

C.3 Study Endorsement Letter from USDA



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

July 14, 2015

Dear State Agency Administrator:

As you know, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) focused on improving child nutrition and authorized funding for USDA's child nutrition programs, including the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) which serves more than 3.3 million children. In that act, Congress recognized that not enough research had examined the important influence of nutrition and activity in child care. As a result, Congress directed the USDA to conduct the Study of Nutrition and Activity in Child Care Settings (SNACS). Participation in the study by selected sponsors and child care providers who receive CACFP funds is required under Section 305 of the HHFKA. The USDA contracted with Abt Associates to conduct this study and we are asking for your cooperation in achieving its important objectives.

SNACS will provide a thorough description of meals and snacks served in child care, activities, children's food intake in and out of child care, and costs of meals and snacks. Most of this information will be collected from staff at child care centers, family day care homes, Head Start programs, and afterschool programs. In addition, the study team will be collecting information from parents, including the amount and type of food children eat outside of child care. Sponsors of some child care centers may also be asked to provide information about costs of meal service operations.

We need your participation in order to make this study a success and we hope that we can count on your support in this important study. If you have any questions regarding the data collection activities for this study, please contact our project team at toll-free 844-808-4777, or email SNACS@abtassoc.com.

If you have any questions regarding the authorization for this project, you may contact the Project Officer by telephone at 703-305-2098 or via email at Allison.Magness@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Melissa Abelev", written over a horizontal line.

Melissa Abelev, PhD
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture