



Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Food For Thought



Volume 7, Issue 1

Welcome to the first issue of *Food For Thought* FFY 2006

August 2006

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Nutrition Services' Vision Statement:

Working together with our partners to *eradicate* hunger and ensure nutritious meals for ALL Georgians!

From the Chair of the Director

Bright from the Start and several other organizations have formed a committee to improve the lifelong eating and physical activity habits of children between birth and five years old. This group also supports Governor Sonny Perdue's and the Department of Human Resources' Live Healthy Georgia Campaign.



The *Healthy Eating for Life* website is a part of Bright from the Start's Nutrition and Physical Activity Education initiative in collaboration with our partners to improve lifelong healthy eating habits and increase physical activity among children between the ages of birth to five years of age and their caregivers. The website will serve to promote the initiative's goal to eat healthy and be active by:

- 1) Providing nutrition and physical activity information in the form of resources/materials, research studies, and training/events relevant to the target population.
- 2) Advertising trainings (location, date, and additional information when possible) offered in Georgia about nutrition and physical activity relevant to the target population.
- 3) Acting as a web directory for nutrition and physical activity information for parents, child care providers, and other child care and development professionals.

Please keep in mind that this is a new website, and it is constantly being updated and revised. The web address is www.healthyeatingforlife.org. For more information about this project, contact Kantrell Brown at 404-656-2472.

Policy Memorandum Updates (Sponsoring Organizations Only)

The following is a brief summary of CACFP Policy Memorandums and Policy revisions that were issued and sent to you by mail.

Policy Memorandum-Household Contact Requirements (revised) Sponsoring Organizations of Childcare Centers and Day Care Homes

This memorandum was revised to provide additional clarification for conducting household contacts. The memo specifically states when sponsors are required to make contacts, the deadline for making these contacts, and how many contacts must be made.

Policy Memorandum-Block Claiming Follow-up Review Guidance Sponsoring Organizations only

This memorandum provides guidance for conducting unannounced reviews and extends the timeframe for conducting block claiming related reviews from 60 to 90 days. This guidance states that sponsoring organizations must conduct an announced follow-up review of a facility if the sponsoring organization detects block claiming. This review must be made in addition to reviews that the sponsoring organization is required to conduct in order to meet its monitoring requirements. The review is intended to confirm or refute suspicion of fraud via block claiming and does not have to be a full review. This guidance also discusses an exception for not conducting reviews due to block claiming for the remainder of the annual review year for a facility that the sponsoring organization has previously investigated for possible block claiming and documented a valid reason for the block claims. However, the exemption only applies to situations where the sponsoring organization determines the cause of a block claim during an unannounced review conducted prior to the facility's first submission of a block claim during the current review year. An example of a valid reason is a facility that provides drop-in care and always fills to capacity on each day that it is open.



Permanent Agreements

Effective Fiscal Year 2006 Bright from the Start issued permanent agreements to all approved institutions. The agreement, which is the contract between Bright from the Start and each institution, does not have to be re-signed each year as long as the institution meets the annual and renewal requirements set forth by federal regulations and state policies. Because this document is a permanent agreement, it should be maintained with the institution's CACFP records permanently. While normally only the three prior year's (plus current) records need to be maintained, because the permanent agreement covers the entire span of the institution's participation in the program, it should never be discarded, but maintained at least three years after the date the institution files its last claim for reimbursement after terminating participation.

**Perfect Child and Adult Care
Food Program
Reviews**

**We want to recognize
organizations that have had
perfect CACFP reviews for the
first quarter of FY 2006:**

**One-year reviews
Sand Castle Day Care
Cochran, GA**

**Three-year reviews
Loving Care Daycare, Inc
Atlanta, GA**

**Lil' Blessings, Inc
Ashburn, GA**

**Three-year reviews
RJW Corporation dba First
Steps School
Atlanta, GA**

**Wonderland Learning
Center
Tallapoosa, GA**

**2005 Sunshine Award
Recipient of the Summer Food
Service Program**

**City of Savannah
Savannah, GA**

City of Savannah is the *Southeast
Regional Winner* for Service to
Special Populations. City of
Savannah has served as an SFSP
sponsor for 34 years.

