

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Sponsors of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs

FROM: John Frassinelli, Chief

Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: May 13, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum No. 4-16

Interschool Agreements for School Year 2016-17

The interschool agreement forms for 2016-17 are attached and posted on the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Forms for School Nutrition Programs Web page. Sponsors that vend or satellite meals to another district must submit an annual interschool agreement to the CSDE. This form must be signed by the authorized representative for the providing sponsor and the recipient site.

- Full-service Interschool Agreements for Healthy Food Certification (HFC) schools must be received by **July 1, 2016**. For more information, see "HFC Payments and Interschool Agreements" below.
- Recipient Site Vended Interschool Agreements must be received at least two weeks before the start of the school year, but no later than **August 30, 2016**.

The interschool agreement must be sent to the CSDE **before** the local education agency (LEA) starts serving and claiming meals. This action is required even if the LEA lists the site on their district's online agreement.

The CSDE interschool agreement forms are samples. If an LEA chooses to submit a different agreement form, the LEA is responsible for ensuring that all of the components outlined on the CSDE sample forms are included in the LEA's interschool agreement. Failure to do so could delay the processing of the agreement.

HFC Funding

As you are aware, the state budget is currently being discussed in the General Assembly. Please note that the outcome of those negotiations will not be final until the end of the special legislative session, and funds available for HFC for school year 2016-17 will be contingent upon available funding. However, the CSDE recommends that you schedule your board of education vote and move forward with your 2016-17 HFC Statement so you can meet the submission deadline indicated above. We will keep you informed as additional information becomes available.

HFC Payments and Interschool Agreements

A public school or district (recipient site) that receives meals under contract from a HFC District (providing sponsor) can choose to certify for the healthy food option and follow the **Connecticut Nutrition Standards**. This must be indicated on the interschool agreement between the recipient site and the providing sponsor district. The deadline for interschool agreements choosing HFC is **July 1, 2016.**

In order for the sponsoring district to receive HFC payments for any recipient sites, the interschool agreement must be submitted to the CSDE by July 1, 2016. If the interschool agreement is received after this date, recipient site lunch counts will not be included in the total number of reimbursable lunches that are used by the CSDE to determine HFC payments for school year 2016-17. Please note that HFC funds are contingent upon available funding for school year 2016-17.

For more information on HFC and the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, see the CSDE's HFC and Connecticut Nutrition Standards Web pages.

Failure to submit and receive approval for an interschool agreement could jeopardize funding for the meals served at that site. Questions pertaining to interschool agreements may be directed to Fionnuala Brown at 860-807-2129 or fionnuala.brown@ct.gov.

JF:fbb

Attachments: (2)

Important: This is a numbered Operational Memorandum that contains important program information. Please read carefully and retain in a binder for your future reference. Operational Memoranda are posted on the Child Nutrition Web site.

Connecticut State Department of Education

SAMPLE FULL-SERVICE INTERSCHOOL AGREEMENT FORM SCHOOL YEAR 2016-17

A Full-service Interschool Agreement must be completed by any school district or school that provides another district or school with meals or snacks through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs, i.e., National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP) and Afterschool Snack Program. This agreement must be signed by the providing sponsor and the recipient site.

- A **providing sponsor** is a district or school that sells USDA meals or snacks to another district or school. A providing sponsor maintains its own *Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs* (ED-099) with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to operate the USDA Child Nutrition Programs and has a CSDE sponsor agreement number. This is the five-digit number on the district's online agreement.
- A recipient site is a district or school that receives USDA meals or snacks from a providing sponsor.

The providing sponsor accepts full responsibility for meeting all state and federal regulations regarding the USDA Child Nutrition Programs and receives all state and federal reimbursements. The recipient site must be listed as an approved site on the providing sponsor's online Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099) with the CSDE.

A sample Full-service Interschool Agreement between the providing sponsor and the recipient site is attached. This form is not required but all areas addressed in the CSDE sample form **must** be included in any other form used by the providing sponsor. The providing sponsor may choose to modify this form if all required information is included.

