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TO: Child and Adult Care Food Program Sponsors

FROM: Tanya DW Johnson 
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Division of Food and Nutrition

SUBJECT: **Memo #11- 6 At-Risk Afterschool Care Program Meals**

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2010) extends to all states, the eligibility for At-Risk Afterschool meal reimbursement (Breakfast, Lunch, or Supper*) for children participating in afterschool care programs. Previously, only 14 designated States were allowed meal reimbursement, typically suppers, in Afterschool care programs.

Under the CACFP, a public or private nonprofit organization (including a school) must operate an afterschool care program which is located in a geographical area served by a school in which 50 percent or more of the children enrolled are eligible for free or reduced price school meals. At-Risk Afterschool Meals and Snacks must be served free of charge and are reimbursed at the applicable free rates of reimbursement.

For-profit centers may receive reimbursement for at-risk afterschool snacks if (a) they meet all At-Risk Afterschool eligibility requirements (e.g., area eligibility; afterschool care program with educational/enrichment activities); and (b) they are participating in the CACFP as a proprietary center through the traditional child care component of CACFP.

Also, agencies currently participating in the Outside-School-Hours-Care (OSH) component of CACFP may be eligible to convert the OSH program to the At-risk Afterschool Care component and receive the free rate(s) of reimbursement.

Sponsors interested in receiving reimbursement for At-Risk Afterschool Meals should review the attached eligibility requirements and contact your child nutrition specialist for further guidance on the application process at (609) 984-1250.

*Supper[Dinner]

Tdwj:/CACFP Memo #11-6 At-Risk After Program Meals

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR AT-RISK MEALS

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY

Organizations may be eligible to participate in the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool care center component of the CACFP and claim eligible snacks and/or meals served to school age participants up through age 18 (or 19 if the child turns 19 during the school year). Organizations that may be eligible include:

- Non-profit organizations that have federal tax-exempt status under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- For-profit child care centers who meet all eligibility requirements:
 - currently participating in CACFP as a proprietary Title XX child care center through the *traditional* child care component of the CACFP, with at least
 - 25 percent of its enrolled participants eligible for free or reduced price meals, or if participants eligible for free or reduced price meals are at least 25 percent of the center's licensed capacity, whichever qualifies the center; and
 - does not charge for the snack/meal reimbursed under the CACFP.

Note: To claim reimbursement in any calendar month, each proprietary center must meet the 25% criteria for the month claimed.

In addition, each organization that wants to participate in the At-risk Afterschool care center component of the CACFP must:

- Be located in a geographic area served by a school in which 50 percent or more of the participants enrolled are eligible for free or reduced-price meals;
- Organized to provide care after school hours, on weekends, and school holidays during the regular school year;
- Provide participants with regularly scheduled activities in an organized, structured, and supervised environment distinct from any extracurricular programs offered primarily for scholastic, cultural and athletic purposes, outside of school hours; and
- Include educational or enrichment activities.

Note: Participation in the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meal Program is **excluded** for extracurricular activities that are restricted to children with special skills or interests, such as school athletic teams.

Organized athletic programs engaged in interscholastic or community level competitive sports only (i.e., youth sports leagues such as "Babe Ruth" and "Pop Warner" baseball leagues, community soccer and football leagues, area swim teams) may **not** be approved. However, afterschool care programs which may include supervised athletic activity may participate

provided that they are "open to all" and do not limit membership for reasons other than space or security or, where applicable, licensing requirements. For example, an afterschool police athletic league program that uses sports and recreational activities to provide constructive opportunities for community youth could be approved to participate in the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Program.

Afterschool At-Risk centers must meet State or local health and safety standards. Organizations should check with their State and local health departments to determine the requirements they must meet to operate an afterschool care program in their community. Existing afterschool care programs that have not had a meal service as part of their program in the past should also check with State and Local Health Department officials to determine whether any additional requirements apply as a result of an afterschool meal service.

Organizations participating in the At-Risk Afterschool care center component of the CACFP are not required to conduct eligibility determinations or collect enrollment information for participants participating in the at-risk Afterschool program.

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

Reimbursement may be claimed for snacks served to all participants through the age of 18 in eligible afterschool care programs. Reimbursement may also be claimed for those participants who turn age 19 during the school year.

MEAL ELIGIBILITY

Under the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Program, snacks and meals may be reimbursed if they are served on weekends or holidays, including vacation periods (e.g., Spring break), during the regular school year only.

Eligible meals include breakfast, lunch and supper. At-Risk Afterschool Snacks are reimbursed at the free rate for snacks. At-Risk Afterschool Meals are reimbursed at the respective free rates for breakfast, lunch, or supper. At-Risk Afterschool care centers may be approved to serve a maximum of one meal and one snack per day to eligible participants. Documentation of compliance with meal pattern requirements must be maintained on file.

DAILY ATTENDANCE AND MEAL COUNT REQUIREMENTS

Centers claiming at-risk snacks and/or meals must maintain At-Risk Attendance Records and the Required CACFP Meal Count Form. Agencies must maintain a roster or sign-in sheet which documents the total number of participants in attendance in the afterschool care program. The roster or sign-in sheet is not intended to be used to identify which individual participants receive snacks; rather, it is intended to establish the maximum number of snacks that can be claimed on a given day, and to document that a site has an eligible afterschool care program (i.e., organized, supervised, and regularly scheduled).

Snack/meal counts must be taken at the point of service. The point of service is where you observe that a creditable snack/meal is served to a program participant, which must be recorded on the Required CACFP Meal Count Form. Accurate snack/meal counts must be maintained to support claims for reimbursement.

AT-RISK MEAL SERVICE TIME POLICY

Reference: 7 CFR 226.20(k) *Time of meal service*. State agencies may require any institution or facility to allow a specific amount of time to elapse between meal services or require that meal services not exceed a specified duration. In addition, 7 CFR 226.25 provides that State agencies may establish additional requirements, provided that any such additional requirements are not inconsistent with the CACFP regulations.

The following meal service time policy applies to At-Risk Afterschool Care Program only:

At-Risk Breakfast Meals may only be claimed during school holidays or weekends during the school year. Breakfast meal service may be no more than two hours in duration;

At-Risk Afterschool Lunch Meals may only be claimed during school holidays or weekends during the school year, except that lunch meals may be claimed for those participants who only attend school half-day, such as pre-school. Lunch meal service may be no more than two hours in duration;

At-Risk Afterschool Supper Meals may be claimed while school is in session, during school holidays and weekends during the school year and must begin no earlier than the end of the normal school day. Supper meal service may be no more than two hours in duration.

At-Risk Afterschool Snack service may be no more than one hour in duration and two hours must elapse between the beginning of a meal service and the beginning of a snack service.

Meals served outside of these guidelines are not eligible for CACFP reimbursement and the agency must absorb the costs associated with the meal.

For additional information regarding the application process for the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Program Meals, contact the CACFP office at (609) 984-1250.

*Supper[Dinner]