More than 95 percent of the
population being served by the
program belongs to a targeted
minority group. In conjunction with
the summer program, groups such as
Savannah's Recreation Services
Department Therapeutic Program
hosted a series of events geared
toward physically and mentally
challenged children. Despite a 40
percent reduction in the workforce for
the Summer Lunch Program, with
help from volunteers the city was able
to exceed its goal of serving
approximately 116,000 summer
lunches by almost 20 percent.

Way to go City of Savannah!!

**Summer Food Service Program
News Update**

Each year all New Sponsors,
Programmatic Sponsors, Sponsors
that fall on the three-year review
cycle, and some additional sponsors
will receive an SFSP review. If your
organization is chosen for a review,
Bright from the Start will notify
your organization with a Review
Announcement Letter. To prepare
for the review, please review the
Review Tools that Bright from the
Start reviewers will use to conduct
the review. These tools will be
included with each organization's
application package.

All Summer Food Service Program
sponsors with more than one site
will be required to claim all sites
individually in CNP 2000
effective June 1, 2006. Please refer
to the article entitled "From the
Finance Department" on page four
of the newsletter.

If you have any questions or
problems with **SITE CLAIMING**,
please direct them to our toll free
Help Desk at 1-888-418-8778.

**Department of Labor (DOL)
One-Stop Career Centers**

Food and Nutrition Services (FNS)
is encouraging all faith-based and
community organizations to take
advantage of the resources that are
available through the United States
Department of Labor's One-Stop
Career Centers.

The One-Stop Career Center is a site
that offers federal, state and local
education services. The services
range from self-service to more
hands-on, staff-assisted services.

At your local One-Stop Career
Center, individuals will have access
to high quality local information on
available jobs and skill require-
ments. All One-Stop services are
free of charge.

By referring people in your
community with employment needs
to their local One-Stop Career
Center website, workers can get the
help that they need in achieving their
career goals.

To find the One-Stop Career Center
near you go to:
<http://www.servicelocator.org/>

To learn more about One-Stop
Career Centers and how they can
enhance the services that you offer
as a faith-based and community
organization, go to:
**[http://www.dol.gov/cfbci/
employmentassistance.htm](http://www.dol.gov/cfbci/employmentassistance.htm)**

Melons for the Summer Months

Serving seedless melons during the
summer months is a great way to
encourage healthy eating with
children.

Melons add very good color and
texture to any meal or snack, and
they are packed with vitamins and
minerals, which aid in the growth
and development of children.

Melons can also help children stay
cool during the hot summer months
because they contain plenty of
water!

Ask Pierre Baguette



Dear Pierre,

Does the deadline for corrective actions refer to the deadline for completing corrective actions or for completing a corrective action plan?

Sincerely,
Ms. Correct Me

Dear Ms. Correct Me:

In the CACFP, corrective action deadlines refer to the **completion of the corrective actions**. Institutions must submit to Bright from the Start their corrective actions describing in detail what processes and/or procedures have been fully and permanently implemented to correct the findings; who is responsible for implementation and compliance with the processes and/or procedures; and how the institution will ensure that the processes and/or procedures are followed consistently in order to prevent future findings. It is Bright from the Start's expectation that an institution's corrective actions are fully and permanently implemented at the time of the institution's submission of corrective action plans.

In the SFSP, corrective action deadlines are for the **completion of a corrective action plan**. The plan must be received by Bright from the Start on or before the deadline date(s). The plan must describe in detail what processes and/or procedures will be implemented to correct and prevent the findings, who will be responsible for implementing and complying with the processes and/or procedures and when the processes and/or procedures will be implemented.

Dear Pierre,

I am a non-profit organization, and I am planning to have a financial audit next year, and I would like to know if I can charge the audit fees to the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Sincerely,
Tell Me What To Do

Dear Ms. To Do:

If an organization does not have federal audit requirements, the cost of the audit, including a financial audit, cannot be charged to CACFP reimbursement. However, when a non-profit organization is required to have a federal audit when there is an expenditure of

more than \$500,000 in federal funds, then these audit fees can be charged to CACFP.