The interschool agreement must be signed by the authorized representative for the providing sponsor and the recipient site and returned by **July 1, 2016**, to: Maria Santini, Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

NOTE: In order for the sponsoring district to receive Healthy Food Certification (HFC) payments for any recipient sites in school year 2016-17, the completed interschool agreement must be submitted to the CSDE by July 1, 2016. If the interschool agreement is received after this date, recipient site lunch counts will **not** be included in the total number of reimbursable lunches that are used to determine the sponsoring district's HFC payments for school year 2016-17.



Questions regarding the Recipient Site Vended Interschool Agreement can be directed to Fionnuala Brown at 860-807-2129 or fionnuala.brown@ct.gov. This form is available in PDF and Word on the CSDE's Forms for School Nutrition Programs Web page.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Inquiries regarding the Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie, Equal Employment Opportunity Director/Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, Connecticut State Department of Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457, 860-807-2101, Levy Gillespie@ct.gov.

Connecticut State Department of Education FULL-SERVICE INTERSCHOOL AGREEMENT FORM

AGREEMENT BETWEEN:				
Name of Providing Sponsor Agreement Number				
AND THE RECIPIENT SITES INDICA	ATED BELOW:			
R	Recipient Site Inforn	nation		
For each recipient site, indicate the complete child care institution [RCCI]) and whether it			or residential	
Recipient Site Provide complete name of program and include name of governing agency if applicable	Type of School Check one	Address, Town and Zip Code	Existing or New Site * Check one	
1	Public RCCI Private		Existing Site New Site	
2	Public RCCI Private		Existing Site New Site	
3	Public RCCI Private		Existing Site New Site	
4	Public RCCI Private		Existing Site New Site	
5	Public RCCI Private		Existing Site New Site	
* An existing site is a school that is currently list not currently listed in the providing sponsor's must submit a letter to the CSDE stating the sit NSLP, SBP), the age range of students being se State Department of Education, 25 Industrial Page 19 (2015).	online agreement. For a e name, address and town erved and the effective sta	Il new sites indicated above, the pro a, the Child Nutrition Programs bein art date. Mail the letter to Avis Kell	viding sponsor g offered (e.g.,	
Indicate all programs covered under this a	greement. (Check all 1	hat apply.)		
National School Lunch Program (NSL	P)			
☐ School Breakfast Program (SBP) ☐ Afterschool Snack Program				
This agreement between the(recip	iont site) contains all a	Board of Education (providing s	sponsor) and	
and cannot be changed except by written amendment signed by both parties.				
This agreement shall begin on	ther party may termina	onth/day/year) and shall continuente this agreement with a	e until (insert number	

of days) day prior written notice.

Section 1 – Responsibilities of Providing Sponsor

The	Board of Education (providing sponsor) agrees to:				
1.	Appoint a providing sponsor representative ,				
2.	Prepare and distribute (insert type of meal served, i.e., lunches, breakfasts or snacks) in accordance with specified regulations of the NSLP (also insert SBP and Afterschool Snack Program, if applicable).				
3.	Establish collection procedures for the recipient site.				
4.	Provide trained food service personnel to administer the Child Nutrition Programs at the recipient site.				
5.	Be responsible for the oversight of procedures of meal accountability, claiming and accepting reimbursements for meals served on behalf of the recipient site.				
6.	6. Oversee the processing and maintaining of all free and reduced meal applications for the recipient site. This includes all master rosters sheets and conducting verification according to federal and state guidelines.				
7.	Coversee the preparation and delivery (if applicable) of such meals (or have meals ready for pick up) at (insert specified time). All meals delivered will be at the required temperature and in appropriate containers meeting all current health standards. The meals will be delivered wholesome and consumable and will comply with the Connecticut Department of Public Health regulations and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) requirements. All delivery containers will remain the property of (insert name of owner).				
8.	Prepare and distribute menus to (all children or each school) two weeks prior to the start of the month.				
9.	Provide utensils, dinnerware and related supplies.				
10.	10. Provide any and all equipment needed to serve all meals. This equipment shall remain the property of (insert name of providing sponsor). The (insert name of recipient sits shall be responsible for maintaining this equipment. In the case of abuse, the (insert name of providing sponsor) retains the right to charge (insert name of recipient site) for replacement/repair.				
11.	Establish set prices for student and adult meals as agreed upon by the two parties and indicated below.				
	• The charge for each full-price student breakfast will be \$ (insert price).				
	• The charge for each reduced-price student breakfast will be \$ 30 cents.				
The charge for each full-price student lunch will be \$ (insert price).					
	• The charge for each reduced-price student lunch will be \$ 40 cents.				
	• The charge for each adult lunch will be \$ (insert price).				
	• The charge for each full-price snack will be \$ (insert price).				
	• The charge for each reduced-price snack will be \$ <u>15 cents</u> .				
12.	2. Accept government commodity foods on behalf of the recipient site.				

The	(insert	name of recipient site school) agrees to:				
1.	1. Appoint a recipient site representative ,					
2. Comply with all federal and state regulations related to the NSLP (also insert SBP and Aftersc Program, if applicable) as communicated by the providing sponsor representative, (insert name of representative).						
3.	Maintain accurate meal counting and claiming records	on a daily basis.				
4.	Provide suitable dining arrangements for the children	o participate fully in their meal experiences.				
5.	5. Take active responsibility for apprising the providing sponsor of any schedule changes, field trips, etc., that may cause a change in meal preparation amounts.					
6.	Comply with all state and federal regulations related to sold separately from reimbursable meals.	the sale of competitive foods, i.e., foods and beverages				
Sectio	n 3 is for public schools only. Private schools and	l nonprofit organizations must skip to section 4.				
Section	on 3 – Healthy Food Certification (HFC)					
receive public endow Part A	e additional state funding for reimbursable lunches serve	l-technical schools, charter schools, magnet schools and ations are not eligible for HFC.				
	the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, all the					
	will comply with the Child Nutrition Standards (CNS) will not comply with the CNS. (Skip to section 4 on posection.)					
and fro activiti This ce	ertification includes all food items offered for sale to stu- om all sources, including but not limited to, school stores des on school premises (whether or not school sponsored ertification does not apply to the sale of foods that meet section (see page 4).	s, vending machines, school cafeterias, any fundraising) and all foods served in the Afterschool Snack Program				
Print N	ame of Recipient Site's Representative	Title of Recipient Site's Representative				
Signatu	ure of Recipient Site's Representative	 Date				

Section 3 is for public schools only. Private schools and nonprofit organizations must skip to section 4.

Section 3 – HFC, continued

Part B: Exemption Statement (Check One)

If the recipient site certifies for HFC in part A of this section, all food items sold to students separately from reimbursable school meals must meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) at all times and from all sources. Foods that do not comply with the CNS can **only** be sold to students if the recipient site's governing body allows exemptions and the foods are sold at the location of an event that occurs after the school day or on the weekend, provided they are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

provide	a they are not sold from a vending machine of so	enoor store.							
Pursuan	t to Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General	Statutes, the re	ecipient s	site's	gov	erning	body	(check	k one):
	will exclude from certification food items that connection with an event occurring after the eat the location of the event; and (3) such food	end of the regu	lar schoo	ol day	or	on the v	veeke	nd; (2)) such sale i
	will not exclude from certification food items	s that do not me	eet the C	NS.					
1. Doe cart	Sources of Food Sales at Recipient Site as the recipient site sell any foods to students SE e sales, vending machines, school stores, fundra	isers or any otl	ner sourc		rsabl	le meal	s, e.g.	, cafet	eria a la
Ш	No – Skip to Part D \square Yes – Complete	question 2 bei	low						
(Ch	cate all areas at the recipient site where foods a eck all that apply.) Cafeteria Vending machines School stores Fundraisers Culinary arts programs Family and consumer sciences classes Afterschool enrichment or other programs that charge a fee for participation and the fee includes the cost of foods provided to students Summer school programs (e.g., enrichment or exploratory) operated by the recipient site	_	Adult of recipie control Family Sports particip foods p	educant sit	ation e, w ne ac ource rams n and ded t	progra here for dult edu e center s that cl d the fe to stude	ams opods so lications s harge se incl	perated old are n prog a fee f udes th	d by the under the ram
	Recipient Site's HFC Contact Person								
	nte a contact person for HFC at the recipient site to ensure that all HFC requirements are met.	e. This person	is respo	nsibl	e for	· workii	ng wit	th the p	oroviding
Name:			Title:						
E-mail:									
Mailing	Address:								
City:		State:			Zij	p Code	:		

Section 4 – Signatures of Authorized Representatives

This agreement must be signed by the appropriate **authorized representatives** from the providing sponsor and the recipient site. For the providing sponsor, the authorized representative is an individual listed on the district's Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099) with the CSDE. This is the person who is authorized to approve and submit the online claims for reimbursement (**not** the food service director). For the recipient site, the authorized representative is the principal or executive director of the school.

