

STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

JAMES K. POLK BUILDING 505 DEADERICK STREET NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243 TELEPHONE: 615-313-4700 FAX: 615-741-4165 TTY: 1-800-270-1349 www.tn.gov/humanservices

BILL LEE GOVERNOR DANIELLE W. BARNES COMMISSIONER

February 5, 2019

Hunter West, Chairman of the Board Boys and Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee 1704 Charlotte Avenue Suite 200 Nashville, Tennessee 37203-2907

Dear Mr. West,

The Department of Human Services (DHS) - Division of Audit Services staff conducted an unannounced on-site monitoring review of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) at Boys and Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee (Sponsor), Application Agreement number 00-176, beginning on December 13, 2018. We revisited the Sponsor for additional information and exited on December 19, 2018. The purpose of this review was to determine if the Sponsor complied with the *Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) applicable parts, provider agreement, and applicable Federal and State regulations.

Based on our review of the Sponsor's records and information provided, the Sponsor had six (6) feeding sites operating during the review period. The Cleveland Park Club (**Cleveland**) site was selected as the sample.

Background

CACFP Sponsors utilize meal count sheets to record the number of breakfast, lunch, supper, and supplement meals served. Meals served by participating Sponsors must meet the minimum guidelines set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and DHS to be eligible for reimbursement. The CACFP Sponsor reports the number of meals served through the DHS Tennessee Information Payment System (TIPS) to seek reimbursement. We inspected meal counts sheets for our test period and reconciled the meals claimed to the meals reported as served for each meal service. We also assessed compliance with civil rights requirements. In addition, we observed a supplement service at **Cleveland** on November 1, 2018.

Our review of the Sponsor's records for November 2018 disclosed the following:

1. The Sponsor reported meal counts incorrectly

Condition

Based on our review of the Claim for Reimbursement for the test month for **Cleveland**, the Sponsor reported 2,771 supplements served. However, based on our review of available documents, we found there were 2,773 supplements served, prior to any meal disallowances.

As a result, two (2) supplements claimed were underreported. (See Exhibit B)

Criteria

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.10(c) states, "... In submitting a Claim for Reimbursement, each institution shall certify that the claim is correct and that records are available to support that claim...."

Recommendation

The Sponsor should ensure that claims for reimbursement are completed correctly and based on accurate supporting documents.

2. The Sponsor provided menus that did not meet USDA meal pattern requirements

Condition

Based on our review of the menus provided by the Sponsor for the review period, the menus provided did not meet the USDA meal pattern requirements. The menu for November 7, 2018 listed "Food items FALL DINNER". There were no creditable components listed for this menu.

As a result, 161 supplements claimed were disallowed. (See Exhibit B)

Criteria

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.17a(l) states, "At-risk afterschool snacks must meet the meal pattern requirements for snacks in §226.20(b)(6) and/or (c)(4); at-risk afterschool meals must meet the meal pattern requirements for meals in §226.20(b)(6) and/or (c)(1), (c)(2), or (c)(3)."

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, *Section 226.20(c)(3)* states the Sponsor must, "Serve two of the following five components: Fluid milk, meat and meat alternates, vegetables, fruits, and grains. Fruit juice, vegetable juice, and milk may comprise only one component of the snack…"

Recommendation

The Sponsor should ensure that menus meet the USDA meal pattern requirements.

3. The Sponsor did not provide documentation to support sufficient quantities of milk were purchased for all meals reported

<u>Condition</u>

Based on the number of meals served with milk as a component, the Sponsor was required to purchase a total of 1,115 half pints of milk in order to support the menus provided. The Sponsor provided invoices for milk purchased on November 15, 2018 documenting 500 half pints

purchased and on November 29, 2018 documenting 400 half pints purchased for a total of 900 half pints, resulting in a milk shortage of 215 half pints. However, the Sponsor did not provide a milk inventory nor provide any receipts for milk purchased prior to November 15, 2018. The supplements with milk listed as a component that were supported are as follows:

