



Federal Community Nutrition Program Overview

MDE's Commitment to Preventing Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

- Office of Inspector General
 - Expert investigative team with deep knowledge of MDE programs and strong working relationships with MDE program areas
 - Established relationships with law enforcement
- Agency-wide culture of fraud prevention
- Robust use of regulatory authorities
- Intra- and Inter-Agency Coordination
- Continuous improvement and strengthening of program-specific oversight tools

Overview of Federal Community Nutrition Programs

- MDE serves as the state agency for multiple federal community nutrition programs
- Community nutrition programs are different from school meals
- Focus on a few programs today:
 - Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and CACFP At-Risk
 - Child care centers
 - Home day cares
 - Adult day cares
 - After school (CACFP At-Risk)
 - Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
 - Fills gaps during summer months between school years

Sponsors and Sites

- Both CACFP and SFSP use a sponsor and site structure
- Sponsors are responsible for oversight of sites
- Sites are locations where the meals are served
- State agencies have oversight responsibilities for the sponsors
- Sponsors have several oversight responsibilities

Key Notes about the Programs

- CACFP and SFSP are **reimbursement** programs
- Focus on getting **healthy, nutritious** meals to children and other participants

Summary Timeline of Feeding Our Future

- Feeding Our Future established as 501(c)(3); became a sponsor in the CACFP program
- 2020: Covid and USDA waivers
- MDE had concerns about FOF site applications and meal claim growth; sought assistance from USDA and USDA OIG
- FOF brought a lawsuit against MDE for not processing site applications quickly enough
- MDE issued two Serious Deficiencies against Feeding Our Future and attempted to stop payments
- Court indicated it would find MDE lacked authority for stop payments
- Coordination with federal law enforcement on investigation

- Established Office of General Counsel
- Proposed and established Office of Inspector General
- Agency-wide fraud prevention training
- Outside consultant review of community nutrition sponsors
- Updated technology and tracking tools
- Nutrition program statutory changes

Thank You!

Minnesota Department of Education