March 19, 2009

TO: Institutions Participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program
    Sponsors Participating in the Summer Food Service Program

FROM: Arnette Cowan, MS, RD, LDN
       Head, Special Nutrition Programs
       Nutrition Services Branch

RE: Dual Participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

The purpose of this memo is to clarify issues which have been raised in the past concerning the approval of child care institutions as sponsors or sites of the SFSP. Participation in both CACFP and SFSP simultaneously for the same children is not allowable. Both the CACFP and SFSP are federally funded programs that provide free meals to needy children. CACFP provides meals at day care, adult day care, day care home, outside hour school care, and afterschool at-risk facilities year-round. The SFSP provides meals during May – September, when school is out of session at sites such as schools, camps or wherever needy children congregate.

CACFP institutions that have not substantially changed their program activities or have not significantly increased the enrollment may not be approved to participate in the SFSP. For example, a day care center that typically enrolls 80 pre-school children in a year round setting and the same 80 pre-school children during the summer months is required to continue meal reimbursement under the CACFP and not be approved to operate the SFSP.

Other unallowable practices include but not limited to:

1. CACFP centers obtaining meals from a SFSP site for enrolled CACFP children.
2. Discontinuing the CACFP participation to operate the SFSP with the intent of continuing the CACFP after the SFSP ends.
However, there are some situations where dual participation may be allowable. The situations are as follow:

1. CACFP institutions may be approved for the SFSP if there have been sufficient changes in the program activities or enrollment or a separate food service program is developed for children who are not enrolled in the CACFP, and meet the SFSP eligibility criteria. For example, a day care center that typically enrolls 80 pre-school children in a year round setting and yet during the summer months the day care center adds 80 additional school age children for a summer camp for a total of 160 children. The 80 school age children that are typically not enrolled in the day care center may participate in the SFSP.

2. Sponsors that are approved for both the CACFP and SFSP must ensure that the same children are not served meals in both programs and separate records must be kept for each program.

3. Afterschool at-risk facilities or other situations where the participation in the CACFP is solely during the regular school year and CACFP meal reimbursement discontinues when school is not in session.

4. Sponsors that participate in the CACFP as after-school recreation programs may serve supper to enrolled children who receive other meals from sponsors in the SFSP.

Both CACFP and SFSP sponsors must be diligent to assure that facilities adhere to the guidelines of this memo. If you have questions, please contact your regional consultant.

cc: SNP staff