Date	Milk Purchased	Supplements Claimed	Milk Balance
11/15/18	500		500
11/15/18		147	353
11/20/18		124	229
11/27/18		126	103
11/29/18	400		503
11/29/18		146	357
Totals	900	543	357

The supplements with milk listed as a component that were disallowed are as follows:

Date	Menu	No. of Meals
11/1/18	Canned peaches and 1% milk	146
11/6/18	Fresh apples and 1% milk	134
11/8/18	Fresh bananas and 1% milk	145
11/13/18	Canned mixed fruit and 1% milk	147

As a result, 572 supplements were disallowed. (See Exhibit B)

This is a repeat finding from a previous report dated July 5, 2016

Criteria

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.17a (I) states, "At-risk afterschool snacks must meet the meal pattern requirements for snacks in §226.20(b)(6) and/or (c)(4); at-risk afterschool meals must meet the meal pattern requirements for meals in §226.20(b)(6) and/or (c)(1), (c)(2), or (c)(3)."

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, *Section 226.20(c)(3)* states, "Serve two of the following five components: Fluid milk, meat and meat alternates, vegetables, fruits, and grains. Fruit juice, vegetable juice, and milk may comprise only one component of the snack. ..."

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.20(a)(1) states, "Fluid milk must be served as a beverage or on cereal, or a combination of both, as follows: (iii) Children six years old and older must be served milk that is low-fat (1 percent fat or less) or fat-free (skim). Milk may be unflavored or flavored from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019 (school year 2018-2019)"

Recommendation

The Sponsor should perform a month-end inventory for milk and maintain all receipts for food purchases to ensure that the required amount of milk was purchased and served for the meals claimed for reimbursement.

4. The Sponsor did not complete monitoring of its feeding sites as required

Condition

Based on our review of the monitoring forms for **Cleveland** feeding site provided by the Sponsor, we noted that the form was missing required information of five day reconciliations. Five-day reconciliation was not completed for monitoring dated February 20, 2018, April 8, 2018, and September 10, 2018.

Criteria

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.16(d)(4)(ii) states, "Reviews **must** examine the meal counts recorded by the facility for five consecutive days during the current and/or prior claiming period...."

Recommendation

The Sponsor should ensure that the five-day reconciliation is completed during monitoring.

5. The Sponsor did not have a working thermometer for the refrigerator

Condition

During our monitoring on-site visit on November 1, 2018, there was no working thermometer in the refrigerator. There was a working thermometer in the freezer and there was no evidence that food was not being properly stored. This issue was also identified by the Sponsor's monitor on April 8, 2018.

Criteria

Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.20(I) states "Institutions and facilities must ensure that in storing, preparing, and serving food proper sanitation and health standards are met which conform **with** all applicable State and local laws and regulations. Institutions and facilities must ensure that adequate facilities are available to store food or hold meals."

The USDA <u>Basics for Handling Food Safely</u> states, "The refrigerator should be at 40 °F (4.4 °C) or below and the freezer at 0 °F (-17.7 °C) or below."

Recommendation

The Sponsor should ensure food items are properly stored, and working thermometers are checked to ensure refrigerators and freezers are safely storing perishable and frozen foods.

Technical Assistance Provided

During our monitoring on-site visit on December 19, 2018, we provided technical assistance regarding identifying the whole-grain components on menus and completing the five-day reconciliation during monitoring of feeding sites.

Disallowed Meals Cost

Based on the review, we determined that the Sponsor's noncompliance with the applicable Federal and State regulations that govern the CACFP resulted in a total disallowed cost of \$665.21.

