



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

DANIELLE W. BARNES
COMMISSIONER

June 24, 2019

Tina Stewart, Owner
First Step Christian Daycare, Incorporated
2633 Glass Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37406-2063

Dear Mrs. Stewart,

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 First Step Christian Daycare, Inc. (Sponsor), Application Agreement number 00-276, on May 14, 2019. Additional information was requested and provided on May 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.

Based on our review of the Sponsor's records and information provided, the Sponsor had two feeding sites operating during the review period: First Step Christian Daycare, Inc. #1 (**Child Care**) and First Step Christian Daycare, Inc. #2 (**Head Start**).

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 at **Child Care** and a supplement service at **Head Start** on April 17, 2019.

Our review of the Sponsor's records for April of 2019 disclosed the following:

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

Condition

Child Care – *sample site*

Based on our review of the Claim for Reimbursement for April 2019, we noted that the Sponsor reported 68 participants in the free category, seven (7) participants in the reduced-price category, and four (4) participants in the paid category. However, based on our review of the records available, we found there were 69 participants in the free category, six (6) participants in the reduced-price category, and four (4) participants in the paid category.

The differences were based on the following:

- There was one (1) participant reported in the free category that did not meet categorical or income eligible requirements, but was income eligible for the reduced-price category. This participant was reclassified as reduced-price.
- There were two (2) participants reported in the reduced-price category that were determined to be income eligible for free the free category. These participants were reclassified as free.

As a result, the Sponsor underreported the number of participants in the free category by one (1) participant and overreported the number of participants in the reduced-price category by one (1) participant. (See Exhibit B)

This is a repeat finding from a previous report dated November 18, 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 ..."

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 provided a menu that did not meet the USDA meal pattern requirements

Condition

Based on our review of the menu provided by the Sponsor, there was one menu that was not in accordance with the USDA meal pattern requirements. The supplement menu listed apple juice as the only component served for supplement on April 5, 2019.

As a result, 59 supplements were disallowed at **Child Care** and 14 supplements were disallowed at **Head Start**. (See Exhibit)

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 ...”

Recommendation

The Sponsor should ensure menus meet the meal patterns established by the USDA.

3. The Sponsor reported meals in excess of attendance

Condition

Head Start - sample site

Based on our review of the Claim for Reimbursement for April 2019, the Sponsor reported 396 participant days for the **Head Start** site. However, we noted that there were 395 participant days.

The Sponsor claimed six (6) breakfast meals, six (6) lunch meals, and six (6) supplements on April 29, 2019 for participants, ages 3 – 5 years of age. The attendance records provided for this date noted five (5) participants in attendance in this age group.

As a result, one (1) breakfast, one (1) lunch, and one (1) supplement meal were disallowed. (See Exhibit C)

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 all participants are recorded as present only for their actual days of attendance.

Note: Our observations of the lunch meal and supplement services on April 17, 2019 revealed no significant deficiencies.

Technical Assistance Provided

During our monitoring visit on May 14, 2019, the Sponsor requested technical assistance regarding updated income eligibility requirements. We provided technical assistance via email on May 15, 2019.

Disallowed Meals Cost

The disallowed meals cost associated with the findings above are below the DHS threshold for repayment.

Corrective Action

The Sponsor must complete the following actions within 30 days from the date of this report:

- 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:

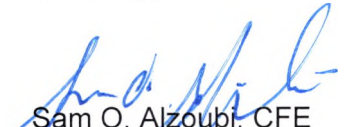
AuditServices.CAPS.DHS@tn.gov

If you have questions relative to the corrective action plan please contact:

Allette Vayda, Director of Operations
Child and Adult Care Food Program
James K. Polk Building, 15th Floor
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Allette.Vayda@tn.gov
(615) 313-3769

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.

Sincerely,



Sam O. Alzoubi, CFE
Director of Audit Services

Exhibit

cc: 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 A**CACFP Sponsor of Affiliated Centers Program Data**

Name of Agency: First Step Christian Daycare, Inc.

Review Month/Year: April 2019

Total Meal Reimbursement Received: \$7,931.49

Site Meal Service Activity and Monitor Reconciliation	Reported on Claim	Reconciled to documentation
Total Days of CACFP Food Service	21	21
Total Number of Centers	2	2
Total Attendance	1,637	1,636
Number of Breakfasts Served	1,622	1,621
Number of Lunches Served	1,104	1,103
Number of Supplements Served	1,624	1,550
Total Amount of Eligible Food Costs	XXXXXXXX	\$4,131.98
Total Amount of Eligible Food and Non-Food Costs	XXXXXXXX	\$4,919.83

EXHIBIT B**Affiliated Center Program Data**

Sample Site: First Step Christian Daycare, Inc. #1

Site Meal Service Reconciliation and Monitor Activity	Reported on Claim	Reconciled to Documentation
Total Days of CACFP Food Service	21	21
Total Attendance	1,241	1,241
Percentage of Free or Reduced-price Category	95%	95%
Number of Breakfasts Served	1,226	1,226
Number of Lunches Served	708	708
Number of Supplements Served	1,228	1,169
Number of Participants in Free Category	68	69
Number of Participants in Reduced-Price Category	7	6
Number of Participants in Paid Category	4	4
Total Number of Participants	79	79

EXHIBIT C

Head Start Program Data

Sample Site: First Step Christian Daycare, Inc. #2

Site Meal Service Activity and Monitor Reconciliation	Reported on Claim	Reconciled to documentation
Total Days of CACFP Food Service	21	21
Total Attendance	396	395
Number of Breakfasts Served	396	395
Number of Lunches Served	396	395
Number of Supplements Served	396	381
Total number of participants	24	24



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: First Step Christian Daycare, Incorporated	Agreement No. 00276	<input type="checkbox"/> SFSP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CACFP
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Mailing Address: 2633 Glass Street Chattanooga, Tennessee 37406-2063

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

Name and Title: Tina Stewart, Owner	Date of Birth: / /
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Section C. Dates of Issuance of Monitoring Report/Corrective Action Plan

Monitoring Report: 6/24/2019	Corrective Action Plan: 6/24/2019
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Section D. Findings

Findings:

1. The Sponsor reported the number of participants in the free and reduced-price categories incorrectly
2. The Sponsor provided a menu that did not meet the USDA meal pattern requirements
3. The Sponsor reported meals in excess of attendance

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 and reduced-price 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:

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?):

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

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.2: The Sponsor provided a menu 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:

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?):

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

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. 3: The Sponsor reported meals in excess of attendance

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:

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?):

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

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:

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: / /

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;

Appeal Procedures for Child and Adult Care Food Program-Institutions
Revised March 2017

- (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 16th 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

Appeal Procedures for Child and Adult Care Food Program-Institutions
Revised March 2017

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

Appeal Procedures for Child and Adult Care Food Program-Institutions
Revised March 2017

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

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.