

Notice of Instruction

5905 Breckenridge Parkway, Suite F
Tampa, Florida 33610
(813) 740-3888
(800) 336-2226 (FL)
Fax (813) 623-1342

West Central Florida
Area Agency on Aging, Inc.



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Notice of Instruction Number: #050709 – Nutrition Standards - kp

TO: All Nutrition Providers/PSA 6

FROM: Katie Parkinson

DATE: May 7, 2009

SUBJECT: Nutrition Standard Requirement Phase-in Period

cc: WCFAAA Program Managers

The purpose of this notice is to address the reported status of our Nutrition Providers in implementing the nutrient standards outlined in the 2008 *Program and Services Handbook*. In response to the WCFAAA inquiry, all PSA 6 Nutrition Providers reported their current compliance with meeting the requirements outlined in the July 2008 *Program and Services Handbook* both contractually and programmatically. WCFAAA's Nutrition Providers further reported subcontracts with their food vendor have been updated or are in the process of being completed.

In order to ensure full compliance with the requirements of the July 2008 *Program and Services Handbook*, Nutrition Providers are being allowed an 18-month phase-in period (January 1, 2009 - July 1, 2010) for full implementation of the revised nutrient requirements. During the phase-in period, local Nutrition Providers must prepare to comply with the standards in the July 2008 *Program and Services Handbook*. WCFAAA will be monitoring providers to ensure that phase-in of the new standards occurs in a timely fashion. The following areas will be reviewed for compliance during the 2009 OAA Monitoring Cycle:

1. Nutrition Provider staff is familiar with the 2008 *Program and Services Handbook* nutritional requirements.
2. Nutrition Providers have reviewed language in existing contracts and vendor agreements. The Providers' Qualified Dietitians have participated in reviewing the agreements to ensure there is no conflicting language regarding the nutrient standards.

3. Nutrition Providers have identified operation standards that need to be addressed (if any) and have a plan for cure.
4. Nutrition Providers have explored and identified procurement options (if needed).
5. Nutrition providers have developed a procurement plan (if needed) to assure selection of a vendor able to adhere to standards.

The goal of the nutrition program is to enable seniors to remain in their own homes with a high quality of life for as long as possible through the provision of appealing, nutritious meals. The revised nutrient requirements meet the needs of Florida's predominate demographic, the moderately active 70-plus- year-old female. Implementation of these requirements will improve meal quality and increase meal consumption.

Please notify your program manager when you have completed your phase in. Thank you for your continued commitment to Florida's elders. Should you require additional information, please contact your program manager.