



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

JAMES K. POLK BUILDING  
505 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1403

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[www.tn.gov/humanservices](http://www.tn.gov/humanservices)

**BILL LEE**  
GOVERNOR

**DANIELLE W. BARNES**  
COMMISSIONER

May 28, 2019

Valary Payne, Owner  
Gartland Child Development Center  
1115 Gartland Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37206

Dear Ms. Payne,

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 Gartland Child Development Center (Sponsor), Application Agreement number 00-286, on April 11, 2019. Additional information was requested and provided on April 15, 2019. 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.

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) for 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 lunch meal service on November 27, 2018.

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

- 1. The Sponsor reported the number of participants in the free, reduced-price, and paid categories incorrectly**

### Condition

Based on our review of the Claim for Reimbursement for November 2018, we noted that the Sponsor reported 33 participants in the free category, ten (10) participants in the reduced-price category, and 13 participants in the paid category. However, based on our review of the records available, we noted that there were 28 participants in the free category, nine (9) participants in the reduced-price category, and 19 participants in the paid category.

The differences were based on five (5) participants reported in the free category and one (1) participant in the reduced-price category whose applications were dated more than 12 months prior to the review period. These participants were reclassified as paid.

As a result, the Sponsor overreported the number of participants in the free category by five (5) and reduced-price category by one (1) and underreported the number of participants in the paid category by six (6) participants. (See Exhibit)

***This is a repeat finding from a previous report dated July 14, 2016.***

### 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 ..."

*Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.15(e)(2)* states, "All types of centers, except for emergency shelters and at-risk afterschool care centers, must maintain information used to determine eligibility for free or reduced-price meals in accordance with §226.23(e)(1). For child care centers, such documentation of enrollment must be updated annually, signed by a parent or legal guardian, and include information on each child's normal days and hours of care and the meals normally received while in care."

### Recommendation

The Sponsor should maintain all information used to determine eligibility, and ensure that each participant is classified and reported accurately based on categorical or income eligibility.

## **2. The Sponsor reported meal counts incorrectly**

### Condition

Based on our review of the Claim for Reimbursement for November 2018, we noted that the Sponsor reported 616 breakfast meals, 492 lunch meals, and 840 supplements served. However, based on our review of available documents, we noted that there were 611 breakfast meals, 487 lunch meals and 825 supplements served, prior to any meal disallowances.

As a result, five (5) breakfast meals, five (5) lunch meals, and 15 supplements claimed for reimbursement were disallowed. (See Exhibit)

***This is a repeat finding from a previous report dated July 14, 2016.***

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## 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.

### **3. The Sponsor provided menus that did not meet the USDA meal pattern requirements**

## Condition

Based on our review of the menus provided by the Sponsor for November 2018, the menus provided did not meet the USDA meal pattern requirements. There were two food items listed on menus that were not supported with a recipe or label to determine if the items are creditable: spaghetti and trail mix. The food item "Veggie straws" is not a creditable component for any category.

The menus provided had deficiencies as follows:

Date	Menu	Menu Error	Meal Type	No. of Meals
11/01/2018	Spaghetti, apples, corn, whole wheat garlic bread, and milk	No meat or meat alternative	Lunch	25
11/06/2018	Veggie straws and cheese strings	No 2 <sup>nd</sup> component	Supplement	38
11/07/2018	Trail mix and orange juice	Label not provided	Supplement	49
11/14/2018	Trail mix, orange juice, and water	Label not provided	Supplement	46
11/27/2018	Veggie straws and cheese strings	No 2 <sup>nd</sup> component	Supplement	48
11/28/2018	Trail mix and orange juice	Label not provided	Supplement	46

As a result, 227 supplements and 25 lunch meals claimed for reimbursement were disallowed. (See Exhibit A)

Additionally, the Sponsor provided menus for supplements that listed a grain-based dessert. The menu for November 1, 2019 listed Fruit & Nut bar and apple juice and the menu for November 2, 2019 listed Fig bar and orange juice. Due to the new the CACFP meal pattern requirements and emphasis on providing technical assistance during the implementation process, there were no meals disallowed for this issue.

***This is a repeat finding from a previous report dated July 14, 2016.***

## Criteria

*Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.17(b)(4)* states, "Each child care center participating in the Program shall claim only the meal types specified in its approved application in accordance with the meal pattern requirements specified in §226.20 ..."

*Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.20(c)(2) states, "Fluid milk, meat and meat alternatives, vegetable, fruits, and grains are required components in the lunch and supper meals."*

*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)(4)(iii) states, "Grain-based desserts do not count towards meeting the grains requirement."*

The USDA Crediting Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Revised 2011, page 63, concerning snack/party mixes, trail mixes states, "These are snack food mixtures with a variety of items including nuts, cereals, seeds, dried fruits, etc. These items cannot be credited unless there is an explanation of the creditable ingredients included in the mix on the menu."

*Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.14(b) states, "In the event that the State agency finds that an institution which prepares its own meals is failing to meet the meal requirements of §226.20, the State agency need not disallow payment or collect an overpayment arising out of such failure if the institution takes such other action as, in the opinion of the State agency, will have a corrective effect."*

#### Recommendation

The Sponsor should:

- Ensure that all meals prepared meet the meal patterns established by the USDA, and menus should be reviewed to ensure they contain all required meal components to be eligible as a reimbursable meal;
- ensure that when trail mix is listed on the menu, there is an explanation of the creditable ingredients included in the mix on the menu; and
- ensure that food items served are creditable components.

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

##### Condition

Based on the number of meals served with milk as a component, the Sponsor was required to purchase a total of 5,066 ounces of milk. However, the Sponsor could only document the purchase of 2,688 ounces of milk, resulting in a shortage of 2,318 ounces of milk.

As a result, 394 breakfast meals claimed for reimbursement were disallowed. (See Exhibit)

***This is a repeat finding from a previous report dated July 14, 2016.***

##### Criteria

*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: (i) Children 1 year old. Children one year of age must be served unflavored whole milk. (ii) Children 2 through 5 years*



old. Children two through five years old must be served either unflavored low-fat (1 percent) or unflavored fat-free (skim) milk. (iii) Children 6 years and older. 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 an inventory for milk and maintain all receipts for food purchases showing the required amount of milk was purchased and served for meals claimed for reimbursement.

#### **5. The Sponsor provided a meal that did not meet the USDA meal pattern requirements during an observed meal**

##### Condition

During our monitoring visit on November 27, 2018, 2019, we observed a lunch meal service. The meal served included cheese tortellini with added cheese, peaches, peas, whole grain bread, and milk. The one year old children were not served the whole grain bread component and were served two percent milk. The three year old participants were served three ounces of one percent milk which did not meet the minimum amount of milk required. There were 28 lunch meals served, and six meals served to the two year old children which were creditable.

The Sponsor claimed six (6) lunch meals; therefore, no additional meals were disallowed.

##### Criteria

*Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.17(b)(4)* states, "Each child care center participating in the Program shall claim only the meal types specified in its approved application in accordance with the meal pattern requirements specified in §226.20..."

*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: (i) Children one year of age must be served unflavored whole milk. (ii) Children two through five years old must be served either unflavored low-fat (1 percent) or unflavored fat-free (skim) milk...."

*Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.20(c)(2)* states, "Fluid milk, meat and meat alternatives, vegetable, fruits, and grains are required components in the lunch and supper meals."

#### Recommendation

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

#### **6. The Sponsor did not ensure that Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) WIC information was distributed to participating parents or guardians of enrolled children**

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### Condition

During our monitoring visit on November 27, 2018, we determined WIC program information was not distributed to the parents or guardians of the enrolled children.

### Criteria

*Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 226.15(o)* states; "Each institution must ensure that parents of enrolled children are provided with current information on the benefits and importance of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the eligibility requirements for WIC participation."

### Recommendation

The Sponsor should implement internal controls ensuring the distribution of WIC program information to parents of enrolled children.

### **Technical Assistance Provided**

During our monitoring visit on April 11, 2019, the Sponsor requested technical assistance regarding applications, menu requirements regarding grain-based desserts, and maintaining supporting documentation for menus. We provided technical assistance during our visit.

### **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 \$1,016.94.

### **Corrective Action**

The Sponsor must 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. **Please note that, if the claim is revised,** TIPS will automatically deduct the overpayment from your next CACFP claim for reimbursement. **OR**
- 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](mailto:AuditServices.CAPS.DHS@tn.gov)

If you have questions relative to the corrective action <sup>plan</sup> please contact:



Allette Vayda, Director of Operations  
Child and Adult Care Food Program  
James K. Polk Building, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
505 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
[Allette.Vayda@tn.gov](mailto:Allette.Vayda@tn.gov)  
(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:

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

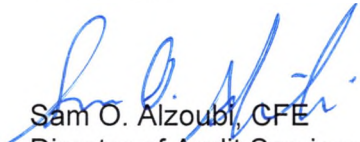
In accordance with the federal regulation found at 7 *CFR Part 226.6 (k)*, your institution may appeal the amount of disallowed cost identified in this monitoring report. The procedures for submitting an appeal are enclosed. The appeal must be submitted to:

