

*agencies.* The State agency must enter into written agreements with local or subdistributing agencies prior to making commodities or administrative funds available to them. The agreements must contain the information specified in paragraph (b) of this section.

Agreements between State and local agencies must also contain the information specified in paragraph (c) of this section. Copies of all agreements must be kept on file by the parties to the agreements.

(3) *Agreements between local and subdistributing agencies and other agencies.* The State agency must ensure that local and subdistributing agencies enter into written agreements with other agencies prior to making commodities or administrative funds available to these other agencies. The agreements must contain the information specified in paragraph (b) of this section. Copies of all agreements must be kept on file by the parties to the agreements.

(b) *What are the required contents of agreements?* All agreements described under paragraphs (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this section must contain the following:

(1) An assurance that each agency will administer the program in accordance with the provisions of this part and with the provisions of part 250 of this chapter, unless they are inconsistent with the provisions of this part.

(2) An assurance that each agency will maintain accurate and complete records for a period of three years from the close of the fiscal year to which they pertain, or longer if the records are related to unresolved claims actions, audits, or investigations.

(3) A statement that each agency receiving commodities for distribution is responsible for any loss resulting from improper distribution, or improper storage, care, or handling of commodities.

(4) A statement that each agency receiving program funds is responsible for any misuse of program funds.

(5) A description of the specific functions that the State, subdistributing, or local agency is delegating to another agency.

(6) A statement that the agreement may be terminated by either party upon 30 days' written notice.

(c) *What other assurances or information must be included in agreements between State and local agencies?* In addition to the requirements under paragraph (b) of this section, agreements between State and local agencies must contain the following:

(1) An assurance that the local agency will provide, or cause to be provided,

nutrition education to participants, as required in § 247.18.

(2) An assurance that the local agency will provide information to participants on other health, nutrition, and public assistance programs, and make referrals as appropriate, as required in § 247.14.

(3) An assurance that the local agency will distribute commodities in accordance with the approved food package guide rate.

(4) An assurance that the local agency will take steps to prevent and detect dual participation, as required in § 247.19.

(5) The names and addresses of all certification, distribution, and storage sites under the jurisdiction of the local agency.

(d) *What is the duration of required agreements?* All agreements between FNS and State agencies are considered permanent, but may be amended at the initiation of State agencies or at the request of FNS. All amendments must be approved by FNS. The State agency establishes the duration of agreements it signs with local agencies or subdistributing agencies. The State agency may establish, or permit the local or subdistributing agency to establish, the duration of agreements between local or subdistributing agencies and other agencies.

#### **§ 247.5 State and local agency responsibilities.**

State and local agencies are responsible for administering the program in accordance with the provisions of this part, and with the provisions of part 250 of this chapter, as applicable. Although the State agency may delegate specific responsibilities to another agency, the State agency is ultimately responsible for all aspects of program administration. Following is an outline of the major responsibilities of State and local agencies; it is not intended to be all-inclusive.

(a) *What are the major responsibilities shared by State and local agencies?* The major responsibilities shared by State and local agencies include:

(1) Entering into required agreements.

(2) Ordering commodities for distribution.

(3) Storing and distributing commodities.

(4) Establishing procedures for resolving complaints about commodities.

(5) Complying with civil rights requirements.

(6) Maintaining accurate and complete records.

(7) Conducting program outreach.

(b) *What are the major State agency responsibilities?* The major

responsibilities of State agencies include:

(1) Completing and submitting the State Plan.

(2) Selecting local agencies to administer the program in local areas of the State.

(3) Determining caseload needs, and submitting caseload requests to FNS.

(4) Assigning caseload, and allocating administrative funds, to local agencies.

(5) Establishing eligibility requirements, in accordance with the options provided to the State agency under § 247.9. (This function may not be delegated to another agency.)

(6) Establishing nutritional risk criteria and a residency requirement for participants, if such criteria are to be used.

(7) Establishing a financial management system that effectively accounts for funds received for program administration.

(8) Developing a plan for the detection and prevention of dual participation, in coordination with CSFP local agencies and with the State WIC agency.

(9) Developing a plan for providing nutrition education to participants.

(10) Establishing appeals and fair hearing procedures for local agencies and program participants.

(11) Developing a management review system and conducting reviews of local agencies. (This function may not be delegated to another agency.)

(12) Determining and pursuing claims, and establishing standards for pursuit of claims against participants.

(13) Ensuring compliance with Federal audit requirements.

(14) Providing guidance to local agencies, as needed.

(c) *What are the major local agency responsibilities?* The major local agency responsibilities include:

(1) Determining eligibility of applicants in accordance with eligibility criteria established by the State agency.

(2) Complying with fiscal and operational requirements established by the State agency.

(3) Ensuring that participation does not exceed the caseload assigned by the State agency.

(4) Issuing foods to participants in accordance with the established food package guide rates.

(5) Providing nutrition education and information on the availability of other nutrition and health assistance programs to participants.

(6) Informing applicants of their rights and responsibilities in the program.

(7) Meeting the special needs of the homebound elderly, to the extent possible.

(8) Pursuing claims against participants.