

**Training Needs Assessment of
Adult Day Care Directors Participating in the
Child and Adult Care Food Program**



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National Food Service Management Institute The University of Mississippi

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The purpose of NFSMI is to improve the operation of Child Nutrition Programs through research, education and training, and information dissemination. The Administrative Offices and Divisions of Information Services and Education and Training are located in Oxford. The Division of Applied Research is located at The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

MISSION

The mission of the NFSMI is to provide information and services that promote the continuous improvement of Child Nutrition Programs.

VISION

The vision of the NFSMI is to be the leader in providing education, research, and resources to promote excellence in Child Nutrition Programs.

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TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF ADULT DAY CARE DIRECTORS PARTICIPATING IN THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Adult Care Food Program (ACFP), which operates within the prevailing guidelines of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), plays a major role in adult care services by ensuring the recipients are provided affordable nutritious meals and snacks. With the growing number of adult day care programs receiving ACFP benefits, the importance of having well-trained professionals is more apparent than ever before.

The purpose of this study was to determine the training needs and issues associated with adult day care professionals (institution directors) participating in the CACFP, and to identify demographic characteristics of the institution directors and programs that contribute to the delivery of training. Using telephone survey methodology, researchers were able to gather information from adult day care directors representing 17 states within the seven USDA regions.

The majority of survey respondents operate a single adult day care site, have been a director for ten years or greater, and possess the minimum of a baccalaureate degree. The findings indicate survey respondents not only take part in training, but also believe training their staff strengthens their knowledge and skills in following and operating an ACFP within compliance of program rules and regulations. Respondents expressed a preference for small group training sessions, and believed they would benefit from training resources provided in a diverse format, such as written materials/manuals, Web-based resources, and DVDs/videos.

State agencies and training developers are advised to consider strengthening their training efforts to directors who administer adult day care programs by providing diverse training formats

tailored to the adult day care director and staff. These diverse training formats could include written materials/manuals, Web-based resources, and DVDs/videos. Promoting and maintaining comprehensive training opportunities in diverse formats will positively influence the partnership between the state agency and institution directors who oversee adult day care programs that operate in compliance with the ACFP guidelines.