

Donated/Outside Food for Centers

Procedure/Approach

Head Start/Early Head Start does not allow any food served to our children in the centers that has been sourced from outside of the Agency. Whether purchased, homemade or donated, the food is not to be served to children due to allergy, choking or contamination risk.

Food donations from verified food program community partners may be distributed to families for their private use outside of the classroom.

Head Start Program Performance Standards:

1302.44 (a) (1) (b)

Outside Food

- All food served for CACFP/USDA creditable meals must be from licensed and contracted vendors.
- A program must use funds from USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services child nutrition programs as the primary source of payment for meal services. Meals cannot be claimed for reimbursement if any or all of the CACFP meal requirements have been donated.
- A program must design and implement nutrition services that are culturally and developmentally appropriate, meet the nutritional needs of and accommodate the feeding requirements of each child, including children with special dietary needs and children with disabilities.
- To verify food safety and sanitation, food that has been out of our procurement, storage and preparation control can never be served to children.
- Nutrition activities must be approved by the Nutrition Department with the intent to educate and expose our classrooms to family and cultural traditions. These activities must adhere to the Head Start Nutrition service requirements. 13.02.44 (a) (1) (2)
- Food donated to the SOCFC centers must have prior approval of the Area Manager and the Nutrition Manager.