South Carolina Department of Social Services Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Waiver Request Template State Agency Monitoring FFY24

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

Agency- South Carolina Department of Social Services

Contact Name and Title- Mary Abney-Young, CACFP Director

Cheryl Evans-McDonald, CACFP Program Compliance Manager

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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]:

For FFY2024, the SA has initiated the required CACFP program required reviews. Reviews were initiated during FFY 2024 but due to state agency closures, institution closures, travel warnings, power outages and disruptions to internet service resulting from Hurricane Helene, required exit conferences which identify the review completion date are not able to be conducted during FFY 2024 for all required reviews. This resulted in some reviews not being completed in FFY 2024.

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
☐ [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	SCDSS is requesting to waive the 33.3% total number of reviews performed.
☐ (i) Review independent centers and sponsoring organizations of 1 to 100 facilities at least once every three years and include reviews of 10% of their facilities;	Yes	
☐ (ii) Review sponsoring organizations with more than 100 facilities at least once every two years and include reviews of 5 percent of the first 1,000 facilities and 2.5 percent of the facilities in excess of 1,000;	Yes	

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6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring:
□ [7 CFR 226.6(m)(6)] Exit conferences will be completed during October 2024, thus documentation of the completion of all FFY 2024 reviews will be maintained.
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 FFY24 monitoring requirements for October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024
11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures: The State Agency will work with impacted institutions to complete the required exit conferences. These activities will be performed via phone, virtual, and inperson (if needed).
12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS): The SA will provide the list of reviews impacted and the date exit conferences were completed to FNS by December 31, 2024.
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]: Child and Adult Care Food Program - SC Child Care Services
14. Signature and title of requesting official:
Michele J. Bowers
Name: Michele Bowers Title: Director, Division of Early Care and Education, South Carolina Department of Social Services
Requesting official's email address for transmission of response: <u>Michelle.bowers@dss.sc.gov.</u>