

State of New Mexico

CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

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Family Nutrition Bureau, Chief
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Greetings,

Please review our comments as they pertain to issues noted in the email.

1. Your own experience with hunger, lack of adequate food, or your community's/clients'/customers' experiences with food insecurity
 - During my tenure as Food Program Compliance Officer in the Summer Food Service Program, I have been witness to many observations and testimony from customers that experience hunger and food insecurity. Please note:
 - Observations of parents eating parts of their child's SFSP meal
 - Observation of food hoarding. Children stuffing partially eaten, unpackaged food items into their pockets for later.
 - Testimonials – Children stating that they hide food from others in the household to ensure they have something for "later".
 - Observation – Child less than 10 years old operating an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) with no shoes to access SFSP meal services. This very young brother was transporting his infant sister, clothed only in a diaper, on the ATV. The brother shared his SFSP meal with his infant sister since the SFSP sponsor was not approved to serve infants.
 - Observations - Children waiting impatiently at the SFSP share box for other children to place any unwanted food item in the box so that they can eat it while they wait for the period in which second meals are served.
 - Testimonials – SFSP Site Supervisors stating
 - "They're really hungry on Monday"
 - "He's always really hungry and wants a second meal right away."
 - "We know he goes to other sites too."
 - Observations – Grandparents rolling food into a napkin and putting it into purse.
 - Other similar observations and testimonials.
2. Your experience and expertise with delivering programs that assist people with food insecurity
 - I have provided operational and administrative oversight for the Summer Food Service Program in New Mexico Since June, 1999.
 - I have experience on all State levels of Program administration to include but not limited to the following
 - i. Reviewing and approving applications for sponsors and meal sites
 - ii. Sponsor training
 - iii. Outreach and strategic initiatives

- iv. Compliance oversight
- v. Chronic compliance issues
- vi. Reporting
- vii. USDA policy and guidance
- viii. Civil Rights
- ix. Sponsor financial recordkeeping
- x. Technical assistance

- Recently promoted to SFSP Program Manager for NM

3. Your recommendations for effective ways of reducing *very low food security at the household level*.
- Remove the SFSP restriction that prohibits the service of a lunch and a supper at the same meal site. An estimation of the effect of this recommendation cannot be provided. However, without the implementation of the recommendation, the effect cannot be measured. Perhaps a pilot can provide some insight as to the impact the recommendation has. Suppers, historically the least claimed meal in the SFSP, can be monitored through the traditional FNS 418 reporting mechanism. Mechanisms for government or public accountability will remain the same as is currently required for all claimed and reported SFSP meals.
 - Allow SFSP sites to serve snack in addition to breakfast and lunch. An estimation of the effect of this recommendation cannot be provided. However, without the implementation of the recommendation the effect cannot be measured. Perhaps a pilot can provide some insight as to the impact the recommendation has.
 - Add a meat/meat alternate component to the SFSP breakfast meal pattern. Having been touted as the most important meal of the day by many health and dietary authorities, children exposed to food insecurity would obviously benefit from the added nutrition in their breakfast. The impact of the recommendation, if implemented, to me would be obvious. Although reporting mechanisms for breakfasts are already in place, positive variations in breakfast participation would serve as an indication of the impact of the recommendation.