

C9. Generic Endorsement Letter

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RE: Study of Nutrition and Activity in Child Care Settings II (SNACS-II)

Dear Child Care Professional:

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

The National Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Forum, National Child Nutrition Association, and Child Care Food Program Roundtable are supporting this study and encouraging your participation. Mathematica and its research partner, Westat, are conducting SNACS-II for USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service. Both Mathematica and Westat have managed a number of child-care–focused studies for USDA and have worked with sponsors and child care providers to produce accurate, unbiased results while minimizing the burden on study participants.

SNACS-II will look at the nutrition and wellness policies and activities in child care centers, family child care homes and before and after school programs across the country. This important study will help us learn more about CACFP and get a better understanding of how it supports the healthy growth and development of the children it serves.

The study will include more than 1,300 child care centers, family child care homes and before and after school programs in 25 States that participate in CACFP. More than 3,000 infants, children and youth ages 10 to 18, along with their parents or guardians, will also be involved in the study. Data will be collected primarily between January and May 2023. The findings will be made available to child care providers and the public after the study is completed.

Thank you in advance for your help with this important study. The data collected and analyzed through SNACS-II will provide critical information to shape program policies that can truly support the child care community in serving meals that contribute to a healthy future for our children—a goal we all share.

Sincerely,

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[Name]
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The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is collecting this information to understand the nutritional quality of CACFP meals and snacks, the cost to produce them, and dietary intakes and activity levels of CACFP participants. This is a voluntary collection and FNS will use the information to examine CACFP operations. The collection does request personally identifiable information under the Privacy Act of 1974. Responses will be kept private to the extent provided by law and FNS regulations. 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 0584-xxxx. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 0.0334 hours (2 minutes) per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Policy Support, 1320 Braddock Place, 5th Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314. ATTN: PRA (0584-xxxx). Do not return the completed form to this address.