




STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Adult Day Care Center Sponsors

**FROM:** Susan H. Boyle, Education Consultant   
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

**DATE:** January 2, 2013

**SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum #04A-13**  
Dietary Accommodations for Celiac Disease in the CACFP

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently provided clarification regarding dietary accommodations for participants with celiac disease in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs. The USDA considers celiac disease to be a disability. Therefore, CACFP adult day care sponsors are **required** to make special dietary accommodations for CACFP participants with celiac disease.

Before adult day care centers can make any dietary accommodations, the participant's family or caregiver must provide a medical statement signed by a **licensed physician**. This statement must identify the following:

- the participant's disability and an explanation of why the disability restricts the participant's diet;
- the major life activity affected by the disability; and
- the food or foods to be omitted from the participant's diet and the food or choice of foods that must be substituted.

The medical statement must be completed in its entirety and all required information must be provided before the adult day care center can make any meal modifications or substitutions for participants with disabilities. This ensures that the modified meal is reimbursable and that any meal modifications meet nutrition standards that are medically appropriate for the participant.

CACFP sponsors should use the *Medical Statement for Participants with Disabilities* form for all participants with celiac disease. This form is available in PDF and Word formats on the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Nutrition Policies and Guidance for Adult Centers Web page at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=322694>.

Special meals for participants with celiac disease are not required to meet the meal pattern requirements because the USDA considers celiac disease to be a disability. Optional accommodations for participants with special dietary needs (without recognized medical disabilities) must continue to meet the CACFP meal pattern.

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The CSDE's guide for adult centers, *Nutrition Policies and Guidance for the CACFP: Accommodating Special Diets*, will be updated in the near future to reflect this information. This guide is available at [http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/deps/nutrition/cacfp/special\\_diets/special\\_diets\\_cacfp\\_adults.pdf](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/deps/nutrition/cacfp/special_diets/special_diets_cacfp_adults.pdf).

For questions about this information, please contact Susan Boyle at 860-807-2074, Celia Cordero at 860-807 2076 or Benedict Onye at 860-807-2080.

SHB:sff

Important: This is a numbered Operational Memorandum that contains important program information. Please read carefully and retain in a binder for future reference. Operational Memoranda are also posted on the Child Nutrition Web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=333794>.