

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TODD STAPLES
COMMISSIONER

February 23, 2010

Dear Sir or Madam:

Beginning February 23, 2010, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) will initiate a series of listening sessions to provide contractors and the public an opportunity to make comments, provide suggestions or highlight any concerns about the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Programs, and Commodity Distribution Programs.

TDA is seeking comments on the following aspects of the program as they relate to program participants and beneficiaries:

- Quality and level of technical assistance;
- Training, and communication of policies and procedures;
- Navigational ease of claim reimbursement processes and systems;
- Level of assistance provided to operate a successful program through monitoring and program administration; and
- Accessibility of staff to handle program operational concerns.

The sessions will be moderated and recorded. In an effort to manage time, contractors and the public who would like to ask questions or provide comments on any of the above programs will need to pre-register to be prescheduled to speak. Please send an email to squaremeals@texasagriculture.gov and type, "Listening Session" in the subject line. Out-of-state contractors who would like to submit questions should e-mail them to Patrick Nobles at patrick.nobles@texasagriculture.gov.

TDA representatives will be at each listening session at least one hour prior to the scheduled event to register anyone who would like to speak, and to inform pre-registered speakers of their slotted time. Participants **must** submit a written statement of their comments or concerns immediately following their oral presentation.

Possible topics for discussion may be technical assistance, training, monitoring, partnerships, claims and reimbursement procedures, and administration and policies of the programs.

TDA also encourages contractors and the public to continually monitor www.squaremeals.org for updates on the listening sessions. The dates for the listening sessions are as follows:

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010
Knapp Medical Center
1401 E. 8th Street, Weslaco, Texas 78596
Registration: 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Listening Session: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010
City of Houston Denver Park Multi Service Center Gym
6402 Market St., Houston, Texas 77020 (Interstate 10 East, Exit # 772)
Registration: 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Listening Session: 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 10, 2010
Dallas Independent School District

1515 Grand Ave., Dallas, Texas 75215
Registration: 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Listening Session: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 11, 2010
West Erwin Church of Christ Family Life Center
421 West Erwin, Tyler, Texas 75702
Registration: 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Listening Session: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Friday, Mar. 12, 2010
Region 17 Educational Service Center
1111 W. Loop 289, Lubbock, Texas 79416-5029
Registration: 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Listening Session: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 23, 2010
Region 19 Head Start Multi Purpose Center
11670 Chito Samaniego, El Paso, Texas 79936
Registration: 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Listening Session: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 24, 2010
Odessa College
201 West University, Odessa, Texas 79764
Registration: 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Listening Session: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Friday, Apr. 9, 2010
San Antonio Food Bank
5200 Old Highway 90 West, San Antonio, Texas 78227
Registration: 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Listening Session: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Should comments received from contractors and the public indicate a need for additional sessions, TDA will communicate in advance the planned dates and times of each additional session.

If you have questions concerning the upcoming listening sessions, please call 1-877-TEX-MEAL. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed

Angela Olige
Assistant Commissioner
Food and Nutrition Division

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