

## **APPENDIX C: DISCLAIMER AND INFORMED CONSENT**

### **Exhibit C-1. Disclaimer**

#### DISCLAIMER

Tufts University is collecting feedback on behalf of the US Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (ERS) to evaluate the National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS) from a data user's perspective. Feedback from FoodAPS researchers will assist ERS in improving data collection efforts for the next round of FoodAPS.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is [0536-0073] (expires 01/31/2019). This information collection is conducted under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a).

This information collection asks FoodAPS data users to report on: 1) motivations for using the dataset, 2) data components you used, and 3) recommendations for future data collection efforts. We expect that completing the survey will take approximately 60 minutes of your time. This estimate includes 30 minutes for the survey itself and 30 minutes for reviewing instructions, corresponding with us via email and answering questions, either via email or telephone. Your participation in this information collection is voluntary.

This study does not ask you for any personal information. ERS intends to protect respondent information under the Privacy Act of 1974 and 7 U.S.C. 2276.

## **Exhibit C-2. Informed Consent Form.**

### INFORMED CONSENT FORM

#### *Principal Investigator*

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#### *Purpose*

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this feedback collection effort. The purpose of this research is to evaluate the National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS) from a data user's perspective. We will compile your feedback, along with input from other participants, into a report to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (USDA/ERS). USDA/ERS will use this report to inform the design and data collection for the next round of FoodAPS.

#### *Duration*

Participation in this feedback collection effort entails either completing a questionnaire via email or an interview via telephone. We anticipate that this will take 60 minutes of your time, including 30 minutes for the survey in writing or by telephone and 30 minutes for additional tasks including corresponding with us and additional questions, by email or telephone.

#### *Benefits and Risks*

Although your participation in this research may not yield any direct benefits, there may be indirect benefits of participation. With your input, USDA/ERS may be able to improve design, data collection, and data availability for the next round of FoodAPS. Improvements to the survey and dataset will allow other researchers using future iterations of FoodAPS to investigate consumer food shopping behaviors, household well-being, and healthy food access, using improved data. We do not foresee any risks involved with completing a questionnaire or interview. Questions are non-sensitive, and your responses will not put you at risk of liability or other damages.

#### *Confidentiality*

Your participation is confidential. We will store your responses electronically, and only study personnel will have access to this data. We will store identifying information, including your name, email address, and telephone number, with your responses if we receive them via email. Keeping your identifying information linked to written responses will allow us to follow up with you if needed. We will decouple identifying information from your questionnaire responses once we complete follow-up questioning as needed. The original document containing your linked identifying information will be deleted, and we will save a new, de-identified document with your responses in our password-protected document storage system. Our final report to USDA/ERS will discuss feedback in aggregate form only and will not attribute responses to particular individuals.

*Information Requests*

Should you have any questions or concerns about this feedback collection effort, you may contact us at any time. The principal investigator may be reached via email at [parke.wilde@tufts.edu](mailto:parke.wilde@tufts.edu) or via telephone at 617-636-3495. You also are welcome to contact Lara Sloboda at Tufts University Office of the Institutional Review Board at 617-627-3417.

*Withdrawal of Participation*

Your participation also is voluntary. You may skip questions as you wish and may discontinue participation at any time. Deciding to withdraw or refusing participation altogether will not result in any penalties or modifications to your FoodAPS project agreement.

*Signature*

I confirm that I understand the purpose of the research and study procedures. I understand that I may ask questions at any time and can withdraw from the study without consequences. I have read this informed consent form, and my typed name below affirms my willingness to participate in this study.

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Typed Signature

Date

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Principal Investigator Signature

Date

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Printed Name of Principal Investigator

