



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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Nathan Deal
Governor

Bobby Cagle, MSW
Commissioner

April 2, 2012

To: Summer Food Service Program Sponsors

From: Louis Brienza, Nutrition Services Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Brienza', with a circled number '2' next to it.

RE: Restricting the Number of Sites Sponsors in the Summer Food Service Program are Approved to Operate

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify Bright from the Start's position on the total number of sites Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsors are approved to operate. All sponsors may be approved for a maximum of 200 sites and a maximum total average daily attendance at all sites of 50,000 children. Bright from the Start may approve exceptions if the sponsor can demonstrate that it has the capabilities of managing a program larger than these limits. Previously, private non-profit organizations could only be approved to operate up to 25 sites and serve up to 300 children at any one site. However, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Public Law 111-296, eliminated additional restrictions on private non-profit organizations.

Pursuant to 7 CFR 225.14(c), SFSP Sponsors are responsible for all financial and administrative aspects of the program including hiring, training, and supervising program staff, monitoring sites, meal planning, preparation and delivery to the sites, and submitting accurate claims for reimbursement. Sponsors must ensure adherence to all SFSP regulations and Bright from the Start's policies which may impose a considerable financial and administrative burden on some sponsors. As a result, Bright from the Start reserves the right to restrict/limit sites based on the previous years' or prior performance in administering the program.

Limitations may be imposed for sponsors that have been declared seriously deficient, had serious deficiency findings, significant sponsor and site level findings or operation deficiencies that indicate they may not be able to efficiently accommodate the number of sites that they requested and were approved for in the previous or prior year(s).

The limitation will be based on the severity and frequency of serious deficiency findings and/or operational deficiencies. These findings and deficiencies include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

- Inadequate training and/or site monitoring;

- Lack of direct operational control over sponsored sites;
- The submission of false information to Bright from the Start;
- Noncompliance with the applicable bid procedures and contract requirements;
- Failure to implement corrective action as prescribed by Bright from the Start;
- Noncompliance with approved meal service times;
- Failure to maintain records;
- Instances of off-site meal consumption;
- Inadequate/unacceptable/unsanitary holding and storing conditions/facilities for food and/or meals;
- Non-compliance with Civil Rights requirements;
- Failure to adjust meals based on variation in participation or caps imposed.
- Claiming meals not served to eligible participants and/or simultaneously serving more than one meal to any participant;
- Instances of block claiming that cannot be explained or justified; and
- If applicable, failure to serve unitized meals when prepared by a food service management company.

Since sponsors assume administrative and financial responsibility for the SFSP, it is necessary that they fully comply with the regulations and requirements before expanding their operations. Bright from the Start may allow for future expansion when a successful SFSP administration has been established and demonstrated.

Appeal rights and procedures will be provided to sponsors upon notification that the number of sites will be limited.

For questions concerning this memorandum, please contact the Policy Administrator at 404-651-7181.