

§ 247.16

sample of grant program audit examinations during each audit cycle which occurs, not less frequently than once every two years. In some audit cycles, a grant program or programs other than this Program may be audited. However, audits of the Program shall be performed at intervals frequent enough to ensure consistency with good Program management. Also, at any time, the Department, FNS or the State agency may at its discretion audit a Program if an audit appears to be warranted. If FNS in the course of Program reviews of State agency operations finds that the efficiency and effectiveness of the State agency's financial management system is in question, FNS may request the State agency to include the Program in the sample for the next audit examination.

(3) Each State agency shall make all State or local agency sponsored audit reports of Program operations under its jurisdiction available for the Department's review upon request. The cost of these audits shall be considered a part of administrative costs and funded from either State or local agency administrative funds.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0584-0063)

(44 U.S.C. 3506)

[46 FR 6341, Jan. 21, 1981, as amended at 47 FR 746, Jan. 7, 1982]

§ 247.16 Investigations.

(a) *Authority.* The Department may make an investigation of any allegation of noncompliance with this part. The investigation may include, where appropriate, a review of pertinent practices and policies of any State or local agency, the circumstances under which the possible noncompliance with this part occurred, and other factors relevant to a determination as to whether the State or local agency has failed to comply with the requirements of this part.

(b) *Confidentiality.* No State or local agency, participant, or other person shall intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege under this part because the individual has made a complaint or formal allegation, or testi-

7 CFR Ch. II (1-1-05 Edition)

fied, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part. The identity of every complainant shall be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purpose of this part, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding.

§ 247.17 Claims.

If FNS determines through a review of the State agency's reports, program or financial analysis, monitoring, audit, or otherwise, that any Program funds provided to a State agency for administrative purposes were, through State agency or local agency negligence or fraud, misused or otherwise diverted from Program purposes, a claim shall be made by FNS against the State agency, and the State agency shall pay promptly to FNS a sum equal to the amount of the administrative funds so misused or diverted. Further, if FNS determines that any part of the money received by a State agency was lost as a result of thefts, embezzlements, or unexplained causes, the State agency shall, on demand by FNS, pay to FNS a sum equal to the amount of the money so lost. Claims for losses or misuse of supplemental foods shall be handled in accordance with § 250.6(m), 7 CFR part 250—Subchapter B—Food Distribution. The State agency shall have full opportunity to submit evidence, explanations or information concerning alleged instances of noncompliance or diversion before a final determination is made in such cases.

§ 247.18 Closeout procedures.

(a) *Fiscal year closeout reports.* State agencies shall submit preliminary and final closeout reports for each fiscal year or part thereof. All obligations shall be liquidated before final closure of a fiscal year grant. Obligations shall be reported for the fiscal year in which they occur. State agencies shall:

(1) Submit to FNS, within 30 days after the end of the fiscal year, preliminary financial reports which show cumulative actual expenditures and obligations for the fiscal year, or part thereof, for which Program funds were made available; and

Food and Nutrition Service, USDA

§ 247.20

(2) Submit to FNS, within 90 days after the end of the fiscal year, final fiscal year closeout reports.

(b) *Revised closeout reports.* Revised closeout reports may be submitted at any time. However, FNS shall not be responsible for reimbursing unpaid obligations later than one year after the close of the fiscal year in which they were incurred.

(c) *Grant closeout procedures.* When grants to State agencies are terminated, the following closeout procedures for the Program shall be performed in accordance with OMB Circular A-102.

(1) *Termination for cause.* FNS may terminate a State agency's participation under the Program, in whole or in part, whenever FNS determines that the State agency has failed to comply with the conditions prescribed in this part. FNS shall promptly notify the State agency in writing of the termination and the reasons for the termination, including the effective date. A State agency shall terminate a local agency's participation under the Program by written notice whenever it is determined by FNS or the State agency that the local agency has failed to comply with the requirements of the Program. When a State agency's participation under the Program is terminated for cause, any payments made to the State agency, or any recoveries by FNS from the State agency, shall be in conformance with the legal rights and liabilities of the parties.

(2) *Termination for convenience.* FNS or the State agency may terminate the State agency's participation under the Program, in whole or in part, when both parties agree that continuation under the Program would not produce beneficial results commensurate with the further expenditure of funds. The State agency or the local agency may terminate the local agency's participation, in whole or in part, under the same conditions. The two parties shall agree upon the termination conditions, including the effective date thereof and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated. The State agency shall not incur new obligations for the terminated portion after the effective date, and shall cancel as many outstanding obligations as

possible. FNS shall allow full credit to the State agency for the Federal share of the noncancellable obligations, properly incurred by the State agency prior to termination.

§ 247.19 Nondiscrimination.

(a) *Requirement.* The State agency shall comply with the requirements of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the FNS Civil Rights Instruction 113-2 and the Department's regulations concerning nondiscrimination (7 CFR part 15), including requirements of racial and ethnic participation data collection, public notification of the nondiscrimination policy, and annual reviews of each local agency to assure compliance with such policy, to the end that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under the Program.

(b) *Non-English materials and staff.* Where a significant proportion of the population of the area served by a local agency is composed of non-English or limited English speaking persons who speak the same language, the State agency shall take action to ensure that Program information, except certification forms, is provided to such persons in the appropriate language orally and in writing. The State agency shall ensure that there are bilingual staff members or interpreters available to serve these persons.

(c) *Complaints.* Complaints of discrimination filed by applicants or participants shall be referred to the Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S.D.A., Washington, DC 20250.

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(44 U.S.C. 3506)

[46 FR 6341, Jan. 21, 1981, as amended at 47 FR 746, Jan. 7, 1982]

§ 247.20 Fair hearing procedures.

(a) *Availability of hearings.* The State agency shall provide a hearing procedure through which any individual may appeal a State or local agency action which results in the denial or termination of benefits to the individual.