Signature of Providing Sponsor

Print Name of Authorized Representative	Title of Authorized Representative
Signature of Authorized Representative	Date
Signature of Recipient Site	
Print Name of Authorized Representative (Principal or Executive Director)	Title of Authorized Representative
Signature of Authorized Representative (Principal or Executive Director)	Date

Submit this form by **July 1, 2016**, to Maria Santini, Connecticut State Department of Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457. **NOTE: In order for the sponsoring district to receive HFC payments for any recipient sites, the interschool agreement must be submitted to the CSDE by July 1, 2016. If the interschool agreement is received after this date, recipient site lunch counts will not** be included in the total number of reimbursable lunches that are used to determine the sponsoring district's HFC payments for school year 2016-17.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Connecticut State Department of Education SAMPLE RECIPIENT SITE VENDED INTERSCHOOL AGREEMENT FORM

A Recipient Site Vended Interschool Agreement must be completed when a board of education (vendor) provides meals or snacks to another school (recipient site) that maintains its own *Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs* (ED-099) with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs, i.e., National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP) and Afterschool Snack Program.

- A **vendor** is a board of education that sells USDA meals or snacks to another district or school. A vendor maintains its own *Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs* (ED-099) with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to operate the USDA Child Nutrition Programs and has a CSDE sponsor agreement number. This is the five-digit number on the district's online agreement.
- A **recipient site** is a district or school that receives USDA meals or snacks from the vendor. The recipient site also maintains its own *Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs* (ED-099) with the CSDE to operate the USDA Child Nutrition Programs and has an assigned CSDE sponsor agreement number.

When meals are vended from a board of education, the recipient site accepts **full** responsibility for meeting all state and federal regulations regarding the Child Nutrition Programs and receives all state and federal reimbursements.

A sample Recipient Site Vended Interschool Agreement for a district that vends meals to a recipient site is attached. This form is not required but all areas addressed in the CSDE sample form **must** be included in any other form used by the recipient site. The recipient site may choose to modify this form if all required information is included.

The Recipient Site Vended Interschool Agreement must be signed by the authorized representatives and returned by **August 30** of each school year to: Maria Santini, Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

To claim meals for a recipient site, the Recipient Site Vended Interschool Agreement must be submitted to the CSDE at least two weeks before the recipient site serves reimbursable meals, but no later than August 30.



Questions regarding the Recipient Site Vended Interschool Agreement can be directed to Fionnuala Brown at 860-807-2129 or fionnuala.brown@ct.gov. This form is available in PDF and Word on the CSDE's Forms for School Nutrition Programs Web page.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis probibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Inquiries regarding the Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie, Equal Employment Opportunity Director/Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, Connecticut State Department of Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457, 860-807-2101, Levy. Gillespie@ct.gov.

Connecticut State Department of Education RECIPIENT SITE VENDED INTERSCHOOL AGREEMENT FORM

AGREEMENT BETWEEN:					
Recipient Site (Sponsor)	Agreement Number				
AND					
Vendor (Board of Education)					
Indicate all programs covered under this	agreement. (Check all that apply.)				
☐ National School Lunch Program (NS	LP)				
☐ School Breakfast Program (SBP)					
☐ Afterschool Snack Program					
This agreement between theBoard o	(recipient site) and of Education (vendor) contains all of the terms and				
	not be changed except by written amendment signed				
This agreement shall begin on	(insert month/day/year) and shall				
continue until (insert mor	nth/day/year). Either party may terminate this				
agreement with a (insert number of	of days) day prior written notice.				

