United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Mountain Plains Region
1244 Speer Boulevard
Denver, CO
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Reply to Attn of: SFSP-507
SP 05-12

Suject: Questions and Answers from Kansas City State Directors Reauthorization Briefing Pertaining to the Summer Food Service Program

To: STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS – Colorado ED, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri DH, Missouri ED, Montana OPI, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming
(Special Nutrition Programs)

Attached are responses to questions raised during the reauthorization briefing held for State Directors in Kansas City in late September. You may use these responses as you move forward to implement the provisions of the new Law. However, please keep in mind that these answers may be modified as regulations are published.

We expect you have already received a copy of questions and answers from this meeting sent to you from our National Office on November 30, 2004. The attachment to this memorandum contains questions and answers from the National Office document, but only those that pertain to the Summer Food Service Program. These questions were raised in an open forum and the resulting answers respond to those questions. However, in the interim, a related question has been raised outside the open forum. We are providing additional guidance in this transmittal as noted under Question Number 7 in the attached responses to the questions.

If you have any questions, please contact my staff at (303) 844-0354.

Felicia Gaither
for DARLENE SANCHEZ
Regional Director
Special Nutrition Programs

Attachment

State Agency Reauthorization Briefing
Kansas City
Questions and Answers
Summer Food Service Program

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Rural Transportation Grants

1. Does an institution receiving a Rural Transportation Grant also receive SFSP reimbursements for operating and administrative costs?

Yes. Rural Transportation Grants will be made to institutions in addition to the reimbursement that they would receive for eligible meals and other allowable Program costs. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is developing a notification of grant availability and selection criteria for the award of grants to State Agencies (SA). The notification, a Request for Applications, will include provisions detailing the Terms and Conditions of the Award and Guidance for Interpreting Cost Principles.

2. What criteria are being used for "rural"?

In accordance with 7 CFR 225.2, rural is defined as: (a) any area in a county which is not part of a Metropolitan Statistical Area or (b) any "pocket" within a Metropolitan Statistical Area which, at the option of the SA and with FNSRO concurrence, is determined to be geographically isolated from urban areas.

3. When will the grant criteria be established?

The FNS is developing a notification of grant availability and selection criteria for the award of grants to SAs. Under a tentative implementation schedule, a Request for Applications will be distributed in January 2005.

Other SFSP Questions

4. How were the six new States eligible for the Simplified Summer Food Program ("Lugar") selected?

The six new States (Colorado, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, and Oregon) qualified for the simplified version of the SFSP based on a formula in Public Law 108-265. This formula, which is described at Section 18(f) of the National School Lunch Act compares each State's meals served in July 2003 (under both SFSP and National School Lunch Program (NSLP)) to the average number of NSLP meals served in March 2003. Each State's percentage was then compared to the average national percentage for all States.

5. Are meals under the Seamless Summer Option reimbursed under the NSLP?

Yes; meals and snacks served under the Seamless Summer Option are reimbursed at the NSLP free rate and breakfasts are reimbursed at the free rate under the School Breakfast Program.

6. Are State agencies participating in the Simplified Summer Food Program ("Lugar") required to offer School Food Authorities (SFA) the option of participating in the Seamless Summer Option?

Yes. It is the SFA's choice whether to participate in the Simplified Summer Food Program or Seamless Summer Option. The SA cannot limit availability of these options.

7. Is an SFA that switches from operating the Seamless Summer Option to the Simplified Summer Food Program considered a new SFSP sponsor?

An SFA switching from the Seamless Summer Option to the Simplified Summer Food Program is treated as a new SFSP sponsor because that SFA previously reported meals under the NSLP.

The SA is required to schedule pre-operational and monitoring visits for all new sponsors. If a significant number of SFAs change Programs, the SA could have a scheduling nightmare and funding shortfalls. To reduce the impact of numerous SFAs changing Programs, the SA may request a waiver for pre-operational and monitoring visits in accordance with tri-numbered Policy Memorandum SFSP-302/SP 97-09/CACFP-493.