



July 24, 2020

Brandon Lipps
Deputy Undersecretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services
Sent Via Email: Brandon.Lipps@fns.usda.gov

Re: Urgent Concerns – CACFP Site Visits during a Pandemic

Dear Deputy Undersecretary Brandon Lipps,

As Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) organizations we will not put children, families, child care providers and our staff at risk by conducting onsite CACFP monitoring visits. It is our responsibility to ensure the CACFP operates responsibly and adheres to public health recommendations and mandates to support a healthy and safe environment for children and their caregivers during this time of a pandemic. In California, the Department of Social Services, Child Care Licensing Division is following guidelines established by the CDC, limiting who goes in and out of child care facilities and conducting virtual licensing visits. The Department of Education, California Nutrition Services Division is utilizing virtual tools to conduct their biannual reviews of the CACFP. California has been rolling back reopening of the state as COVID-19 positive cases continue to rise and is on the brink of a total shutdown.

While we anticipate that USDA will eventually provide a waiver and allow for the utilization of virtual and desk reviews, however we can no longer wait and need to take immediate steps to secure the safety of all the participants in the CACFP.

We, the undersigned organizations, will conduct and document all required monitoring via virtual visits effective immediately and continue through December 31, 2020. At that time we will review the latest recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), our local public health departments, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and child care licensing to determine recommendations, and if safe, procedures to resume in person visits.

CACFP provides access to nutritious free and reduced-price meals to millions of food insecure children across the country. Many of these children live in communities that are experiencing compound effects of this pandemic. The California child care workforce are predominately low wage earners and women of color who are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. We do not want to exacerbate those conditions by our staff presence at those sites.

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CCFP Roundtable

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We urge you to issue guidance that aligns with federal, state, and local health and safety guidance by replacing the requirement for onsite monitoring with virtual monitoring. The Child Care Food Program Roundtable is immediately available to answer any questions you may have; please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Paula James
Chair, CCFP Roundtable
www.ccfproundtable.org

Supporting Organizations

Child Nutrition Program of Southern California, Inc
A Place Called Home
Arizona Association of Family Day Care Providers
B J Jordan Child Care Programs, Inc. dba Beanstalk
Blia Mua
Building Better Communities Foundation
CA Family Learning Center
Central Valley Children's Services Network
Changing Tides Family Services
Chicano Federation
Child Development Associates, Inc.
Child Lane
Child Nutrition Services
Children's Council of San Francisco
Childtime, Tutor Time and La Petite Academy
Circle of Friends Child Care Center
CocoKids
Continuing Development Incorporated
Dare U To Care Outreach Ministry
Del Norte Child Care Council
Early Education Action League
Fallbrook Union High School District
Family FOCUS
Family Resource and Referral Center
Family Service
Family YMCA of the Desert
FRAMAX
From the Heart Preschool & Enrichment Center
Frontier Behavioral Health CACFP
Giggles & Smiles Child Care Center, LLC



Grace Adult Day Health Care
Grossmont Union High School District
International Child Resource Exchange Institute
Kidango, Inc.
Livingston Union School District
Maryvale
Millbrae Elementary School District
Monterey Peninsula USD
Morgan Hill Unified School District
Morgan Hill Unified School District
Mt. Diablo Unified School District
North Coast Opportunities Inc, Rural Communities Child Care
Ocean View School District
Oceanside shining stars
Ochoa's Child Care (Family Day Care)
Options for Learning
Our Little Helpers, Inc
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE)
PHFE/AngelsCCFP
Provider's Network, Inc.
Reef-Sunset Unified School District
Santa Barbara County Education Office
Solano Family & Children's Services
The Lighthouse
Today's Fresh Start Charter Schools
University of Southern California
Ventura Unified School District
Vineland School District