Corrective Action

The Sponsor should complete the following actions within 30 days from the date of this report:

- Log into the Tennessee Information Payment System (TIPS) and revise the claim submitted for November 2018, which contains the verified claim data from the enclosed exhibits. <u>Please note that, if the claim is revised</u>, TIPS will automatically deduct the overpayment from your next CACFP claim for reimbursement. <u>OR</u>
- If you are no longer participating in the CACFP program, remit a check payable to the Tennessee Department of Human Services in the amount noted in the report for recovery of the amounts disallowed in this report. Please return the attached billing notice with your check; and
- Prepare and submit a corrective action plan to address the deficiencies identified in this report. The corrective action plan template is attached. Please return the corrective action plan to:

AuditServices.CAPS.DHS@tn.gov

If you have questions relative to the corrective action plan please contact:

Allette Vayda, Director of Operations Child and Adult Care Food Program James K. Polk Building, 15th Floor 505 Deaderick Street Nashville, Tennessee 37243 <u>Allette.Vayda@tn.gov</u> (615) 313-3769

Please note that the amount of disallowed cost is subject to an interest charge. The interest charge will be waived if your revised claim within 30 days from the date of this report. If the revised claim is not completed by the 30-day deadline, an interest charge may be billed to your institution. Please mail your check and the billing notice to:

<u>Child and Adult Care Food Program</u> Fiscal Services James K. Polk Building, 16th Floor 505 Deaderick Street Nashville, Tennessee 37243

In accordance with the federal regulation found at 7 *CFR Part 226.6 (k)*, your institution may appeal the amount of disallowed cost identified in this monitoring report. The procedures for submitting an appeal are enclosed. The appeal must be submitted to:

Tennessee Department of Human Services Appeals and Hearings Division, Clerk's Office P.O. Box 198996 Nashville, TN 37219

If the Institution decides to appeal the amount of disallowed administrative and meals cost, all appeal procedures must be followed as failure to do so may result in the denial of your request

for an appeal.

We appreciate the assistance provided during this review. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Sean Baker, Audit Director 2, at 615-313-4727 or <u>Sean.Baker@tn.gov.</u>

Sincerely,

Sam O. Alzoubi, CFE

Director of Audit Services

Exhibit

cc: Dan Jernigan, CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee Patricia Scott, Executive Assistant, Boys and Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee Allette Vayda, Director of Operations, Child and Adult Care Food Program Debra Pasta, Program Manager, Child and Adult Care Food Program Elke Moore, Administrative Services Assistant 3, Child and Adult Care Food Program Constance Moore, Program Specialist, Child and Adult Care Food Program Marty Widner, Program Specialist, Child and Adult Care Food Program Comptroller of the Treasury, State of Tennessee

Exhibit A

Sponsor of At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program Data

Sponsor: Boys and Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee Review Month/Year: November 2018 Total Reimbursement: \$8,233.67

Site Meal Service Reconciliation and Monitor Activity	Reported on Claim	Reconciled to Documentation
Total Days of CACFP Food Service	17	20
Number of Sites	6	6
Number of Supplements Served	9,037	8,306

Exhibit B

Sponsor of At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program Data for the Sample Site

Sponsor: Boys and Girls Middle Tennessee Site: Cleveland Park Club Review Month/Year: November 2018 Total Reimbursement: \$2,521.61

Site Meal Service Reconciliation and Monitor Activity	Reported on Claim	Reconciled to Documentation
Total Days of CACFP Food Service	17	20
Total Attendance	2,806	2,806
Number of Supplement Served	2,771	2,040
Total Amount of Food Costs	XXXXXXXX	\$1,513.10
Total Amount of Eligible Food and Nonfood Costs	XXXXXXXX	\$1,804.53



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BILL LEE

DANIELLE W. BARNES COMMISSIONER

February 5, 2019

Hunter West, Chairman of the Board Boys and Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee 1704 Charlotte Avenue, Suite 200 Nashville, Tennessee 37203-2907

Notice of payment due to findings disclosed in the monitoring report for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Institution Name:	Boys and Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee
Institution Address:	1704 Charlotte Avenue, Suite 200
	Nashville, Tennessee 37203-2907
Agreement Numbers:	00-176
Amount Due:	\$665.21
Due Date:	March 6, 2019

Based on the monitoring report issued, by the Audit Services Division within the Tennessee Department of Human Services, the Community and Social Services- Food Programs- CACFP & SFSP management has agreed with the findings which require your institution to reimburse the Department of Human Services the disallowed cost noted in the report

