



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
HEALTH/AGRICULTURE BUILDING  
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Secretary

May 15, 2009

To: Honorable Louis D. Greenwald, Chairman  
Assembly Budget Committee

Thru: David J. Rosen  
Legislative Budget & Finance Officer

From: Douglas H. Fisher 

Subject: Reply to Assembly Question

In reply to the follow-up questions forwarded by the Assembly Budget Committee, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture provides the following responses:

**Assemblyman O'Scanlon:**

- **Please explore ways in which locally-grown food and fresh farm products can become more available to group homes and long-term health care facilities that care for the elderly, disabled or developmentally challenged residents.**

School Nutrition Programs has 16 sponsors that have 61 licensed group homes participating in the school meal programs. As agencies that participate in these programs they are required to have a wellness policy in place. Our sponsors are also strongly encouraged to increase consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables using locally grown produce. We are actively working to increase participation in farm to school programs. We are also trying to increase the availability of locally grown produce to sponsors thru the foods available from Food Distribution Programs in our Division.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) regulations for the Adult Care Food Program are administered by the Division of Food and Nutrition. CACFP provides reimbursements to the eligible centers that provide adult day services to help them serve nutritious meals to these functionally impaired adults.

Honorable Louis D. Greenwald

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Eligible institutions must be licensed or approved adult day care facilities operated by public, private nonprofit organizations, and certain for-profit organizations, if they serve elderly persons 60 years of age or older or chronically impaired disabled persons, 18 years of age or older.

Centers must be nonresidential and provide a community-based comprehensive and structured program; in addition, these facilities must provide health and social support services to enrolled participants.

Group homes and long-term health care facilities are not eligible to receive CACFP benefits.

Fruit and vegetable components are part of the daily USDA meal requirements as mandated by the CACFP regulations for meal eligibility and reimbursement. Participating CACFP agencies are committed to take advantage of the locally-grown fresh foods and farm products in season as the best way to provide optimum nutrition for their participants.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact me at (609) 292-3976.

c: Alfred Murray, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture