



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 754, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

(404) 656-5957

Nathan Deal
Governor

Bobby Cagle, MSW
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: All Summer Food Service Program Participants

From: Louis Brienza, Division Director
Nutrition Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LWB", is placed over the name "Louis Brienza" in the "From:" field.

Date: March 8, 2013

Subject: Bright from the Start's Policy Memo "Demonstration Project for Non-Congregate Feeding for Outdoor Summer Feeding Sites Experiencing Excessive Heat".

Legal Authority: United States Department of Agriculture Memoranda SP 24-2013, SFSP 10-2013

The purpose of this memorandum is to describe a new demonstration project allowing non-congregate feeding at certain outdoor summer sites experiencing excessive heat.

For summer 2013, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will initiate a new demonstration project allowing non-congregate feeding at certain outdoor summer meal sites experiencing excessive heat. The demonstration project utilizes authority provided in Section 749(g) of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Act, 2010 (PL 111-80) to develop and test alternative methods of providing access to summer meals for low income children. Under the demonstration project, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors operating approved outdoor feeding sites without temperature-controlled alternative sites may operate as non-congregate sites on days when the area is experiencing excessive heat.

Under this demonstration project, non-congregate meal service shall be permitted only on days when the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Heat Advisory, an Excessive Heat Warning, or an Excessive Heat Watch for the area in which an approved outdoor feeding site is located. This demonstration project will evaluate the effect on SFSP participation when sponsors are permitted to maintain service to children who would otherwise lose access to meals when

excessive heat makes impractical the operation of a congregate feeding site lacking a temperature-controlled alternative site.

FNS also may extend this demonstration project to other situations where exceptional circumstances make congregate feeding impractical at an approved meal site. Requests based on exceptional circumstances other than excessive heat will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be approved in advance by the FNS National Office.

Applying for Participation in the Demonstration Project

Upon application to the SFSP for summer 2013, interested sponsors must notify Bright from the Start of their intent to participate in the demonstration project and must identify those congregate feeding sites lacking temperature-controlled alternative sites that would be included in the demonstration project. Sponsors must select sites that are viable options for successful SFSP/SSO participation under the congregate feeding requirement on days when the area is not experiencing excessive heat. The demonstration project will simply allow maintenance of the meal service at those sites on days when excessive heat makes congregate feeding impractical. Outdoor sites with available temperature-controlled alternative sites will not be included in the demonstration project, and should serve meals at the temperature-controlled alternative site when the area is experiencing excessive heat.

Sponsors must be otherwise eligible to participate in SFSP or SSO and properly approved by the State agency in order to participate in the demonstration project. However, Bright from the Start may not deny a sponsor application based solely on the sponsor's intention to participate in the demonstration project.

Participation Requirements

Approved outdoor sites must comply with the congregate meal requirements on all other days of operation. Requirements pertaining to the number and type of meals that may be served each day continue to apply and sponsors must continue to provide all required components of a reimbursable meal. Because meals will be consumed off site and possibly at a later time during that day, sponsors should carefully consider all food safety issues and risks. Only one meal may be provided to each child present at the meal site. Meals may not be provided to adults or other children to take to children not present at the site. All meal counting, claiming, and Bright from the Start's and sponsor's monitoring and oversight requirements continue to apply.

Sponsors electing to participate in the demonstration project must submit with their monthly claims for reimbursement the following information:

- The specific dates on which participants were permitted to take meals off site; and
- The number of meals claimed that were taken off site by participants.

The above mentioned information must be submitted via the attached form "FY 2013 Request for Participation in the Demonstration Project for Non-Congregate Feeding for Outdoor Sites

Experiencing Extreme Heat.” This request form must be returned to Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 754, East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334; attention: Falita S. Flowers, Nutrition Services Program Manager. The above mentioned form is available as part of this memorandum and in the SFSP Forms Section on Bright from the Start’s web site.

If participating institutions have questions concerning information in this memorandum, please contact the Policy Administrator at 404.651.7181.



BRIGHT FROM THE START

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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**Summer Food Service Program
FY 2013 Request for Participation in the Demonstration Project for
Non-Congregate Feeding for Outdoor Sites Experiencing Extreme Heat**

Organization Name: _____ Agreement Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

_____ intends to participate in the FY 2013 SFSP Demonstration Project for
(Organization Name)

non-congregate feeding sites to continue meal service during times when the National Weather Service has issued a Heat Advisory, an Excessive Heat Warning, or an Excessive Heat Watch. The feeding site(s) indicated on the attached form are approved as outdoor sites to receive SFSP meals, and will be included in the Demonstration Project.

_____ certifies to the following:
(Organization Name)

- The feeding site(s) are outdoor site(s) without available temperature-controlled alternative site location(s).
- Only one meal will be served to children in attendance at the time of meal service.
- Meals will not be provided to adults or other children to take to children not present at the feeding location.
- Meals will be served in safe, sanitary conditions, and will include all required components of a reimbursable meal.
- Supervised, congregate meal service requirements will remain in effect for all other outdoor feeding sites that have alternative site locations, and are not impacted by the Heat Advisory, Excessive Heat Warning, or Excessive Heat Watch issued by the National Weather Service.
- Understands that point of service meals counts, claim procedures, monitoring and recordkeeping requirements will be met at all times during the Demonstration Project.
- Only valid claims for reimbursement will be submitted, and SFSP reimbursement will be used only on allowable SFSP costs.

I certify that I am the Delegated Principal of this organization, and I am legally responsible for the administration and operation of the SFSP, and that I have verified that all outdoor feeding sites listed on the attached form meet the appropriate requirements to participate in the Demonstration Project.

I also certify that the information contained in this document is true and correct and that listing false or incorrect information and failure to notify Bright from the Start when the information contained in this document changes may result in the denial of reimbursement, termination and disqualification of the organization, its responsible principals and/or individuals from participation the SFSP or any other Child Nutrition Programs.

Signature of Delegated Principal _____
Date of Submission
