



DEC 20 2007

**SUBJECT:** Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): Discontinuing Soy-Based Infant Formula

**TO:** Regional Directors  
Special Nutrition Programs  
MARO, MPRO, MWRO,  
NERO, SERO, and SWRO

Regional Director  
WRO Office of Field Operations

State Directors  
CSFP State Agencies  
All Participating States

As you know, in 2004, FNS successfully transitioned to offering only powdered infant formula products in the CSFP, both soy- and milk-based. Due to the continually decreasing demand for infant formula in the program, it is no longer feasible for the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to continue to provide the current range of powdered formula products. More specifically, as the infant population in the CSFP continues to decline, it has become untenable to offer the soy-based infant formula.

Currently, infants make up less than one percent of the program population. Based on our research, only a small proportion of all CSFP infants currently receive the soy-based formula under the direction of a physician or other qualified medical professional. In addition, the soy-based formula costs substantially more than its more commonly used milk-based counterpart. If pursued by FNS, the required minimum purchase quantity for the soy-based product, in comparison to projected participant take rates, would likely result in substantial unused inventory. Thus, the decision has been made to discontinue offering the soy-based infant formula in the CSFP.

CSFP State and local agencies should distribute all remaining soy-based infant formula to qualified participants by the end of December. Furthermore, those participants impacted by this change should be referred to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC Program), where their more specialized nutritional needs may be met. Because these individuals will receive priority consideration in the WIC Program, and assuming similar eligibility standards and continued infant eligibility, the adult parents or caretakers of these individuals can be reasonably assured that their infants will continue to receive nutritional assistance. CSFP State and local agencies impacted by this change are expected to work closely with their WIC Program counterparts to ensure a smooth transition. Finally, it should be noted that all regulatory notification requirements must be met.

CSFP Discontinuing Soy-Based Infant Formula

Page 2

Please advise your respective CSFP State agencies of this change. Should you have any questions, please contact Dana Rasmussen or Lillie Ragan at (703) 305-2662.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathie McCullough".

Cathie McCullough  
Director  
Food Distribution Division