

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TODD STAPLES
COMMISSIONER



October 10, 2013

Dear Child Nutrition Program Contracting Entities:

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is committed to providing you the most pertinent information regarding the impacts of the government shutdown on operations as it relates to Child Nutrition Programs namely, the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

In our earlier communication, we informed you that all meals served during the month of September would not be impacted by the federal shutdown and that USDA was in the process of identifying whether or not there would be any funds available for reimbursements of meals served after September 30. We also informed you that early indications from USDA were that funds may be available for **some** of October, if not the entire month.

Although USDA is still reviewing national meal claim estimates, as of today, preliminary information received from USDA indicates that it is likely that very limited funds are available to pay meals served in October. USDA has just now informed us that they can only guarantee reimbursements will be available for meals served through Friday, October 4, 2013 and they are unsure whether or not reimbursement funds will be available for meals served beyond that date. All current indications suggest there will not be enough funding to cover the entire month of October. TDA and USDA are in frequent communication and you will be notified if additional funds are made available to pay for eligible meals served past October 4, 2013. Should Congress approve a measure to retroactively pay all claims for meals served in October for which contracting entities were not previously reimbursed, continued compliance with program regulations, including meal pattern requirements, must be maintained to be eligible to claim and receive applicable meal reimbursement. However, we cannot anticipate under what scenario funding may or may not be approved.

Contracting entities that choose to stop serving meals as part of one of the Child Nutrition Programs must notify TDA of their decision in writing via email to www.FoodandNutrition@TexasAgriculture.gov. For up to date information regarding the government shutdown, please refer to TDA's website, www.TexasAgriculture.gov and select the Food and Nutrition tab or go to www.Squaremeals.org. If you have additional questions or concerns, please call (877) TEX-MEAL. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed

Angela Olige
Chief Administrator

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