



National CACFP Forum
3 Corporate Boulevard NE, Suite 230
Atlanta, GA 30329

July 22, 2020

Re: Urgent Concerns – CACFP Site Visits during a Pandemic

Brandon Lipps
Deputy Undersecretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services

Dear Brandon Lipps,

As Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) organizations we will not put children, families, childcare providers and our staff at risk by conducting onsite CACFP monitoring visits. It is our responsibility to ensure the CACFP operates responsibly and adheres to public health recommendations and mandates to support a healthy and safe environment for children and their teachers, and caregivers during this time of a pandemic. Local licensing visits are occurring virtually in many states across the country, and many states are rolling back their plans for reopening businesses. It's critical that USDA align CACFP program requirements directly with these actions.

We, the undersigned CACFP organizations, will conduct and document all required monitoring via desk audits and virtual visits effective immediately and continue through December 31, 2020. At that time, we will review the latest recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), our local public health departments, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and childcare licensing to determine recommendations, and if safe, procedures to resume in person visits.

We urge you to issue guidance that aligns with federal, state, and local health and safety guidance by replacing the requirement for onsite monitoring with desk audits and virtual monitoring. CACFP provides access to nutritious free and reduced-price meals to millions of food insecure children across the country. Many of these children live in communities that are experiencing compound effects of this pandemic. We do not want to exacerbate those conditions by our staff presence at those sites. The National CACFP Forum is immediately available to answer any questions you may have; please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reynaldo Green", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Reynaldo Green
President, National CACFP Forum

CACFP Organizations

Building Better Communities Foundation
CCFP Roundtable
Child Care Development Services, Inc.
Childtime Childcare, Inc.
Clarendon Early Education Services, Inc.
CocoKids
El Paso Human Services, Inc.
FRAMAX
KinderCare Education, LLC
KinderCare Learning Center, LLC
La Petite Academy, Inc.
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE)
Quality Care for Children (Atlanta, GA)
REE Southeast, Inc.
REE Midwest, Inc.
The Children's Courtyard, Inc.
Tutor Time Learning Centers, LLC
W.O.S., Inc. d/b/a Childtime Learning Center

Supporting Organizations