



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Sponsors of the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

FROM: Shannon K. Yearwood, Bureau Chief *Shannon K. Yearwood*
Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs

DATE: March 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum No. 04-25
State Transition Assistance for Reduced-price (STAR) Funds for School Year
2024-25 Attestation Addendum **Due April 4, 2025**

As a condition of receipt of federal assistance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) requirements, school food authorities (SFA) that submitted a STAR Funds Attestation to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) in August 2024 are required to submit the STAR Funds SY 2024-25 Attestation Addendum. The Addendum contains the two parts below.

1. U.S. Department of the Treasury Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund Award Terms and Conditions
2. Assurance of Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements

The addendum must be completed by the SFA's authorized signer 1 or 2, as approved on the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (not the food service director or representative from the food service management company). **Email the scanned signed addendum by April 4, 2025, to Susan Alston at susan.alston@ct.gov.**

Please note: ARPA funds will be available to eligible SFAs through the entirety of school year 2024-25 through a Memorandum of Understanding between the CSDE and the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.

For additional information refer to [Operational Memorandum No. 16-24](#): State Transition Assistance for Reduced-price (STAR) Funds for School Year 2024-25 Questions may be directed to your CSDE [school nutrition team member](#).

SKY:saa

Attachment

Important: This is a numbered Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) operational memorandum that contains important program information. Please read carefully and retain for future reference. All CSDE operational memoranda are posted on the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

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State Fiscal Recovery Fund Award Terms and Conditions

Part 1: U.S. Department of the Treasury Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund Award Terms and Conditions

1. Use of Funds.
 - a. Recipient understands and agrees that the funds disbursed under this award may only be used in compliance with section 602(c) of the Social Security Act (the Act) and Treasury's regulations implementing that section and guidance.
 - b. Recipient will determine prior to engaging in any project using this assistance that it has the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of such project.
2. Period of Performance. The period of performance for this award begins on the date hereof and ends on December 31, 2026. As set forth in Treasury's implementing regulations, Recipient may use award funds to cover eligible costs incurred during the period that begins on March 3, 2021, and ends on December 31, 2024. **Please note that funds will be available to eligible school food authorities (SFAs) through the entirety of school year 2024-25 through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Connecticut State Department of Education and the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.**
3. Reporting. Recipient agrees to comply with any reporting obligations established by Treasury, as it relates to this award.
4. Maintenance of and Access to Records
 - a. Recipient shall maintain records and financial documents sufficient to evidence compliance with section 602(c) and Treasury's regulations implementing that section and guidance regarding the eligible uses of funds.
 - b. The Treasury Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office, or their authorized representatives, shall have the right of access to records (electronic and otherwise) of Recipient in order to conduct audits or other investigations.
 - c. Records shall be maintained by Recipient for a period of five (5) years after all funds have been expended or returned to Treasury, whichever is later.
5. Pre-award Costs. Pre-award costs, as defined in 2 C.F.R. § 200.458, may not be paid with funding from this award.

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6. Administrative Costs. Recipient may use funds provided under this award to cover both direct and indirect costs.
7. Cost Sharing. Cost sharing or matching funds are not required to be provided by Recipient.
8. Conflicts of Interest. Recipient understands and agrees it must maintain a conflict of interest policy consistent with 2 C.F.R. §200.318(c) and that such conflict-of-interest policy is applicable to each activity funded under this award. Recipient and subrecipients must disclose in writing to Treasury or the pass-through entity, as appropriate, any potential conflict of interest affecting the awarded funds in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.112.
9. Compliance with Applicable Law and Regulations.
 - a. Recipient agrees to comply with the requirements of section 602 of the Act, regulations adopted by Treasury pursuant to section 602(f) of the Act, and guidance issued by Treasury regarding the foregoing. Recipient also agrees to comply with all other applicable federal statutes, regulations, and executive orders, and Recipient shall provide for such compliance by other parties in any agreements it enters into with other parties relating to this award.
 - b. Federal regulations applicable to this award include, without limitation, the following:
 - i. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, other than such provisions as Treasury may determine are inapplicable to this Award and subject to such exceptions as may be otherwise provided by Treasury. Subpart F – Audit Requirements of the Uniform Guidance, implementing the Single Audit Act, shall apply to this award.
 - ii. Universal Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM), 2 C.F.R. Part 25, pursuant to which the award term set forth in Appendix A to 2 C.F.R. Part 25 is hereby incorporated by reference.
 - iii. Reporting Subaward and Executive Compensation Information, 2 C.F.R. Part 170, pursuant to which the award term set forth in Appendix A to 2 C.F.R. Part 170 is hereby incorporated by reference.
 - iv. OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement), 2 C.F.R. Part 180, including the requirement to include a term or condition in all lower tier covered transactions (contracts and subcontracts described in 2 C.F.R. Part 180,

