

Appendix A-3. Study Objectives and Research Questions

Appendix A-3. Study Objectives and Research Questions

As stated in the Performance Work Statement (PWS), the key objectives and research questions of this project are:

Objective 1: Design a method to estimate accurately the rate of erroneous payments to CACFP family day care homes for meals claimed for reimbursement. The method will allow FNS to meet the reporting requirements of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act (IPERA) of 2010.

Research Questions:

1. What method of data collection does not bias or influence the behaviors of day care home providers and participants?
2. What method of data collection ensures the approval of an ethical review board on human subjects?

Objective 2: Test the method described under Objective 1 on a sample of family day care homes. The contractor shall collect additional enrollment, meal claims, and other program data, as necessary, from sponsors to help evaluate the validity of the method to measure the meals that were actually served (“the gold standard”), and to produce accurate measures of improper payments. The criteria to be used for measuring the effectiveness of the method shall be proposed by the contractor as part of this objective.

Objective 3: Provide feasibility analysis and a report, based on results from Objective 2, of the reliability of the method to produce accurate measures of the rate of improper meal claims and associated costs (aggregate, overpayments, and underpayments). If the method is deemed unreliable, the contractor shall propose an alternative approach for FNS to review.

The study objectives and research questions presented above are intended to meet the Congressional requirements under “The Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act (IPERA) of 2010” (P.L. 111-204) for estimating the extent of overpayments, underpayments, and overall erroneous payments within CACFP-participating family day care homes.