Please remit a check or money order payable to the *Tennessee Department of Human Services* in the amount noted above by the due date to:

Fiscal Services James K. Polk Building, 16th Floor 505 Deaderick Street Nashville, Tennessee 37243 Tennessee Department of Human Services

Please note that the disallowed meals cost / overpayment of the CACFP is subject to an interest charge. The interest charge will be waived if the payment is received by the due date. If payment is not received by the end of 5th day of the due date, an interest charge may be added to the original amount due and will be billed to your entity.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please feel free to contact Allette Vayda, Director of Operations at (615) 313-3769 or <u>Allette.Vayda@tn.gov</u>.

Thank you for your attention



Tennessee Department of Human Services Corrective Action Plan for Monitoring Findings

Instructions: Please print in ink or type the information to complete this document. Enter the date of birth for each Responsible Principal and/or Individual in Section B. Attach the additional documentation requested. Enter your name, title and date of signature on the last page. Please sign your name in ink. **Please return ALL pages of the completed Corrective Action Plan form.**

Section A. Institution Information

Name of Sponsor/Agency/Site: Boys and Girls (Tennessee	Clubs of Middle	Agreement No. 00176	□ SFSP ⊠ CACFP
		000000000000000000000000000000000000000	
Mailing Address: 1704 Charlotte Avenue Suite 200 Nashville, Tennessee 37203-2907			
Section B. Responsible Principal(s) and/or In	ndividual(s)		
Name and Title: Hunter West, Chairman of the Board		Da	te of Birth: / /
Section C. Dates of Issuance of Monitoring F	Report/Correcti	ve Action Plan	
Monitoring Report: 2/5/2019	Corrective Action Plan: 2/5/2019		

Section D. Findings

Findings:

- 1. The Sponsor reported meal counts incorrectly
- 2. The Sponsor provided menus that did not meet USDA meal pattern requirements

3. The Sponsor did not provide documentation to support sufficient quantities of milk were purchased for all meals reported

- 4. The Sponsor did not complete monitoring of its feeding sites as required
- 5. The Sponsor did not have a working thermometer for the refrigerator

The following measures will be completed within **30 calendar days** of my institution's receipt of this corrective action plan:

Measure No. 1: The Sponsor reported meal counts incorrectly

The finding will be fully and permanently corrected.

Identify the name(s) and position title(s) of the employee(s) who will be responsible for ensuring that the finding is fully and permanently corrected:

Name:

Position Title:

Name:

Position Title:

Describe below the step-by-step procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding:

When will the procedures for addressing the finding be implemented? Provide a timeline below for implementing the procedures (i.e., will the procedures be done daily, weekly, monthly, or annually, and when will they begin?):

Where will the Corrective Action Plan documentation be retained? Please identify below:

How will new and current staff be informed of the new policies and procedures to address the finding (e.g., Handbook, training, etc.)? Please describe below:

Measure No.2: The Sponsor provided menus that did not meet USDA meal pattern requirements

The finding will be fully and permanently corrected.

Identify the name(s) and position title(s) of the employee(s) who will be responsible for ensuring that the finding is fully and permanently corrected:

Name:

Position Title:

Name:

Position Title:

Describe below the step-by-step procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding:

When will the procedures for addressing the finding be implemented? Provide a timeline below for implementing the procedures (i.e., will the procedures be done daily, weekly, monthly, or annually, and when will they begin?):

Where will the Corrective Action Plan documentation be retained? Please identify below:

How will new and current staff be informed of the new policies and procedures to address the finding (e.g.,
Handbook, training, etc.)? Please describe below:

Measure No. 3: The Sponsor did not provide documentation to support sufficient quantities of milk were purchased for all meals reported

The finding will be fully and permanently corrected. Identify the name(s) and position title(s) of the employee(s) who will be responsible for ensuring that the finding is fully and permanently corrected:

Name:

Position Title:

Name:

Position Title:

Describe below the step-by-step procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding:

