

§ 227.36

large, (i) use of Program funds in compliance with all regulations, instructions, or other guidance material provided by FNS, (j) coordinating the submission and preparation of the Program financial status report (SF-269), and (k) annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the State Plan.

§ 227.36 Requirements of needs assessment.

(a) The needs assessment is an ongoing process which identifies the discrepancies between “what should be” and “what is” and shall be applied to each category listed below to enable State agencies to determine their nutrition education and training needs for each year. The needs assessment shall identify the following as a minimum:

(1) Children, teachers, and food service personnel in need of nutrition education and training; (2) existing State or federally funded nutrition education and training programs including their: (i) Goals and objectives; (ii) source and level of funding; (iii) any available documentation of their relative success or failure; and (iv) factors contributing to their success or failure; (3) offices or agencies at the State and local level designated to be responsible for nutrition education and training of teachers and school food service personnel; (4) any relevant State nutrition education mandates; (5) funding levels at the State and local level for preservice and inservice nutrition education and training of food service personnel and teachers; (6) State and local individuals, and groups conducting nutrition education and training; (7) materials which are currently available for nutrition education and training programs, and determine for each: (i) Subject area and content covered; (ii) grade level; (iii) how utilized; (iv) acceptability by user; (v) currency of materials; (8) any major child nutrition related health problems in each State; (9) existing sources of primary and secondary data, including any data that has been collected for documenting the State’s nutrition education and training needs; (10) available documentation of the competencies of teachers in the area of nutrition education; (11) available documentation of the com-

petencies of food service personnel; (12) problems encountered by schools and institutions in procuring nutritious food economically and in preparing nutritious appetizing meals and areas where training can assist in alleviating these problems; (13) problems teachers encounter in conducting effective nutrition education activities and areas where inservice training or materials can assist in alleviating these problems; (14) problems in dietary habits of children and areas where nutrition education may assist in positive changes; (15) problems encountered in coordinating the nutrition education by teachers with the meal preparation and activities of the food service facility and areas where training might alleviate these problems.

(b) The needs assessment should be an ongoing process and provide not only data on current activities but also a description of the problems and needs in each category and whether training or materials would help alleviate the identified problems.

§ 227.37 State plan for nutrition education and training.

(a) *General.* Each fiscal year the State agency shall submit a State plan for Nutrition Education and Training for approval to FNS. The State plan shall be based on the needs identified from the ongoing needs assessment and evaluation of the State plans from previous years. The State plan shall be submitted in accordance with § 227.30(e). Guidance for the preparation and submission of the State plan shall be provided by FNS.

(b) *Requirements for the State plan.* The State plan shall provide the following:

(1) Description of the ongoing needs assessment conducted within the State;

(2) The findings of the needs assessment within the State used to determine the goals and objectives of the State plan and results of the evaluation of the previous years’ State plans for:

(i) Inservice training of food service personnel, (ii) nutrition education of children, (iii) inservice training in nutrition education for teachers;