

Summer Meals Program Waiver Requests

North Carolina is the 10th Hungriest State in the U.S. Almost a quarter of North Carolina children are at risk of hunger, and every summer, that threat increases for these kids while they're on break from school without regularly provided breakfast or lunch. As a result, Duke Raleigh Hospital is applying to be a sponsor for the summer meals program administered by the NC Department of Public Instruction. Duke Raleigh Hospital is requesting the following waivers in administering this program.

Title Waiver for 7 CFR225.16(f)(1)(ii)

Duke Raleigh Hospital is a new sponsor requesting the a waiver for 7CFR225.16(f)(1)(ii) which will allow us to use the offer-verses-serve (OVS) method of serving children food. Duke Raleigh piloted the program as a site during 2018 and successfully completed the first year of operation utilizing Offer vs. Serve (OVS). As a healthcare facility, we have a food service business model that is intended to provide meals for patients, families, visitors and employees that demonstrate personal choice/selection. The basis of our food service model is OVS. Should we be required to serve all children participants all components of the meal, they would be forced into a selection that invites decreased consumption and a rise in food waste. We are passionate about our responsibility to address the hunger needs of our community and hold significant concerns for the ramifications of eliminating the educational opportunity and responsibility we hold as a healthcare organization should their personal selection option be removed. It allows children the chance to select a variety of foods without it impacting the family budget which allows a different level of freedom of choice. We also request that this waiver be valid for the next 10 years.

Title Waiver for 7 CFR 225.16 (c)(1)(2)

Duke Raleigh Hospital is a new sponsor requesting the a waiver for Duke Raleigh Hospital is requesting a waiver of 7 CFR 225.16 (c)(1)(2). As a healthcare facility, we have a food service business model that is intended to provide meals for patients, families, visitors and employees during specific times of the day. Our breakfast is offered from 6:30am to 10:00am daily and lunch is provided from 11:00am-2:00pm daily. Should we be limited to the current requirement of breakfast service lasting no longer than 1 hour and lunch to be limited to 2 hours, we would be turning children away while meal services remain open to the public. We are passionate about our responsibility to address the hunger needs of our community and hold significant concerns for the ramifications of turning children away while we are clearly prepared to serve them. This stipulation prevents us from allowing a seamless, non-discriminatory service to the public which contradicts the intent of the Summer Food Service Program. We request to continue to offer our meals through the designated meal service hours with the hospital as indicated above, we also request that this waiver be valid for the next 10 years.