

CLARIFICATION OF FEDERAL POLICY

In Texas, organizations that contract directly with Texas Department of Agriculture's USDA federally funded nutrition programs are called Contracting Entities or CEs. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) are both identified as nutrition programs and, as such, are considered CEs.

Simplifying Application Procedures in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the SFSP

Simplifying Application Procedures in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

In an effort to improve participation in the SFSP by eligible institutions, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is waiving specific application requirements for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) contracting entities (CEs) that are in good standing at the time of initial application to participate in the SFSP.

Currently, all private non-profit contracting entities (CEs) applying to participate in the SFSP for the first time must submit the *Summer Food Service Program Viability, Capability and Accountability (VCA) Checklist* as part of their application packet.

Under these simplified procedures, CEs currently participating in the CACFP who are first time applicants in the SFSP and are in good standing do not complete the *Summer Food Service Program Viability, Capability and Accountability (VCA) Checklist* as part of their SFSP application packet.

NOTE: "In good standing" refers to CACFP CEs that have not been found to be seriously deficient in CACFP operations.

Participation in the CACFP and SFSP

CACFP non-profit CEs may apply to participate in the SFSP only if they will be serving a different population of children than those in their regular child care program. CACFP CEs may not switch from participation in the CACFP to the SFSP during the summer months merely as a means to receive the higher reimbursement rates offered through the SFSP for serving the same children that are served through the CACFP.

EXCEPTION: The CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Care Program is not available during the summer months. Therefore, a CACFP CE that operates an At-Risk Afterschool Care Program during the school year may apply to participate in the SFSP.

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