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**FISCAL YEAR 2013  
CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM  
OPERATIONAL MEMO #14**

**TO:** Child and Adult Care Food Program Institutions

**FROM:** Kyle L. Guerrant, Director *(K.L.G.) 4-8-13*  
Office of School Support Services

**DATE:** April 8, 2013

**SUBJECT: Participant Eligibility in the Adult Component of the  
Child and Adult Care Food Program**

The adult component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) was authorized by The Older Americans Act Amendments of 1987 and codified in 7 CFR 226.19a. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide updated guidance relating to the adult day care component of CACFP.

Specifically, this memorandum clarifies the purpose of the adult component of CACFP and participant eligibility. This guidance is intended only for the purposes of administering the adult component of CACFP for eligible individuals.

**Purpose of Program**

Adult day care centers are considered eligible institutions for reimbursement for meals served to persons age 60 or older or to functionally impaired persons in a non-residential group setting [42 USC 1766(o)(1)].

The purpose of the adult day care component of CACFP is to provide nutritional support to enable elderly and functionally impaired adults to remain in the community and avoid premature institutionalization. Previous federal guidance indicated that eligible individuals are those who (1) remain in the community, and (2) reside with family members or other caregivers who would benefit from the respite, which adult day care services could provide. However, it is clear that many frail, elderly adults, as well as functionally impaired adults, live in the community on their own. Therefore, it is appropriate to define individuals remaining in the community as those residing either in their own home or in the home of a family member, guardian, or other caregiver. This memorandum is intended to clarify that CACFP benefits are not limited to those

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individuals who are living with caregivers, but also extends to eligible individuals who are able to live on their own in the community with the support of adult day care services.

### **Participant Eligibility**

CACFP regulations, 7 CFR 226.2(c), define an adult participant as "...a person enrolled in an adult day care center who is functionally impaired or 60 years of age or older..." Additionally, CACFP regulations define functionally impaired adults as "...chronically impaired disabled persons 18 years of age or older, including victims of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction, who are physically or mentally impaired to the extent that their capacity for independence and their ability to carry out activities of daily living is markedly limited..."

An "enrolled eligible participant" is an individual enrolled with a center to receive adult day care services. Any enrolled individual eligible for CACFP benefits (i.e., functionally impaired or age 60 or older) must be included in all enrollment counts for the purposes of determining CACFP eligibility and receipt of program reimbursement.

"Drop-in" adults who eat meals at a center, but are not enrolled to receive care at the center, are not eligible. Meals served to center volunteers, regardless of age, who help with the meal service or other center activities are not eligible for reimbursement unless they are actually enrolled at the center and meet CACFP eligibility requirements.

Additionally, because the Program is intended to benefit adults living in the community, enrolled participants who reside in a residential facility are not eligible for participation. However, residential facilities may serve meals to eligible enrolled adults that live in the community and attend the facility for day care. Individuals residing in an institution on a temporary basis for respite care, crisis intervention, or other reasons are not eligible for CACFP benefits until they have returned to their permanent residence in the community.

### **Plans of Care**

Adult day care centers are required to provide an individual plan of care for each enrolled functionally impaired participant. Such a plan must demonstrate a center's ability to provide a variety of health, social, and supportive services for its enrolled participants [7 CFR 226.19(a)(2)]. For CACFP purposes, participating centers do not need an individual plan of care for participating adults 60 years of age or older who are not functionally impaired. They must, however, have a plan for each functionally impaired participating adult.

Institutions should direct any questions regarding this memorandum to the CACFP office at 517-373-7391.