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 [Sean.Baker@tn.gov](mailto:Sean.Baker@tn.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Sam O. Alzoubi, CFE  
Director of Audit Services

Exhibit

cc: Tiffonie Fisher, Assistant Director, Gartland Child Development Center  
Allette Vayda, Director of Operations, Child and Adult Care Food Programs  
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

### Verification of CACFP Independent Center Claim

Name of Agency: Gartland Child Development Center

Review Month/Year: November 2018

Total Meal Reimbursement Received: \$2,752.89

Site Meal Service Reconciliation and Monitor Activity	Reported on Claim	Reconciled to Documentation
Total Days of CACFP Food Service	19	19
Total Attendance	858	856 <sup>1</sup>
Percentage of Free or Reduced-price Category (For Profit Center Only)	76%	63%
Number of Breakfasts Served	616	217
Number of Lunches Served	492	462
Number of Supplements Served	840	598
Number of Participants in Free Category	33	28
Number of Participants in Reduced-Price Category	10	9
Number of Participants in Paid Category	13	19
Total Number of Participants	56	56
Total Amount of Eligible Food Costs	XXXXXXXX	\$1,244.31
Total Amount of Eligible Food and Non-Food Costs	XXXXXXXX	\$5,815.17

<sup>1</sup>The difference in the reported and verified number is immaterial and was not included in this report as a finding





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**BILL LEE**  
GOVERNOR

**DANIELLE W. BARNES**  
COMMISSIONER

May 28, 2019

Valary Payne, Owner  
Gartland Child Development Center  
1115 Gartland Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37206-2746

**Note:** If you are no longer participating in the CACFP, remit a check payable to the Tennessee Department of Human Services in the amounts disallowed in this report to the address below. Please return the attached billing notice with your check.

If you continue to participating in the CACFP, log into the Tennessee Information Payment System (TIPS) and revise the claim submitted for March 2019, which contains the verified claim data from the enclosed exhibits.

Institution Name:	Gartland Child Development Center
Institution Address:	1115 Gartland Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37206
Agreement Numbers:	00-286
Amount Due:	\$1,016.94
Due Date:	June 28, 2019

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 16th Floor  
James K. Polk Building  
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 [Allette.Vayda@tn.gov](mailto:Allette.Vayda@tn.gov).

Thank you for your attention

**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: Gartland Child Development Center	Agreement No. 00286	<input type="checkbox"/> SFSP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CACFP
Mailing Address: 1115 Gartland Avenue Nashville, Tennessee 37206		

**Section B. Responsible Principal(s) and/or Individual(s)**

Name and Title: Valary Payne, Owner	Date of Birth:    /    /

**Section C. Dates of Issuance of Monitoring Report/Corrective Action Plan**

Monitoring Report: 5/28/2019	Corrective Action Plan: 5/28/2019

**Section D. Findings**

## Findings:

1. The Sponsor reported the number of participants in the free, reduced-price, and paid categories incorrectly
2. The Sponsor reported meal counts incorrectly
3. The Sponsor provided menus that did not meet the USDA meal pattern requirements
4. The Sponsor did not provide documentation to support sufficient quantities of milk were purchased for all meals reported
5. The Sponsor provided a meal that did not meet the USDA meal pattern requirements during an observed meal
6. The Sponsor did not ensure that Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) WIC information was distributed to participating parents or guardians of enrolled children

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 the number of participants in the free, reduced-price, and paid categories 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:

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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?):

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

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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:

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**Measure No.2: 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:

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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?):

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



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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:

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**Measure No. 3: The Sponsor provided menus that did not meet the 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:

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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?):

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

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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 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:

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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?):

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

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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:

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**Measure No. 5: The Sponsor provided a meal that did not meet the USDA meal pattern requirements during an observed meal**

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:

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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?):

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

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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:

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**Measure No.6: The Sponsor did not ensure that Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) WIC information was distributed to participating parents or guardians of enrolled children**

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:

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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?):

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

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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:

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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 Disqualified List maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Printed Name of Authorized Institution Official:

Position:

Signature of Authorized Institution Official: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:    /    /

Signature of Authorized TDHS Official: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:    /    /

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## **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 hearing will occur. If 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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



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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)(3)(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

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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: [AppealsClerksOffice.DHS@tn.gov](mailto:AppealsClerksOffice.DHS@tn.gov)**

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.