## CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUREAU OF HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES AND CHILD/FAMILY/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

## BUREAU OF HEALTH/NUTRITION, FAMILY SERVICES AND ADULT EDUCATION 25 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT 06457-1543

NOTE: Obsolete information on this memo is indicated by strikethrough text, e.g., text. Revised/new text is highlighted in orange.

**TO:** Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Sponsors

FROM: Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief

Bureau of Health and Nutrition Services and Child/Family/School Partnerships

Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

**DATE:** March 15, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Operational Memorandum No. 08C-07 and 08H-07

Retention of Records Relating to Institutions, Responsible Principals or Responsible Individuals, and Family Day Care Homes on the

National Disqualified List (NDL); Retention of Records Relating to Serious

Deficiencies (SD)

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify Program requirements for the retention of records relating to institutions, responsible principals or individuals, and family day care homes that have been placed on the CACFP National Disqualified List (NDL). In addition, this memorandum also clarifies recordkeeping requirements relating to institutions and homes that have been declared seriously deficient, but which take satisfactory corrective action and are not placed on the NDL. These issues need to be addressed to ensure that the records supporting a serious deficiency determination, and/or a termination and disqualification, are properly maintained by State agencies (SAs) and sponsoring organizations.

Section 226.10(d) of the regulations establishes retention requirements for records relating to claims submitted by SAs and institutions participating in CACFP. Such records must be retained for three years after the submission of the final claim for the fiscal year to which they pertain. If, at the end of this period, audit findings have not been resolved, the records must be retained until the audit is resolved. This guidance was previously disseminated to all CACFP sponsors as part of a special "Notice" issued by the Child Nutrition Unit on June 23, 2006.

The same principle applies to the retention of records relating to institutions, responsible principals or individuals, and family day care homes that have been placed on the CACFP's NDL. These records are considered to pertain to the entire period that an individual or institution remains on the NDL, since the documentation supporting the disqualification must be available to respond to any challenge to the institution's or individual's inclusion on the NDL, or to a request for removal from the NDL. Therefore, consistent with the requirements at § 226.10(d) concerning the retention of claims-related records, the State Agency or the institution must retain records relating to the disqualification for three years after the institution, responsible principal or individual, or family day care home is removed from the NDL.

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This memorandum also clarifies record retention requirements relating to an institution or family day care home that is declared seriously deficient, or a principal or individual who has been identified as responsible for a serious deficiency, when the serious deficiency is corrected before disqualification. Records relating to any serious deficiency must be retained by the State Agency (SA) or sponsoring organization for three years after the SA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (for institutions or responsible principals or individuals) or sponsoring organization (for family day care homes) accepts the corrective action. This timeframe will permit

the SA (or the sponsoring organization, in the case of a family day care home) to conduct one or more follow-up reviews to ensure that the institution or home has fully and permanently corrected the serious

deficiency, and will provide the necessary documentation for a proposed termination if it is found that the corrective action has not been permanently implemented.

Questions may be addressed as follows: <u>Center sponsors</u>: Contact Susan Boyle at (860) 807-2074, Celia Cordero at (860) 807-2076 or Benedict Onye at (860) 807-2080. <u>Home sponsors</u>: Contact Susan Bohuslaw at (860) 807-2073. Contact Celia Cordero at (860) 807-2076.

CRT:shb