

C.4 Study Endorsement Letter from the President of the CACFP Forum



May 22, 2015

Dear Child Care Professional:

For millions of American children, child care is an essential component of their daily lives—it is where they receive much of the nutrition, care, and socialization they need for proper growth and development. In recognition of this fact, Congress directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to conduct a Study of Nutrition and Activity in Child Care Settings (SNACS).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of USDA contracted with Abt Associates, a research organization, to conduct SNACS beginning in January 2016. Abt has managed a number of child care focused studies for the USDA, and in each study has worked cooperatively with sponsors and child care providers to produce accurate, unbiased results while minimizing the burden on study participants. I am writing to encourage your participation in this first-of-its-kind study.

The study will examine the meals and activities for infants and children in CACFP and non-CACFP child care settings. It will provide needed information on food and nutrient intakes of infants and children in child care settings and gather information about a range of other issues, including meal costs and revenues. The study will include a national sample of 20 states, including 1,500 child care providers, and close to 4,000 children and their parents. Data will be collected primarily between January and June 2016, from child care providers, their sponsors (as needed), and parents.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important study. I hope that you agree that the data collected and analyzed through SNACS will provide critical information to shape program policies that can truly support child care providers in serving meals that contribute to a healthy future for our children – a goal we all share.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martha Campolito", with a date "5/22/15" written below it.

Martha Campolito, President

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