

MAY 2 2013

Ms. Karen Sure Yeager
263 West 9th Street
East Liverpool, Ohio 43920

Dear Ms. Yeager:

Thank you for your responses to the federal register notice of the Evaluation of the Demonstrations of National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Direct Certification of Children Receiving Medicaid Benefits (DC-M). We share your concern for the health and well-being of the nation's children. The NSLP and SBP are the cornerstones of the government's efforts to provide nutritious meals to schoolchildren, and the DC-M demonstration examines an alternative method of certifying students to receive free meals. We hope to learn more about the experiences of states and districts implementing DC-M and look forward to sharing our findings. However, the DC-M demonstration and evaluation are not intended to address the specific issues raised by the comments, regarding the nutrition requirements for NSLP/SBP meals and the accuracy of information provided on applications. Therefore, after considering the comments carefully, we do not believe that it would be appropriate to revise the data collection and analysis plans.

Sincerely,



Jay Hirschman
Director
Special Nutrition Research and Analysis Division
Office of Policy Support
Food and Nutrition Service