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- subpart B) that the award is subject to 2 C.F.R. Part 180 and Treasury's A1 implementing regulation at 31 C.F.R. Part 19.v.
- v. Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters, pursuant to which the award term set forth in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix XII to Part 200 is hereby incorporated by reference.
 - vi. Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace, 31 C.F.R. Part 20.
 - vii. New Restrictions on Lobbying, 31 C.F.R. Part 21.
 - viii. Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§ 4601-4655) and implementing regulations.
 - ix. Generally applicable federal environmental laws and regulations.
- c. Statutes and regulations prohibiting discrimination applicable to this award, include, without limitation, the following:
- i. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.) and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 22, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance;
 - ii. The Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§ 3601 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability;
 - iii. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance;
 - iv. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq.), and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 23, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance; and
 - v. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under programs, activities, and services provided or made available by state and local governments or instrumentalities or agencies thereto.
10. Remedial Actions. In the event of Recipient's noncompliance with section 602 of the Act, other applicable laws, Treasury's implementing regulations, guidance, or any reporting or

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other program requirements, Treasury may impose additional conditions on the receipt of a subsequent tranche of future award funds, if any, or take other available remedies as set forth in 2 C.F.R 200.339. In the case of a violation of section 602(c) of the Act regarding the use of funds, previous payments shall be subject to recoupment as provided in section 602(e) of the Act and any additional payments may be subject to withholding as provided in sections 602(b)(6)(A)(ii)(III) of the Act.

11. Hatch Act. Recipient agrees to comply, as applicable, with requirements of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 1501-1508 and 7324-7328), which limit certain political activities of State or local government employees whose principal employment is in connection with an activity financed in whole or in part by this federal assistance.
12. False Statements. Recipient understands that making false statements or claims in connection with this award is a violation of federal law and may result in criminal, civil, or administrative sanctions, including fines, imprisonment, civil damages and penalties, debarment from participating in federal awards or contracts, and/or any other remedy available by law.
13. Publications. Any publications produced with funds from this award must display the following language: "This project [is being] [was] supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number [enter project FAIN] awarded to State of Connecticut by the U.S. Department of the Treasury."
14. Debts Owed the Federal Government.
 - a. Any funds paid to Recipient (1) in excess of the amount to which Recipient is finally determined to be authorized to retain under the terms of this award; (2) that are determined by the Treasury Office of Inspector General to have been misused; or (3) that are determined by Treasury to be subject to a repayment obligation pursuant to sections 602(e) and 603(b)(2)(D) of the Act and have not been repaid by Recipient shall constitute a debt to the federal government.
 - b. Any debts determined to be owed the federal government must be paid promptly by Recipient. A debt is delinquent if it has not been paid by the date specified in Treasury's initial written demand for payment, unless other satisfactory arrangements have been made or if the Recipient knowingly or improperly retains funds that are a debt as defined in paragraph 14(a). Treasury will take any actions available to it to collect such a debt.

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15. Disclaimer.

- a. The United States expressly disclaims any and all responsibility or liability to Recipient or third persons for the actions of Recipient or third persons resulting in death, bodily injury, property damages, or any other losses resulting in any way from the performance of this award or any other losses resulting in any way from the performance of this award or any contract, or subcontract under this award.
- b. The acceptance of this award by Recipient does not in any way establish an agency relationship between the United States and Recipient.

