



MAR 10 2014

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

SUBJECT: Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) - Implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79)

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

State Directors
CSFP State Agencies
All Participating States

On February 7, 2014, the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79) known as the Farm Bill was signed into law. Prior to enactment of the Farm Bill, State and local agencies administering CSFP were authorized to serve low-income seniors, age 60 and older, and women, infants, and children who met the eligibility requirements of the program. Section 4102 of the Farm Bill amended the eligibility requirements of the CSFP. As a result, effective immediately, State and local agencies must begin phasing out the participation of women, infants, and children in CSFP and transitioning it to a low-income seniors-only program.

Accordingly, women, infants, or children who apply to participate in CSFP on February 7, 2014 or later may not be certified to participate in the program. As of February 7, 2014, new or pending applications from women, infants, and children may not be approved. However, women, infants, and children who were certified and enrolled in CSFP on or before February 6, 2014 should not be discontinued automatically from receiving assistance under the program.

As provided for in the Farm Bill, State and local agencies must continue to provide assistance to all women, infants, and children currently receiving CSFP benefits who were certified to receive such assistance on or before February 6, 2014. Those individuals are eligible to continue to receive assistance under the program rules in effect on that date. For example, an infant four months of age currently receiving CSFP benefits, who was certified to receive such assistance on or before February 6, 2014 could continue to receive CSFP benefits up to that individual's sixth birthday, if continuing to meet the program eligibility requirements in effect on February 6, 2014. The same applies to a pregnant woman currently receiving program benefits, who was certified to receive such assistance on or before February 6, 2014. The woman could continue to receive CSFP benefits up to one year postpartum, subject to the program rules in effect prior to Farm Bill enactment.

Any women, infants, or children seeking to apply for CSFP benefits should be referred to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and other nutrition assistance

programs for which they may be eligible. CSFP State and local agencies should therefore coordinate with these programs to ensure clients receive the assistance they need.

Orders of infant products should also be reduced accordingly. State agencies should work with their Food and Nutrition Service Regional Offices (FNS ROs) if they expect to have excess inventories of infant products.

Should State agencies have any questions regarding the implementation of the Farm Bill's CSFP provisions or certifications of women, infants, and children that were made between February 7 and the date of this memo, they should contact their FNS ROs, which may in turn contact Erica Antonson or Carolyn Smalkowski at (703) 305-2662.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laura Castro".

Laura Castro
Director
Food Distribution Division