

## **Office of Research and Analysis (ORA)**

### **Research Description**

#### **Characteristics of Summer Food Service Participants and Programs**

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) serves only a small percentage of the children who receive free and reduced price meals through the National School Lunch Program during the school year. This study would provide greater insight into who offers and who uses SFSP meals. The study would update data last collected in the summers of 2003 and 2004. It would explore families' SFSP participation decision, help identify gaps in service, and ultimately shed more light on potential reasons for the low participation rate. With this understanding, FNS can refine the program to reach more children more effectively.

#### **Characteristics of Child and Adult Care Food Program Providers**

This study would deepen FNS's understanding of CACFP provider characteristics. It would examine the type and size of providing institutions and homes, characteristics of participants served; types, amounts, and range of reimbursements; and other key characteristics. The study would inform policy about CACFP, ensuring it is able to reach its goals most efficiently, and provide a base for future research.

#### **Study on Nutrition and Wellness Quality of Child Care Settings**

The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Section 223) directs USDA to conduct a nationally representative study of child care providers to assess the nutritional quality of foods provided in child care settings, opportunities for physical activity, and facilitators and barriers to providing healthy foods and physical activity and participation in CACFP.

#### **Child Care Dietary Assessment**

This project would examine the dietary intakes of a nationally representative sample of children in child care centers, including Head Start sites. (Additional funds would be required to extend the project to children in family day care homes.)