16. Protections for Whistleblowers.

- a. In accordance with 41 U.S.C. § 4712, Recipient may not discharge, demote, or otherwise discriminate against an employee in reprisal for disclosing to any of the list of persons or entities provided below, information that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of gross mismanagement of a federal contract or grant, a gross waste of federal funds, an abuse of authority relating to a federal contract or grant, a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or a violation of law, rule, or regulation related to a federal contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract) or grant.
- b. The list of persons and entities referenced in the paragraph above includes the following:
 - i. A member of Congress or a representative of a committee of Congress;
 - ii. An Inspector General;
 - iii. The Government Accountability Office;
 - iv. A Treasury employee responsible for contract or grant oversight or management;
 - v. An authorized official of the Department of Justice or other law enforcement agency;
 - vi. A court or grand jury; or
 - vii. A management official or other employee of Recipient, contractor, or subcontractor who has the responsibility to investigate, discover, or address misconduct.
- c. Recipient shall inform its employees in writing of the rights and remedies provided under this section, in the predominant native language of the workforce.

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17. Increasing Seat Belt Use in the United States. Pursuant to Executive Order 13043, 62 FR 19217 (Apr. 18, 1997), Recipient should encourage its contractors to adopt and enforce on-the-job seat belt policies and programs for their employees when operating company-owned, rented or personally owned vehicles.
18. Reducing Text Messaging While Driving. Pursuant to Executive Order 13513, 74 FR 51225 (Oct. 6, 2009), Recipient should encourage its employees, subrecipients, and contractors to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving, and Recipient should establish workplace safety policies to decrease accidents caused by distracted drivers.

Signature of Authorized Representative for Part 1: U.S. Department of the Treasury Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund Award Terms and Conditions

This section must be signed by the SFA's authorized signer 1 or 2, as approved on the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (not the food service director or representative from the food service management company).

Sponsor name:

Sponsor agreement number:

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):

As the duly authorized representative of the Child Nutrition Programs, I agree to the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund Award Terms and Conditions as listed above.

Date:

Signature of authorized representative
(Signer #1 or #2 on ED-099 Agreement)

Printed name of authorized representative

Title of authorized representative

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Part 2: Assurance of Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements

Assurance of Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

As a condition of receipt of federal financial assistance from the Department of the Treasury, the School Food Authority (hereinafter referred to as “the Recipient”) provides the assurances stated herein. The federal financial assistance may include federal grants, loans and contracts to provide assistance to the recipient’s beneficiaries, the use or rent of Federal land or property at below market value, Federal training, a loan of Federal personnel, subsidies, and other arrangements with the intention of providing assistance. Federal financial assistance does not encompass contracts of guarantee or insurance, regulated programs, licenses, procurement contracts by the Federal government at market value, or programs that provide direct benefits. This assurance applies to all federal financial assistance from or funds made available through the Department of the Treasury, including any assistance that the Recipient may request in the future.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 provides that the provisions of this assurance apply to all of the recipient’s programs, services and activities, so long as any portion of the recipient’s program(s) is federally assisted in the manner proscribed above.

1. Recipient ensures its current and future compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, which prohibits exclusion from participation, denial of the benefits of, or subjection to discrimination under programs and activities receiving federal funds, of any person in the United States on the ground of race, color, or national origin (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.), as implemented by the Department of the Treasury Title VI regulations at 31 CFR Part 22 and other pertinent executive orders such as Executive Order 13166; directives; circulars; policies; memoranda and/or guidance documents.
2. Recipient acknowledges that Executive Order 13166, “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency,” seeks to improve access to federally assisted programs and activities for individuals who, because of national origin, have Limited English proficiency (LEP). Recipient understands that denying a person access to its programs, services, and activities because of LEP is a form of national origin discrimination prohibited under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Department of the Treasury’s implementing regulations. Accordingly, Recipient shall initiate reasonable steps, or comply with the Department of the Treasury’s directives, to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to its programs, services, and activities. Recipient understands and agrees that meaningful access may entail providing language assistance services, including oral interpretation and written translation where necessary, to ensure effective communication in the Recipient’s programs, services, and activities.

