



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

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Alexandria
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DATE: NOV 04 2016

SUBJECT: Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) Food Package Review Workgroup

TO: Program Directors
CSFP State and Local Agencies
All Participating States

During Fiscal Year 2017, FNS will be conducting a comprehensive review of the CSFP Food Package. The Food Package review will include a nutrition assessment of the food package as currently offered, taking into account the most recent recommendations of the 2015-2020 *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and the preferences and distinct nutrition needs of CSFP's senior participants. With the transition of CSFP to a program exclusively serving seniors, it is an opportune time to evaluate and update the USDA Foods offered in the CSFP food package.

FNS is seeking five to ten representatives from CSFP State and local agencies to serve on a 2017 CSFP Food Package Workgroup (Workgroup) along with FNS National and Regional Office staff. The Workgroup will provide input into the Food Package assessment and will develop recommendations of potential changes to the CSFP Food Package. Participation in the Workgroup will be an exciting opportunity for CSFP stakeholders to provide valuable input into this important program that will positively impact CSFP for years to come.

To ensure that various CSFP stakeholder perspectives are incorporated into the comprehensive review, FNS will select workgroup members that represent a range of CSFP program sizes and organization types. Workgroup members must be available to participate in periodic conference calls throughout fiscal year 2017, as well as travel to two in-person meetings – one in Alexandria, Virginia from January 31 to February 1, 2017 and one held at the 2017 National CSFP Association Conference, which is planned for March 12 to 14, 2017, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Workgroup is expected to complete its work no later than September 2017. While FNS cannot provide additional Federal funding for travel to the two in-person meetings, the payment of reasonable and necessary expenses related to Workgroup meeting attendance is an allowable use of CSFP Federal administrative funding.

Individuals interested in participating in the 2017 CSFP Food Package Workgroup or who have questions should contact Erica Antonson at 703-305-2956 or at

Erica.Antonson@fns.usda.gov no later than November 30, 2016. FNS will confirm the members of the work group in early December. We thank you in advance for your willingness to participate in this important initiative.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Castro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Laura Castro
Director
Food Distribution Division