Subject: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Questions and Answers

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

Attached are questions and answers that have been received from State Agencies and Field Offices since our memorandum, SFSP-195, dated April 11, 1993. Please contact my staff at (303) 844-0359 if you need further clarification.

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Attachment
1. Q. A church has an elementary school which participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and a child care center which participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center receives meals under contract from the school. The sponsor wants to have a SFSP site at the school, and have the center switch to the SFSP for breakfast and lunch, and remain on the CACFP for snacks. Can this be done?

A. No, unless the attendance or program changes substantially for the child care center. Also, if the school serves only summer school students it would have to remain on the NSLP.

2. Q. Can a homeless shelter be its own sponsor in the SFSP?

A. Yes, if the organization established its eligibility as a sponsor. As a reminder, it must provide overnight shelter and can not be a residential child care institution. Being a homeless shelter it would not have to document area eligibility.

3. Q. Can a sponsor purchase surplus bulk food left over from Operation Desert Storm and claim the costs?

A. Yes. An institution may purchase surplus bulk food to serve in the SFSP. The costs of purchasing and transporting are allowable costs.

4. Q. A sponsor wants to serve hot meals to migrant children and cold meals to non-migrant children at the same site, either at the same time or separate times. Can this be done?

A. No. Part 225.6(c)(3)(i) states that the sponsor must ensure that all children are served the same meals at no separate charge and that there is no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Serving hot meals to one group of children, and cold meals to another group would be considered as discriminating between the two groups of children. Such service could not be done at the same site even at different times. However, the sponsor could serve one group at another site physically separate from the other. Another possibility would be to serve both hot and cold meals at the same site allowing the children to choose which meal they wanted. The children must be given the freedom of choice in this instance.

5. Q. Housing Authority data was used to establish site eligibility as school data showed less than 50 percent of area eligible. Who can participate at the site?

A. Only the children living in the housing project.

6. Q. A site expects to have one 8-month child in attendance. Can a meal be specially prepared for the child?

A. This is a SA decision. If the SA approves, it is permissible.

7. Q. What is the use allowance for nonexpendable equipment used exclusively for the SFSP?

A. The allowance is 6.66 percent per year of the acquisition cost. This would be prorated on a monthly basis.
8. Q. Is there a Federal requirement that a sponsor furnish a list of equipment stating acquisition cost?
   A. No. However, a SA may request such a list to monitor the use allowance.

9. Q. Are taco chips made by breaking up taco shells creditable as a bread alternate?
   A. Yes. Page 127 of the Food Buying Guide lists taco shells as creditable as long as whole grain or stone ground corn is used. The taco chips would have to serve the customary function of bread in a meal.

10. Q. An Upward Bound camp operates on a Native American reservation. Since all participants live on the reservation and are income eligible, would free and reduced-priced applications have to be completed?
    A. Yes. This camp must obtain applications as required for all camps. Reference SFSP-118, question 2, for a similar question.

11. Q. A migrant program will operate 11 days in July. Could they combine this claim with the June claim?
    A. No. The regulations only allow the combining of claims if a sponsor operates less than 10 days in its final month of operation.