When will the procedures for addressing the finding be implemented? Provide a timeline below for implementing the procedures (i.e., will the procedures be done daily, weekly, monthly, or annually, and when will they begin?):

DHS staff should check the "Forms" section of the intranet to ensure the use of current versions. Forms may not be altered without prior approval. Distribution: OIG and CACFP/SFSP as appropriate RDA: 2341 HS-3187 (Rev. 11-16) Page 4 of 8 Where will the Corrective Action Plan documentation be retained? Please identify below:

How will new and current staff be informed of the new policies and procedures to address the finding (e.g., Handbook, training, etc.)? Please describe below:

Measure No. 4: The Sponsor did not complete monitoring of its feeding sites as required

The finding will be fully and permanently corrected. Identify the name(s) and position title(s) of the employee(s) who will be responsible for ensuring that the finding is fully and permanently corrected:

Name:

Position Title:

Name:

Position Title:

Describe below the **step-by-step** procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding:

When will the procedures for addressing the finding be implemented? Provide a timeline below for implementing the procedures (i.e., will the procedures be done daily, weekly, monthly, or annually, and when will they begin?):

Where will the Corrective Action Plan documentation be retained? Please identify below:

How will new and current staff be informed of the new policies and procedures to address the finding (e.g., Handbook, training, etc.)? Please describe below:

Measure No. 5: The Sponsor did not have a working thermometer for the refrigerator

The finding will be fully and permanently corrected. Identify the name(s) and position title(s) of the employee(s) who will be responsible for ensuring that the finding is fully and permanently corrected:

Name:

Position Title:

Name:

Position Title:

Describe below the step-by-step procedures that will be implemented to correct the finding:

When will the procedures for addressing the finding be implemented? Provide a timeline below for implementing the procedures (i.e., will the procedures be done daily, weekly, monthly, or annually, and when will they begin?):

Where will the Corrective Action Plan documentation be retained? Please identify below:

How will new and current staff be informed of the new policies and procedures to address the finding (e.g., Handbook, training, etc.)? Please describe below:

I certify by my signature below that I am authorized by the institution to sign this document. As an authorized representative of the institution, I fully understand the corrective measures identified above and agree to fully implement these measures within the required time frame. I also understand that failure to fully and permanently correct the findings in my institution's CACFP or SFSP will result in its termination from the program, and the placement of the institution and its responsible principals on the National Disgualified List maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Printed Name of Authorized Institution Official:

Position:

Signature of Authorized Institution Official:

Date: / / DHS staff should check the "Forms" section of the intranet to ensure the use of current versions. Forms may not be altered without prior approval. Distribution: OIG and CACFP/SFSP as appropriate RDA: 2341 HS-3187 (Rev. 11-16) Page 7 of 8

Date: / /

APPEAL PROCEDURES FOR CHILD AND ADULT CARE INSTITUTIONS AND SPONSORING AGENCIES

Appeal Procedures

1. Pursuant to 7 CFR 226.6(k)(4), the TN Department of Human Services (TDHS) must provide administrative review procedures to institutions and responsible principals and responsible individuals as follows:

(a) Annually to all institutions;

(b) To an institution and to each responsible principal and responsible individual when the State agency takes any action subject to an administrative review as described in 7 CFR 226.6(k)(2); and

(c) Any other time upon request.

2. Pursuant to 7 CFR 226.6(k)(3) and (k)(9), some administrative actions are not subject to administrative review. Those actions are listed in paragraph 2.(a). Other administrative actions may be administratively appealed. Those actions are listed in paragraph 2.(b) and (c). All institutions and sponsoring agencies may appeal any adverse administrative action listed in paragraph 2.(b) which are taken by the TDHS by requesting a fair hearing to appear in person to refute the action, or by requesting a review of written information in lieu of a fair hearing.

(a) Pursuant to 7 CFR Part 226.6 (k)(3) TDHS is prohibited from offering administrative reviews of the following actions:

- (i) FNS decisions on claim deadline exceptions and requests for upward adjustments to a claim.
- (ii) Determination of serious deficiency.
- (iii) State agency determination that corrective action is inadequate.
- (iv) Disqualification and placement on State agency list and National disqualified list.
- (v) Termination.
- (vi) State agency or FNS decision regarding removal from the National disqualified list.
- (vii) State agency's refusal to consider an application submitted by an institution or facility on the National disqualified list.

(b) Pursuant to 7 CFR Part 226.6(k)(9), an abbreviated appeal process is available for the following actions. TDHS must limit the administrative review to a review of written submissions by the TDHS and institutions or sponsoring agencies concerning the accuracy of the State agency's determination if the application was denied, or the State agency proposes to terminate the institution's agreement because:

- (viii) The information submitted on the application was false;
- (ix) The institution, one of its sponsored facilities, or one of the principals of the institution or its facilities is on the national disqualified list;
- (x) The institution, one of its sponsored facilities, or one of the principals of the institution or its facilities is ineligible to participate in any other publicly funded program by reason of violation of the requirements of the program;

> (xi) The institution, one of its sponsored facilities, or one of the principals of the institution or its facilities has been convicted for any activity that indicates a lack of business integrity;

(c) Administrative review is also available if the State agency notifies the institution and responsible principal or responsible individual of the following actions: proposed disqualification of a responsible principal or responsible individual, denial of a budget, denial of a line item within a budget, downward adjustment of the amount approved in a budget, suspension of an institution's participation, denial of start-up or expansion funds, denial of a request for advanced payment, recovery of an advance in excess of a claim, denial of a claim for reimbursement (except for late submission), decision not to forward an exception request for payment of a late claim, overpayment demand, denial of a new or renewing institution's application for participation, denial of sponsored facility application, notice of proposed termination, claim denial, claim deadline exceptions and requests for upward adjustments to a claim, or any other action affecting an institutions participation or claim for payment.

3. All appeal requests must be presented in writing to the TDHS Division of Appeals and Hearings not later than 15 calendar days after the date the institution or sponsoring agency receives the notice of adverse administrative action.

4. The date of an institution's or sponsoring agency's receipt of a notice of suspension and/or proposed termination and disqualification will be governed by the federal regulation at 7 CFR Part 226.2. The notice must specify the action being proposed or taken and the basis for the action, and is considered to be received by the institution or day care home when it is delivered, sent by facsimile, or sent by email. If the notice is undeliverable, it is considered to be received by the institution, responsible principal or responsible individual, or day care home five days after being sent to the addressee's last known mailing address, facsimile number, or email address.

5. The TDHS Division of Appeals and Hearings will acknowledge the receipt of the appeal request within 10 calendar days of the receipt of the institution's or sponsoring agency's request for review. The written request for review should state if a fair hearing is requested or if a review of written information in lieu of a fair hearing is requested. If the appeal request from the institution or sponsoring agency does not specifically request a hearing, a review of written information in lieu of a fair hearing is requested and the institution or sponsoring agency's representative fails to appear, the right to a personal appearance is waived.

6. If an institution or sponsoring agency does not request a fair hearing or a review of written information in lieu of the hearing within 15 calendar days from the date the institution or sponsoring agency receives a Notice of Proposed Termination, the TDHS will issue a letter advising the institution or sponsoring agency that it is terminated from the CACFP effective on the 16th calendar day following the institution's or sponsoring agency's receipt of the notice, and that the responsible principals and individuals of the institution or sponsoring agency are disqualified from participation.

7. To be considered for a fair hearing or for a review of written information in lieu of a fair

hearing, all written documents must be submitted to the TDHS Division of Appeals and Hearings not later than 30 days after receipt of the notice of adverse administrative action.

8. The action of the TDHS must remain in effect during the administrative review. The effect of this requirement on particular actions by TDHS is as follows:

(i) Overpayment demand. During the period of the administrative review, TDHS is prohibited from taking action to collect or offset the overpayment. However TDHS must assess interest beginning with the initial demand for remittance of the overpayment and continuing through the period of administrative review unless the administrative review official overturns the TDHS's action.

