

Appendix G12. Public Comment #7

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Child and Adult Care Food Program

Comment On: FNS-2019-0056-0001

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Child and Adult Care Food Program

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emailcomment4

Submitter Information

Name: Perry Childcare

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Representative:

Organization Information

Name:

Government Agency:

Government Agency Type:

Category:

General Comment

See Attached

From: Perry Childcare
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 11:03 AM
To: Farmer, Andrea - FNS
Subject: CACFP Time and Frequency Response

Hello Ms Farmer,

Here is our Time and Frequency Response on the CACFP.

Thank you

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Chase McCallister
Assistant Director
Perry Child Care, Initiative Inc.

CACFP Time and Frequency Response Perry Childcare Initiative, INC.

Perry Childcare Initiative, Inc. was launched in August 2015 as the result of more than two years of planning by community leaders and local employers to address the lack of childcare options in our rural Southern Indiana community. Since opening, we have added two additional rooms and currently have waiting lists for all of our classrooms. While we are striving to meet the needs of as many families as possible, lack of access is still a major issue in our community. In 2017, there were 1,108 children under the age of five in Perry County, yet just 216 licensed childcare spots. We anticipate these statistics to be even more dire in 2020 as one of the few other licensed providers announced they were closing a few weeks ago and as of 2/4/2020 there were 30 children on our wait list.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the CACFP Program and by providing the above background information, hope to illustrate the importance of Perry Childcare Initiative to our community. While we depend upon the reimbursements provided by the CACFP program to function, we feel that some of the program guidelines are unrealistic and unnecessary, especially for a small facility like ours. In addition, we feel that our Director and Assistant Director have not been adequately trained to handle all of the aspects of the program. The current responsibilities of the Director and Assistant Director include:

- Licensing requirements
- Staffing (scheduling, payroll, training, interviewing, etc.)
- Financials (tuition, vouchers, purchasing, etc.)
- Filling in for caregivers during breaks, sick days, vacations, etc.
- Student record keeping and file management
- Fundraising (applying for grants, organizing events, etc.)
- Communicating with prospective parents, providing tours, etc.
- CACFP program

According to the *Program Accountability* form presented in the third Training Module in the CACFP Performance Standards on Indiana Department of Education's website, we would need four members working in the office just to meet the "Primary Responsible Position" aspect of the form. In addition to our Director and Assistant Director allocating a great deal of time to the completing the paperwork required by the program, our cook also assists, although we have been informed that she should not be handling this.

The module states that members of our Board of Directors should assist with the CACFP program, however we feel this is not realistic as they are not on-site everyday and already assist

with many other areas including major fundraising campaigns, community and public relations, exploring expansion opportunities, taxes, etc.

Overall staff morale has been effected as a result of the strains of administering the CACFP Program:

- Assistant Director and Director have had to put staff on the backburner just to meet demands of CACFP in addition to the responsibilities listed above
- Staff feels it is unnecessary to have to test cleaning solutions because:
 - The cleaning solution we receive from Cintas Cleaning Supplies is mixed via mechanical systems and is already tested prior to being delivered to our facility
 - Our staff is highly trained on mixing bleach water and there are forms up on the walls at every sink (besides bathroom) from FSSA to remind how to create the bleach water solution

We have had to completely reinvent our financial bookkeeping to use the “Journal Ledger” provided by the CACFP which has been extremely time-consuming and also frustrating to move away from a system we had perfected over the past four years. We also believe that it is unnecessary to be required to report every single income and expense item when they are not related to the CACFP Program. For instance, why is it necessary to disclose the fact that our already underpaid staff had to chip-in to purchase their own work shirts or to disclose every aspect of every fundraiser.

Our Director and Assistant Director have not been properly trained by the CACFP and we are struggling to be successful program participants as a result of this.

- After our last inspection, we learned of requirements that we were previously not aware of
- We were marked up incorrectly filling out some of the paperwork, yet were given no direction on how to correctly complete it

We here at Perry Preschool and Child Care love our line of work; you must have a passion to work with children in order to even last a week in a child care facility. We are doing everything we can to follow the Perry Childcare Initiative, but the demands of the CACFP are making this a troublesome task for a small, rural child care center that is simply trying to help meet the needs of a community on the rise.