

Dear [State Public Health Officer]:

I am writing to you to ask for your support of two very important Programs for our Nation's most vulnerable communities. When school is not in session, millions of children in America have difficulty accessing nutritious meals. In order to help combat this problem, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). These Programs provide reimbursements to organizations throughout the country serving meals and snacks to children in low-income areas, as well as adults in day care settings.

As the agency that administers these Programs, we want to ensure access for all eligible children and adults. We ask for your collaboration to ensure that all Program sites meet health and safety inspections and receive any licensing required by State or local regulations.

Many CACFP and SFSP operators conduct meal services in non-traditional settings and may not resemble the standard structure of food services typically seen in schools and restaurants. However, both Programs are required through Federal regulations to obtain the appropriate health and safety inspections as required by State and local authorities. On December 10, 2014, FNS issued the attached guidance to provide clarification on health and safety inspection requirements and to encourage collaboration between Program administrators at the State level and State and local authorities that establish health and safety inspection requirements to ensure resources are allocated to fully staff the inspection of CACFP and SFSP sites.

In an effort to provide necessary resources, we at [STATE AGENCY] are required to make training available for health inspectors who will be participating in the SFSP Program prior to the start of Program operations. The training is designed to help inspectors understand the Program and their role in helping low-income children access healthy foods when school is out of session. Additionally, we have funds available that are to be used solely to enable State or local health departments or other government agencies to carry out health inspections and meal quality tests required for SFSP. If these agencies cannot perform the required inspections or tests, the State agency may use the funds to contract with an independent agency. Therefore, there are opportunities for more funding for your office, if necessary, to meet the inspection needs of SFSP sites.

While similar resources are not available in CACFP, it is our goal to collaborate with your office to best utilize State-level resources to perform the required inspections or tests in child care settings. With specific prior approval of the CACFP State agency, sponsoring organizations of day care homes may use up to \$300 in administrative funds per home to enable homes in low-income areas to meet licensing, registration, or alternate approval requirements. Additionally, fees charged for inspections of at-risk afterschool care centers and outside-school care centers are often allowable uses of CACFP funds.

We hope that with positive collaboration between our office and yours we can succeed in our goal of ensuring that safe and nutritious meals are available year-round to the children who need them. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact [State Director], [Title and Office], at [Contact Information]. (List both if different offices for CACFP and SFSP)

Sincerely,