Dear Pierre,

The children in my day care love to eat pineapples, but I am running out of new and interesting ways to serve pineapples to them. Do you have any new ideas as to how I can serve pineapples to the children?

Sincerely,
Need a New Creation

Dear Ms. Creation:

It is very good that your children love pineapples! You see, pineapples are an excellent source of Vitamin C, which is very good for the body. Vitamin C is a very good antiviral agent, which is good for treating and preventing colds- yes! yes!

Also, Vitamin C helps prevent scurvy, and it is a good antioxidant.

Many people do not know this, but the pineapple is the world's favorite tropical fruit.

Believe it or not, the pineapple was not always called "pineapple." At first it was called "anna," which is a Caribbean word for "excellent fruit." European explorers named the fruit "pineapple" because it looks like a pinecone with flesh like an apple.

Pineapples love the sun and are grown in places like Hawaii, Costa Rica, Mexico, Honduras, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, and Nicaragua.

It takes 18 months for pineapples to grow, while it takes most fruit 3-4 months to grow. Because pineapples are picked when they are ripe, you can always count on them being juicy and sweet- yes! yes!

If you choose to serve canned pineapples, it best to buy pineapples that are canned in their own juice. Please do not buy the pineapples that have been canned in heavy syrup because of the extra sugar- it is not the best choice for little children.

Ms. Creation, some ideas that I have for serving pineapples are:

1. Use as a topping on yogurt or cottage cheese for snacks (please make sure that you serve enough pineapple to each child for a creditable fruit component).
2. Use crushed pineapples mixed with pineapple juice along with other crushed fruit such as strawberries to make frozen juice bars (for the hot summer months of course!).
3. Use the recipe below to make pineapple muffins and serve them along with milk for a creditable snack!!!

- Pierre Baguette



Pineapple Muffins

Ingredients:

- 5 cups crushed pineapple (drain if canned)
- 5 cups sugar
- 5 cups flour
- 1 1/4 tsp. salt
- 5 stick butter/margarine
- 5 large egg
- 1 1/2 tablespoons baking soda
- 1 1/4 cups of oats

Directions:

- 1: With mixer, cream margarine and sugar together.
- 2: Add eggs and then pineapples.
- 3: Then add dry ingredients and spoon into greased muffin pan.
- 4: Bake for 15 minutes in a 350-degree oven.

Yields 60 Muffins

Recipe Source: www.duncanhines.com



From the Finance Department

Claim Submission Policy Change

Bright from the Start will soon be changing the policy dealing with the deadline for submitting a reimbursement claim. In order to meet the required federal reporting expectations, Georgia has reduced the filing period from 60 days following the end of the claim month to **30 days**. This policy change became effective **June 1, 2006**.

Reminders

~Payments are processed once a week, and it could take from three to five "business" days from the "processed date" in CNP2000 before the funds are available in your bank account.

~Please make sure that your e-mail address is current in the CNP2000 system.

Important Claim Notice:

Due to upgrades to PeopleSoft, our statewide financial accounting system, claim payments will not be processed during the period July 1, 2006 to July 16, 2006. Please note that you will still be able to enter your claim information into CNP 2000, however Bright from the Start will not be able to pay claims until the upgrades are complete in our statewide financial accounting system. We appreciate your patience in this matter.

We are Here For YOU!

NUTRITION SERVICES



Nutrition Staff News

Please join us in welcoming Leslie Truman our new CACFP Administrative Assistant; Sherry Mays our new SFSP Administrative Assistant; Rae-Marie Lockhart our new consultant for the middle-GA Territory; Deidrea Thompson new consultant for the Northeast and East GA Territory; Kantrell Brown our new Project Coordinator for the Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative; Wanda Simkins is our new CACFP Application Specialist; and Dedra Williams our new CACFP Administrator/Review Manager.

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For Your Information

The CACFP is an equal opportunity program. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap, write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.