MEMORANDUM

TO: All Child and Adult Care Food Program Administrators

FROM: Mary A. Young, Program Manager
Child and Adult Care Food Program

SUBJECT: Crediting of Corn Meal (Cornmeal) and Corn Flour for Grains/Breads Component, Policy 08-04

To be credited as a grains/breads component for Food-Based Menu Planning approaches for all Child Nutrition Programs (including schools, child and adult care, and summer programs), grain products must be enriched or whole-grain, or made from enriched or whole-grain meal and/or flour. Bran and germ are credited the same as enriched or whole-grain meal or flour.

For a number of years, the Child Nutrition Programs allowed corn meal (cornmeal) and corn flour to be counted as a whole grain for crediting grains/breads. This is because the standard of identity for “corn meal” and “corn flour” was interpreted as yielding a whole grain.

On February 17, 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration published a draft guidance entitled Whole Grain Label Statements that contained the following statement: “Degerminated and bolted cornmeals should not be considered whole grain products because germ or bran has been removed during processing. Because the rest of the meal [flour] standards allow removal of some of the hull, these also should not be considered whole grain products.” This clarification by FDA of the standards of identity for “corn meal” and “corn flour” indicates that these products should no longer be considered as whole grains for the Child Nutrition Programs.

Therefore, beginning July 1, 2008, to be credited toward meeting meal pattern requirements for a grain/bread, corn must be labeled as…

1. “whole corn” (or other “whole” corn designations, such as whole grain corn, whole ground corn, whole cornmeal, whole corn flour, etc.), or

2. “enriched” corn (or other “enriched” corn designations, such as enriched yellow cornmeal, enriched corn flour, enriched corn grits, etc.). As a reminder, “enriched” means thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, iron and folic acid have been added.

Please note that this policy will make some food items that are currently being served (corn chips, tortilla chips, cheese flavored puffs, etc.) not creditable. Individuals purchasing food for use in CACFP programs must read the ingredient list on the food label to ensure that food items are creditable. In addition, effective July 1, 2008, you must have a copy of the food label (which includes the ingredient list) on file when items such as corn chips, tortilla chips, etc. are served.

Please contact your CACFP consultant if you have any further questions concerning this policy.