

Information About and Directions for Completing:
*Application to Participate in Area Eligibility Waiver
SFSP during Unanticipated School Closures*

Background:

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites are required to meet the area eligibility requirement of 50%+ free/reduced-eligible students, unless a waiver of the requirement is in effect.

The MDE Office of Child Nutrition (OCN) received permission from the USDA Southeast Regional Office (SERO) for sites not meeting the area eligibility requirement to operate during unanticipated school closures beginning March 16, 2020. This process required that the sponsor/SFA submit a plan for how known free/reduced-eligible students would be targeted for each proposed site.

The USDA subsequently issued national guidance requiring each State Agency desiring to approve operation of non-area eligible sites to file a waiver request. The OCN's waiver request was approved effective April 2, 2020. The waiver approval requires sponsors/SFAs which ***have operated and/or plan to operate*** a site that does not meet area eligibility requirements to submit a limited amount of information to the OCN regarding each site.

How to Complete Application:

1. Enter sponsor name (School Food Authority or Non-Profit).
2. If you are operating any sites with eligibility percentages **between 40 and 49%**, fill in information for each such site in the first large text box. The required information is listed and should be entered for each site. The eligibility percentage should come from your October 2019 claim for reimbursement for pricing sites. For CEP sites, you should list the free claiming percentage for the individual site, even if the site is part of a group. (This can be found on the CEP schedule in MARS.) If you previously provided the State Agency with a plan for how known free/reduced-eligible children would be targeted, you can copy that plan for this form.
3. If you are operating any sites with eligibility percentages **below 40%**, fill in information for each such site in the second large text box. The required information is listed and must be entered for each site. The eligibility percentage should come from your October 2019 claim for reimbursement for pricing sites. For CEP sites, you should list the free claiming percentage for the individual site, even if the site is part of a group. (This can be found on the CEP schedule in MARS.) If you previously provided the State Agency with a plan for how known free/reduced-eligible children would be targeted, you can copy that plan for this form. **New:** Operation of these sites requires special justification from the sponsor. For example, a sponsor could desire to operate a site in an area of low free/reduced eligibility because the sponsor is aware of a pocket of poverty, or the

sponsor is aware that many families not previously approved for free/reduced meals may be in financial crisis due to widespread COVID-19 job losses.

4. After the emergency feeding ends, the State Agency will provide a template to sponsors utilizing this waiver to report on the impact of the waiver. Check the box to acknowledge that this information will be requested by the State Agency in the future. (A template will be provided.)
5. Enter the name and title of the person submitting the application, and the date submitting it.
6. E-mail the application to tthomas@mdek12.org

IMPORTANT NOTES:

This form must be completed for any non-area eligible site for which you have submitted or intend to submit a claim, even if the site is no longer operational.

You may continue to operate previously-approved non-area eligible sites while your application is pending.