Food and Nutrition Service, USDA

§ 247.16

local agencies inform such persons of their rights and responsibilities in the program, as listed under §247.12, in an appropriate language. State and local agencies must ensure that bilingual staff members or interpreters are available to serve these persons.

(b) What must State and local agencies do to ensure that non-English or limited-English speaking persons are aware of other program information? If a significant proportion of the population in an area is comprised of non-English or limited-English speaking persons with a common language, the State agency must ensure that local agencies provide other program information, except application forms, to such persons in their appropriate language.

§ 247.14 Other public assistance programs.

(a) What information on other public assistance programs must the local agency provide to women, infants, and children applicants? The local agency must provide CSFP applicants eligible for both CSFP and WIC with written information on the following programs, and make referrals to these programs as appropriate:

(1) The Medicaid Program, which is the medical assistance program established under Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), and other health insurance programs for low-income households in the State. The State agency must provide local agencies with materials showing the income standards utilized in the Medicaid Program;

(2) The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program under part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

(3) The Child Support Enforcement Program under part D of Title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.); and

(4) The Food Stamp Program (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

(b) What information on other public assistance programs must the local agency provide to elderly applicants? The local agency must provide elderly applicants with written information on the following programs, and make referrals, as appropriate:

(1) Supplemental security income benefits provided under Title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.);

(2) Medical assistance provided under Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), including medical assistance provided to a qualified Medicare beneficiary (42 U.S.C. 1395(p) and 1396d(5)); and

(3) The Food Stamp Program (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

(c) Is the value of CSFP benefits counted as income or resources for any other public assistance programs? No. The value of benefits received in CSFP may not be considered as income or resources of participants or their families for any purpose under Federal, State, or local laws, including laws relating to taxation and public assistance programs.

§ 247.15 Notification of eligibility or ineligibility of applicant.

(a) What is the timeframe for notifying an applicant of eligibility or ineligibility for CSFP benefits? Local agencies must notify applicants of their eligibility or ineligibility for CSFP benefits, or their placement on a waiting list, within 10 days from the date of application.

(b) What must be included in the notification of eligibility or ineligibility? The notification of eligibility must include information on the time, location, and means of food distribution, and the length of the certification period. Notification of ineligibility must be in writing, and must include the reason the applicant is not eligible, a statement of the individual’s right to a fair hearing to appeal the decision, and a statement that informs the applicant that program standards are applied without discrimination by race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

§ 247.16 Certification period.

(a) How long is the certification period? (1) Women, infants, and children. For women, infants, and children, the State agency must establish certification periods that may not exceed 6 months in
§ 247.17 Notification of discontinuance of participant.

(a) What must a local agency do if it has evidence that a participant is no longer eligible for CSFP benefits during the certification period? If a local agency has evidence that a participant is no longer eligible for CSFP benefits during the certification period, it must provide the participant with a written notification of discontinuance at least 15 days before the effective date of discontinuance.

(b) What must a local agency do if it has to discontinue a participant from participation in the program prior to the end of the certification period due to the lack of resources necessary to continue providing benefits to the participant? If a local agency does not have sufficient resources, such as a sufficient number of caseload slots, to continue providing benefits to the participant(s) for the entire certification period, it must provide the participant(s) with a written notification of discontinuance at least 15 days before the effective date of discontinuance.

(c) What must be included in the notification of discontinuance? The notification of discontinuance must include the effective date of discontinuance, the reason for the participant’s discontinuance, a statement of the individual’s right to appeal the discontinuance through the fair hearing process, in accordance with §247.33(a), and a statement that informs the applicant that program standards are applied without discrimination by race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

§ 247.18 Nutrition education.

(a) What are the State agency’s responsibilities in ensuring that nutrition education is provided? The State agency must establish an overall nutrition education plan and must ensure that local agencies provide nutrition education to participants in accordance with the plan. The State agency may