



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

July 6, 2004

Food and
Nutrition
Service

SUBJECT: Summer Food Service Program – Area Eligibility Pilot for Residential
Summer Camps – SFSP 2

TO: Darlene Sanchez, Director
Child Nutrition Programs
Mountain Plains Regional Office

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On June 30, 2004, the President signed the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004. The Act makes provision for a pilot project in the Summer Food Service Program, as authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA). The Department is authorized to approve one residential summer camp in each of two States for the purpose of identifying and evaluating alternative methods of determining eligibility for residential private nonprofit camps to participate in the SFSP. The provision is effective July 1, 2004.

Congress has indicated its intent that Camp Penuel in Missouri participate in the pilot. The camp was selected based upon a special interest in alternative methods for determining eligibility for residential summer camps. We intend to identify an additional camp in another State shortly.

Each of the residential camps must participate in the SFSP as an institution, as defined in 7 CFR 226.2, which requires an agreement, an application and a budget that must be submitted and approved by the State agency. The selected residential camp site may not charge, request or require a fee of any type from the family of the child(ren) for their participation or enrollment at the residential camp. And the residential camps must draw their entire enrollment from areas in which poor economic conditions exist as defined in the SFSP regulations at 225.2; meaning all children must reside in school attendance areas where 50 percent of the children are eligible for free or reduced price school meals or from Census Block Groups where 50 percent of the children in the area are income eligible based upon free and reduced price meals.

Each residential camp will be eligible for reimbursement for up to three meals per child per day or two meals and one snack per child per day.

The Act specifically requires each residential camp to provide evaluation data and summary information of their project to the Secretary no later than December 31, 2005, with the Department submitting a final evaluation of the pilot to Congress on March 31, 2006. In order to provide the required pilot evaluation, each residential camp must maintain an enrollment form that includes the following data elements, at a minimum:

- The child's name
- The child's residence address
- The name of school where the child attends or the Census Block Number that makes the child eligible
- A signature from the parent or guardian

In order to provide a complete evaluation, each camp must provide an initial report of baseline information from the summer of 2003. The report must provide the following information to the Secretary no later than September 15, 2004:

- A description of the camp's activities
- Length and date of camp sessions in 2003
- Meal types served daily
- Number of each meal type served daily
- Number of children 18 years and younger at each session
- Number of meals served to children 18 years and younger that qualified for free or reduce price meals
- Copy of menu from one camp session

In order to provide the required report to Congress, it is essential that each camp have in place and on file the enrollment form with the information stated above. Camp sessions in operation before July 1, 2004, may be eligible for reimbursement for meals (served July 1, 2004 and thereafter) provided that enrollment forms, with all information stated above, are available in the camp office for review prior to the conclusion of that camp session. Please note, should the camp have children from an ineligible area, then the camp would be ineligible for the pilot and would participate as a camp under the current SFSP regulations. The two camps may participate under this pilot for the Summer of 2004 and 2005.

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Darlene Sanchez, Director

Please contact the Missouri State agency with the information in this letter as soon as possible. Please ask the State agency to confirm the participation of the selected residential camp. If the designated camp chooses not to participate, please notify our office immediately so we may consider designating an alternate camp site. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Keith Churchill or Ron Ulibarri.

STANLEY C. GARNETT

Director

Child Nutrition Division