

**CACFP Sponsor
Implementation of New Block Claim Requirements
First Trimester Survey**

Summary

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The National CACFP Forum *CACFP Sponsor: Implementation of New Block Claim Requirements First Trimester Survey* collected information on the progress, impact, and outcomes of the first phase of the implementation of the new Block Claim regulations. The survey was distributed in two stages to maximize input from respondents operating on different implementation timelines and to assure broad dissemination. Survey data was collected from February 2006 to March 15, 2006.

A total of 209 surveys were submitted by sponsoring organizations (one survey per sponsoring organization). The sponsors responding to the survey serve a total of 70,183 family child care homes, which is nearly half (47%) of the family child homes currently participating in CACFP.

We wish to thank the sponsors for the effort and time taken to give carefully considered, insightful, and detailed answers regarding the implementation of the Block Claim regulations.

We are grateful to the Sponsors Association board of directors for their excellent contribution to the design of the survey. Their comments and advice were invaluable.

This summary highlights some of the survey results. A full report will be forthcoming. A companion report generated from the survey results, *Survey Comments Tell the Real Story*, provides thirteen pages of informative sponsors experience with the block claim.

Summary and report were prepared by Geraldine Henchy, Food Research and Action Center: ghenchy@frac.org or (202) 986-2200 extension 3025.

Both the summary and the comments can be downloaded at Forum website.

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Impact of Block Claim Regulations

The majority of respondents reported that the Block Claim regulations have:

- Created a negative impact on administration of CACFP on the local level (65%)
- Increased the time spent on paperwork/administrative tasks (96%)
- Generated additional monitoring visits (83%)
- Increased costs due to increased paperwork and travel (\$1,145 average per month)

For the majority of respondents the CACFP program administrative reimbursement no longer covers the costs of administering CACFP (67%).

Outcome of Block Claim Regulations

The majority of respondents reported that the Block Claim regulations have:

- Not been an effective mechanism for improving integrity in CACFP (76%)
- Not increased the accuracy of the claims submitted (85%)
- Identified only false claims that would have been detected by integrity procedures in use by sponsorship prior to the new Block Claim regulations (81%)

Recommended Improvements to the Block Claim Regulations

The majority of respondents believe the new Block Claim regulations could be improved (99.5%).

Block Claim Procedures Recommendations

- Allow Visit History to Validate (78%)
- Extend Follow-Up Limit to 90 Days (72%)
- Allow Per Child Block Claim (72%)
- Create Option to Stagger Reviews (62%)

Block Claim Definition Recommendations

- Extend to Full Month (87%)
- Extend to All Meals (82%)
- Exempt One Child Homes (87%)
- Exempt Providers Own Children (69%)