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3. Recipient agrees to consider the need for language services for LEP persons during development of applicable budgets and when conducting programs, services and activities. As a resource, the Department of the Treasury has published its LEP guidance at 70 FR 6067. For more information on LEP, please visit <http://www.lep.gov>.
4. Recipient acknowledges and agrees that compliance with this assurance constitutes a condition of continued receipt of federal financial assistance and is binding upon Recipient and Recipient's successors, transferees and assignees for the period in which such assistance is provided.
5. Recipient acknowledges and agrees that it must require any sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors, successors, transferees, and assignees to comply with assurances 1-4 above, and agrees to incorporate the following language in every contract or agreement subject to Title VI and its regulations between the Recipient and the Recipient's sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors, successors, transferees, and assignees.

The sub-grantee, contractor, subcontractor, successor, transferee, and assignee shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits recipients of federal financial assistance from excluding from a program or activity, denying benefits of, or otherwise discriminating against a person on the basis of race, color, or national origin (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.), as implemented by the Department of the Treasury's Title VI regulations, 31 CFR Part 22, which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract (or agreement). Title VI also includes protection to persons with "Limited English Proficiency" in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., as implemented by the Department of the Treasury's Title VI regulations, 31 CFR Part 22, and herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract or agreement.

6. Recipient understands and agrees that if any real property or structure is provided or improved with the aid of federal financial assistance by the Department of the Treasury, this assurance obligates the Recipient, or in the case of a subsequent transfer, the transferee, for the period during which the real property or structure is used for a purpose for which the federal financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits. If any personal property is provided, this assurance obligates the Recipient for the period during which it retains ownership or possession of the property;

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7. Recipient shall cooperate in any enforcement or compliance review activities by the Department of the Treasury of the aforementioned obligations. Enforcement may include investigation, arbitration, mediation, litigation, and monitoring of any settlement agreements that may result from these actions. That is, the Recipient shall comply with information requests, on-site compliance reviews, and reporting requirements.
8. Recipient shall maintain a complaint log and inform the Department of the Treasury of any complaints of discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, and limited English proficiency covered by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and implementing regulations and provide, upon request, a list of all such reviews or proceedings based on the complaint, pending or completed, including outcome. Recipient also must inform the Department of the Treasury if Recipient has received no complaints under Title VI.9.
9. Recipient must provide documentation of an administrative agency's or court's findings of non-compliance of Title VI and efforts to address the non-compliance, including any voluntary compliance or other agreements between the Recipient and the administrative agency that made the finding. If the Recipient settles a case or matter alleging such discrimination, the Recipient must provide documentation of the settlement. If Recipient has not been the subject of any court or administrative agency finding of discrimination, please so state.
10. If the Recipient makes sub-awards to other agencies or other entities, the Recipient is responsible for ensuring that sub-recipients also comply with Title VI and other applicable authorities covered in this document. State agencies that make sub-awards must have in place standard grant assurances and review procedures to demonstrate that they are effectively monitoring the civil rights compliance of sub-recipients.

The United States of America has the right to seek judicial enforcement of the terms of this assurances document and nothing in this document alters or limits the federal enforcement measures that the United States may take in order to address violations of this document or applicable federal law.

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Signature of Authorized Representative for Part 2: Assurance of Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements

This section must be signed by the SFA's authorized signer 1 or 2, as approved on the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (not the food service director or representative from the food service management company).

Sponsor name:

Sponsor agreement number: Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):

As the duly authorized representative of the Child Nutrition Programs, I agree to the Assurance of Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements

Date:

Signature of authorized representative
(Signer #1 or #2 on ED-099 Agreement)

Printed name of authorized representative

Title of authorized representative

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In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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