(ii) *Recovery of advances*. During the administrative review, TDHS must continue its efforts to recover advances in excess of the claim for reimbursement for the applicable period. The recovery may be through a demand for full repayment or an adjustment of subsequent payments.

(iii) *Program payments*. The availability of Program payments during an administrative review of the denial of a new institution's application, denial of a renewing institution's application, proposed termination of a participating institution's agreement, and suspension of an institution are addressed in paragraphs (c)(1)(iii)(D), (c)(2)(iii)(D), (c)(5)(i)(D), and (c)(5)(ii)(E), respectively, of 7 CFR §226.6.

9. The institution or sponsoring agency must refute the charges contained in the notice during the fair hearing or in the written information that is provided in lieu of the hearing.

10. The institution and the responsible principals and responsible individuals may retain legal counsel, or may be represented by another person.

11. If a fair hearing is requested, the institution or sponsoring agency will be notified in writing of the time, date and place of the fair hearing at least 10 calendar days in advance.

12. Any information which supports an adverse administrative action taken by the TDHS shall be available to the institution or sponsoring agency for inspection from the date of the receipt of the request for a fair hearing or a review of written information in lieu of the hearing.

13. In accordance with 7 CFR Part 226.6 (k)(8), the TDHS Division of Appeals and Hearings must conduct the administrative review of the proposed disqualification of the responsible principals and responsible individuals as part of the administrative review of the application denial, proposed termination, and/or proposed disqualification of the institution with which the responsible principals or responsible individuals are associated. However, at the administrative review official's discretion, separate administrative reviews may be held if the institution does not request an administrative review or if either the institution or the responsible principal or responsible individual demonstrates that their interests conflict.

14. The procedures contained in the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act found at TCA 4-5-301 et seq. shall be followed in rendering a decision on all appeals. The decision of the hearing officer is the final administrative determination to be afforded to the institution or sponsoring agency, and shall be rendered in a timely manner not to exceed 60 calendar days from the date of the receipt of the request for a fair hearing.

15. The processing limits for administrative appeals MUST be met. In the event a continuance is requested by a party, one continuance may be granted at the Hearing Official's discretion. This

continuance shall not be for a period longer than ten (10) calendar days unless there are exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances must be detailed in the order of continuance and the order must contain a date certain for the hearing, to be set as soon as possible. A report of pending CACFP desk review and fair hearing requests will be generated and reviewed daily by the Clerk's Office and the Legal Director for Appeals and Hearings who will monitor the dates for timeliness. In the event a decision has not been rendered within forty-five (45) calendar days of the date of receipt of the request for fair hearing or desk review, the Legal Director for Appeals and Hearings or their back-up shall notify the hearing official to take appropriate action.

16. All requests for a fair hearing or for a review of written information in lieu of a hearing must be submitted to:

Tennessee Department of Human Services Division of Appeals and Hearings PO Box 198996, Clerk's Office Nashville, TN 37219-8996 Fax: (615) 248-7013 or (866) 355-6136 E-mail: <u>AppealsClerksOffice.DHS@tn.gov</u>

17. If a termination action is upheld by the hearing officer, the TDHS will issue a letter to the institution or sponsoring agency and its responsible principals and individuals advising that the termination and disqualification are effective on the date of the ruling issued by the hearing officer. The agency maintains searchable records of all administrative reviews and their dispositions for a period of five (5) years.

18. As required by 7 CFR Part 226.6 (c)(7), each disqualified institution, sponsoring agency, principal and individual will be placed on the National Disqualified List maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Once included on the National Disqualified List, an institution, sponsoring agency, principal and individual shall remain on the list until such time as the USDA, in consultation with the TDHS, determines that the serious deficiencies that led to their placement on the list have been corrected, or until seven years have elapsed since they were disqualified from participation. However, if the institution, sponsoring agency, principal or individual has failed to repay debts owed under the program, they will remain on the list until the debt has been paid.