RECIPIENT SITE VENDED INTERSCHOOL AGREEMENT FORM, continued

Section 1 – Responsibilities of Recipient Site

ın	le (insert name of recipient site) agrees to:
1.	Appoint a recipient site representative ,
	the meeting minutes. A record of the minutes will be kept on file at both sites.
2.	Comply with all federal and state regulations related to the NSLP (also insert SBP and Afterschool Snack Program, if applicable).
3.	Provide oversight to ensure meals are held and served in accordance with Connecticut Department of Public Health regulations and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point

- 4. Create and implement a wellness policy applicable to your school environment as required by federal regulations.
- 5. Be responsible for all procedures of meal accountability, claiming and accepting reimbursements.
- 6. Pay the vendor \$ _____ (insert cost) for each student meal ordered and delivered and \$ _____ (insert cost) for each adult meal ordered and delivered. These prices include the cost of 8 fluid ounces of milk and all paper products for each meal ordered and delivered.
- 7. Charge adequate student and adult prices to ensure that all costs are covered. (**Note**: For reduced-price meals, the charges for students cannot exceed 30 cents for breakfast, 40 cents for lunch and 15 cents for snack.)
- 8. Prepare and maintain:

(HACCP) requirements.

- a separate school food service bank account for the deposit of all school food service funds collected from paid meals, reduced-price meals and adult meals or a la carte sales;
- free and reduced applications and their determination;
- verification of free and reduced applications;
- collection procedures that meet the guidelines;
- an accurate up-to-date master list of eligible students;
- daily meal accountability, e.g., edit check worksheet; and
- accountability for all a la carte sales, if applicable.
- 9. Provide trained, qualified food service personnel to administer the Child Nutrition Programs.
- 10. Provide suitable dining arrangements for the children to participate fully in their meal experiences.
- 11. Take active responsibility for apprising the vendor of any schedule changes, field trips, etc., that may cause a change in meal preparation amounts.
- 12. Comply with all state and federal regulations related to the sale of competitive foods, i.e., foods and beverages sold separately from reimbursable meals.
 - Make payment to the vendor of monies owed for delivery of meals each month, in accordance with this agreement.

RECIPIENT SITE VENDED INTERSCHOOL AGREEMENT FORM, continued

Section 2 – Responsibilities of Vendor

The	Board of Education (vendor) agrees to:
1.	Appoint a vendor district representative , (<i>insert name of representative</i>), to be the point person for communication between the parties of this agreement. Regular meetings with a recipient site designee will be held to assess the Child Nutrition Programs. A record of the meeting will be kept on file at both sites.
2.	Provide (insert type of meal served, i.e., lunches, breakfasts or snacks) in accordance with specified regulations of the NSLP (also insert SBP and Afterschool Snack Program, if applicable).
3.	Provide for delivery of such meals (or have meals ready for pick up) at (insert specified time). All meals delivered will be at the required temperature and in appropriate containers meeting all current health standards. The meals will be delivered wholesome and consumable and will comply with the Connecticut Department of Public Health regulations and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) requirements. All delivery containers will remain the property of (insert name of owner).
4.	Prepare and distribute menus to (all children or each school) two weeks prior to the start of the month.
5.	Provide utensils, dinnerware and related supplies.
6.	Provide any and all equipment needed to serve all meals. This equipment shall remain the property of (insert name of vendor). The (insert name of recipient site) shall be responsible for maintaining this equipment. In the case of abuse, the (insert name of vendor) retains the right to charge (insert name of recipient site) for replacement/repair.
7.	Provide the recipient site with a monthly bill for all meals, other foods and supplies delivered. Payment will be due in (<i>insert number of days</i>) days.
8.	Accept government commodity foods on behalf of the recipient site.

RECIPIENT SITE VENDED INTERSCHOOL AGREEMENT FORM, continued

Section 3 - Signatures of Authorized Representatives

This agreement must be signed by the appropriate **authorized representatives** from both the vendor and recipient site. For the vendor, the authorized representative is an individual listed on the district's *Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs* (ED-099) with the CSDE. This is the person who is authorized to approve and submit the online claims for reimbursement (**not** the food service director). For the recipient site, the authorized representative is the principal or executive director of the school.

Signature of Recipient Site

Print Name of Authorized Representative	Title of Authorized Representative			
	D.			
Signature of Authorized Representative	Date			
Signature of Board of Education (Vendor)				
Print Name of Authorized Representative	Title of Authorized Representative			
Signature of Authorized Representative	Date			

Submit this form by **August 30** to Maria Santini, Connecticut State Department of Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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