



**National CSFP Association
2016 Board of Directors**

BALLOT FORM

(Please refer to the attached supplement for background information on candidates)

Agency Name: _____

Treasurer (check one)

_____ **DeAnn Huls, Fairbury, NE**

Director/State Agency (Please check two)

_____ **Elizabeth Gordon, Nashville, TN**

_____ **David Simmons, Jackson, MS**

Director/Local Agency (Please check four)

_____ **Sandra Mitchell, Anchorage, AK**

_____ **Erika Westfall, Greeley, CO**

_____ **Kari LeFort, Ft. Meyers, FL**

_____ **Lucy Bolton, Jackson, MS**

_____ **Zipporah (Zee) Fernandez, Honolulu, HI**

**Email Ballot to Mindy Rapp at mindy@theseagatefoodbank.org
by COB January 22, 2015.**

Supplemental Background Information- 2016 Candidates

Treasurer

DeAnn Huls

1. How long have you worked with the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and in what capacity?

I am starting my 27th year working with the CSFP program as the program manager. We are a small program with a caseload of 922 so I do just about everything, including ordering & unloading trucks, running distribution clinics, keeping client files updated, reporting, establishing

2. What types of advocacy work (local, state, or national) have you done for CSFP or other program?

I feel we are all advocates for our clients, whether on a local level or in Washington, DC. I have initiated many letter writing campaigns to fight for funding or to restore cheese to the food package.

3. What do you see as the #1 external challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

Funding. There is never enough money in the budget. Always too much year left at the end of the grant dollars. The association has done well in addressing this issue, but with staff longevity, the personnel costs keep rising faster than the money allocated to CSFP.

4. What do you see as the #1 internal challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

We need to grow our membership and recruit more active members. As an association we need to let members know that if someone is not comfortable advocating in Washington DC, there are other jobs that need to be done. They may be good at organizing conferences, obtaining speakers, helping a new state/new staff or sharing ideas on program efficiencies.

5. At which of the following national CSFP conferences were you in attendance?

- 2011 San Francisco,
- 2012 Chicago, IL
- 2013 Salt Lake City, UT
- 2014 Philadelphia, PA
- 2015 Charleston

6. On what other Board of Directors or committees (on any level, Local, State or National) have you served?

Former member of finance committee for my church, Former board member of Legal Aid of Nebraska, Former Board Member and treasurer of Fairbury girls basketball program, Former Board Member and treasurer of Fairbury girls softball program, Former Director of a USVBA girls volleyball program. Have been on the planning committee for conferences. Currently, on the committee for our agency's 50th anniversary. Currently, on the benefits committee at our agency.

State Agency Representative

Elizabeth Gordon

1. How long have you worked with the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and in what capacity?

I have worked for CSFP since June 2014. I am responsible for working with our four local agencies who distribute the food monthly, ordering ALL the food via multi-shipment and direct shipment, reporting to the USDA, inventory and reviews, as well as submitting the FNS 153 monthly.

2. What types of advocacy work (local, state, or national) have you done for CSFP or other program?

I work for the state government and cannot advocate for this program. We do different types of outreach at senior high rises, senior centers and the 4 local agencies to get the word out about CSFP. Some of our recipients do not have access to the internet or a computer, so if we only promote the program online, how will they know about it? I think print and/or a billboard would be more beneficial than a website for this generation.

3. What do you see as the #1 external challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

I feel it is important to get all fifty states on board with this program. This is a great program benefitting those who need it the most. Seniors have worked hard their entire life and now they are on a fixed income. They are grateful and appreciative of this program. They do not complain even if they don't like the food. For instance, if Alabama had CSFP and a surrounding state such as Tennessee ran out of food or vice versa, it would be beneficial for us to transfer products instead of trying to get it from the national warehouse. States that are close to each other that have good working relationships really benefit the recipients of this program.

4. What do you see as the #1 internal challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

I think we need to strengthen our communication skills with all the members in this program. An update of what is going on in DC would be nice and I feel it would be beneficial. Maybe a newsletter or an email blast once a month/once every other month? It would not need to be anything lengthy, just short and sweet to let everyone know what is going on in the association.

5. At which of the following national CSFP conferences were you in attendance?

- 2011 San Francisco,
- 2012 Chicago, IL
- 2013 Salt Lake City, UT
- 2014 Philadelphia, PA
- 2015 Charleston

6. On what other Board of Directors or committees (on any level, Local, State or National) have you served?

None

David Simmons

1. How long have you worked with the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and in what capacity?

I have work in the CSFP as Program Director for six months but; I have worked as a WIC Nutritionist or the MSDH for twenty years and a Nutritionist Supervisor for three years.

2. What types of advocacy work (local, state, or national) have you done for CSFP or other program?

I have advocated for Women Infant and children for the Mississippi State Department of Health.

3. What do you see as the #1 external challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

The #1 external challenge facing the National CSFP Association is marketing our association. We should use social media to present our mission to feed the elderly.

