowers
Title: Director, Division of Early Care and Education, South Carolina Department of Social Services

Requesting official's email address for transmission of response:
michelle.bowers@dss.sc.gov
