



BRIGHT FROM THE START
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Memorandum

To: All Sponsoring Organizations and Emergency Shelters

From: Jackie Romain, Director
Nutrition Services Division

Date: July 19, 2006

Re: Changes in Eligibility for Emergency/Homeless Shelters

This memo provides updated information on the eligibility of emergency or homeless shelters participating in the Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP).

Emergency/homeless shelters that provide residential and food services to homeless children and/or their families are eligible to participate in the CACFP. Eligible participants are children 18 years old or younger and individuals of any age with disabilities.

Previously emergency shelters that were eligible had to provide temporary housing and food services to children and their families; however, federal guidance now allow institutions that serve children unaccompanied by an adult to participate in the CACFP as well.

Residential child care institutions (RCCIs) may participate in the CACFP if they operate a separate program for homeless children or families with children. Therefore, RCCIs that operate a program for homeless children or serves a distinct group of homeless children that are not enrolled in the RCCIs regular program may be eligible to participate in the CACFP.

Runaway shelters that meet the definition of an eligible emergency/homeless shelter may be eligible to participate as well. Runaway shelters that provide a structured program of care on a long-term basis may participate in the CACFP, only if, in addition to its other activities they provide temporary housing and food services to a separate group of children who are not part of its regular program of care.

For questions concerning this memorandum, please contact Marissa L. Hamm, Policy Administrator at (404) 651-7181.