4. What do you see as the #1 internal challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

The #1 Internal Challenge facing the National CSFP Association is attracting younger members to participate on committees.

5. At which of the following national CSFP conferences were you in attendance?

2011 San Francisco,

2012 Chicago, IL

2013 Salt Lake City, UT

2014 Philadelphia, PA

2015 Charleston

6. On what other Board of Directors or committees (on any level, Local, State or National) have you served?

I have served on local board of directors. (Pearl River Valley Opportunity and Early Head Start)

Local Agency Representative

Erika Westfall

1. How long have you worked with the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and in what capacity?

I have worked with CSFP for 15 years, overseeing certification of Weld Food Bank. Currently, we manage CSFP in a four county service area.

2. What types of advocacy work (local, state, or national) have you done for CSFP or other program?

Our service area was one of the few that served predominantly children up until the program changed in 2014. Since then, and leading up to that change, I have been involved with promoting CSFP as a senior only program in new areas within our territory in order to increase the senior population that we are serving.

3. What do you see as the #1 external challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

The number one external challenge CSFP is facing is continued funding and support for the program itself. Members must be diligent to inform incoming Senators and Representatives of this vital program, which supports one of society's most vulnerable populations.

4. What do you see as the #1 internal challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

The greatest internal challenge is in keeping Association Members engaged. A greater online presence and opportunity for exchange of information and ideas would be helpful in creating community.

5. At which of the following national CSFP conferences were you in attendance?

- 2011 San Francisco,
- 2012 Chicago, IL
- 2013 Salt Lake City, UT
- 2014 Philadelphia, PA
- 2015 Charleston

6. On what other Board of Directors or committees (on any level, Local, State or National) have you served?

I have previously been a member of the Agency Relations Committee with Feeding America. Currently, I serve on the Advisory Board for a local Senior Housing Development.

Sandra Mitchell

1. How long have you worked with the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and in what capacity?

I have worked with CSFP since January 2012. I began as the program coordinator and after 2 years I was promoted to program manager. My responsibilities include the day to day administrative duties, training partner agencies on program operations, conducting administrative reviews, and inventory management. I

am the primary contact for our state administrators, for all clients, am responsible for the supervision and management of 24 partner agencies who conduct CSFP distributions at sites. I maintain a monthly active caseload of 1800.

2. What types of advocacy work (local, state, or national) have you done for CSFP or other program?

I have engaged in administrative advocacy with the State Program Manager and State Program Director to improve the processes and efficiency of the program. I have advocated for additional caseload, and funding to expand CSFP to Alaska's rural villages. Most recently, I have acted as a liaison between policy staff, state administrators and USDA regional staff to explore a cost differential for Alaska's CSFP.

3. What do you see as the #1 external challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

I believe the biggest external challenge the NCSFPA faces is the limitation on the amount of boxes that are being allotted to each State. The need is there, but our hands are tied to expand. As an association we should be educating our members of Congress on the issue of senior hunger, as well as on the importance of CSFP.

4. What do you see as the #1 internal challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

I cannot begin to know the internal challenges the National KSFP Association faces, as I just became a member this year. I have worked with CSFP for 4 years and have a great passion for this program and I feel being on the board will be the best way to learn what challenges need to be addressed.

5. At which of the following national CSFP conferences were you in attendance?

- 2011 San Francisco,
- 2012 Chicago, IL
- 2013 Salt Lake City, UT
- 2014 Philadelphia, PA
- 2015 Charleston

6. On what other Board of Directors or committees (on any level, Local, State or National) have you served?

I am on the Safety Committee in the organization I work for.

Kari LeFort

1. How long have you worked with the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and in what capacity?

I have worked with CSFP since Florida received the award of 2400 cases in January 2015. As the Director of Programs for the Harry Chapin Food Bank, I oversaw the implementation of CSFP including recruiting, training, and mentoring partner agencies to distribute the kits, supervised 5 staff members and countless volunteers in the application process, ensured the inventory and packing process were in place, and hired a CSFP Coordinator. Due to this, we were able to meet our 2400 caseload by July 2015 and have been over 95% each month since. I now supervise the CSFP Coordinator and continue to ensure the program is run smoothly and all reporting requirements are completed in a timely manner.

2. What types of advocacy work (local, state, or national) have you done for CSFP or other program?

One of my personal passions is policy and advocacy on local, state, and national levels specifically in regards to social service issues. The two main areas i have advocated for are housing and homelessness and hunger relief issues. While an intern at the Child Welfare League of America in Washington DC, i met with legislators and staffers on issues regarding youth and homelessness. While in Massachusetts, i attended lobby days at the capital, participated in legislative breakfasts, and gave presentations on the importance of civic engagement. Since being in Florida I have called and e-mailed my representatives and members of congress regarding both CSFP and SNAP. I am also the representative for the Harry Chapin Food Bank on the Florida Association of Food Bank's policy and advocacy committee

3. What do you see as the #1 external challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

In my opinion, the number 1 external issue facing NCSFPA is lack of general awareness of the program. Since this is such a small program in the scheme of Government Programs, it does not have a large voice and is therefore easily overshadowed. My fear is that due to this lack of awareness about CSFP and that it is a smaller program, if there are cuts made to the farm bill CSFP could be one of them. I believe that through advocacy and story-telling we can raise awareness about CSFP. This can be done on local, state, and national levels.

4. What do you see as the #1 internal challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

I believe the largest internal issue facing NCSFPA is the lack of engagement from the membership. As a new CSFP local agency/State, I spent a lot of time reaching out to other local agencies and States as to not re-invent the wheel. Having a forum for the membership to connect throughout the year would have been helpful to me starting out. I also think it would be helpful moving forward to find out trends and ideas from other people working with CSFP. However, I believe that forum will only attract the members who are already involved. There needs to be additional outreach done for the members who are not as engaged. This could be done through e-mails, enhancing the website, ongoing webinars, or conference calls.

5. At which of the following national CSFP conferences were you in attendance?

- 2011 San Francisco,
- 2012 Chicago, IL
- 2013 Salt Lake City, UT
- 2014 Philadelphia, PA
- 2015 Charleston

6. On what other Board of Directors or committees (on any level, Local, State or National) have you served?

Past - Boston Catholic Youth Connection as an advisor, and the Electronic Health Record Steering Committee for Advocates Inc. Current - The Leadership Coalition on Aging of Collier County on the membership and conference committees.

Lucy Bolton

1. How long have you worked with the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and in what capacity?

I've been employed with the Mississippi Food Network as CSFP Manager since December 1, 2015.

2. What types of advocacy work (local, state, or national) have you done for CSFP or other program?

Prior to my tenure as CSFP Manager for Mississippi Food network I was a Case Manager with Mississippi Department of Human Services. I primarily worked with Economic Assistance; which included SNAP benefits. While there I advocated for workforce/ job readiness training programs to promote self-sufficiency for clients. Since becoming CSFP Manager I have also worked closely with our SNAP outreach Coordinator to promote SNAP utilization for our senior population.

3. What do you see as the #1 external challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

I am new to the Association and have little knowledge of external challenges facing the National CSFP Association. However, if elected I am prepared to offer a fresh perspective of external challenges.

4. What do you see as the #1 internal challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

I am new to the Association. However, I feel confident that that a new perspective of internal challenges of NCSFPA is something that I can offer the Association.

5. At which of the following national CSFP conferences were you in attendance?

- 2011 San Francisco,
- 2012 Chicago, IL
- 2013 Salt Lake City, UT
- 2014 Philadelphia, PA
- 2015 Charleston

6. On what other Board of Directors or committees (on any level, Local, State or National) have you served?

I have not served on any boards previously.

Zipporah (Zee) Fernandez

1. How long have you worked with the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and in what capacity?

The Hawaii Foodbank (HFB) received notification of acceptance of the CSFP program in February 2015. HFB was granted a caseload of 2400 to benefit seniors. I was employed by HFB in April 2015 making CSFP my primary task. CSFP responsibilities includes: preparations, ordering, packing, scheduling of distributions, physical distribution preparations, maintaining, problem solving, data entry, constant communication with participants & all inquiries with CSFP. I am also assisted with much great help from the following: Agency Affiliation Dept., Financial Dept. warehouse, volunteers, OCS, USDA, FNS & all outside sources that have been more than amazing with information regarding CSFP.

2. What types of advocacy work (local, state, or national) have you done for CSFP or other program?

CSFP is new to Hawaii as well as I to The Hawaii Foodbank it has been a transition and a learning curve. I participated in the National CSFP association conference in South Carolina in October to gain knowledge about the CSFP program. I am new to the non-profit sector but have previous experience in home care with seniors.

3. What do you see as the #1 external challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

If I had to choose a single issue it would be to understand the needs of the seniors. The association begins addressing senior hunger by supplying supplemental food. The challenge is to understand the senior population, the challenges that they face. This will help in the ultimate goal of working toward ending senior hunger and supplying them with means to get the food they need. The food can be supplied but if they cannot attain it due to other circumstances or the basis of how a system is set then is a goal being accomplished?

4. What do you see as the #1 internal challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it?

I think as in most associations the number one internal challenge is always communication, time, leadership, and commitment. Awareness, fresh outlooks, being able to communicate no matter how unrelated it may seem you never know where a new idea will come from, Thinking outside the box.

5. At which of the following national CSFP conferences were you in attendance?

- 2011 San Francisco,
- 2012 Chicago, IL
- 2013 Salt Lake City, UT
- 2014 Philadelphia, PA
- 2015 Charleston

6. On what other Board of Directors or committees (on any level, Local, State or National) have you served?

I have not been granted the opportunity just yet to have been part of any committee outside of personal volunteer work.