



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Food and
Nutrition
Service**

Southeast Region

**61 Forsyth St. S.W.
Room 8T36
Atlanta, GA
30303-3415**

July 2, 2008

Dear Colleague:

Congress is scheduled to reauthorize the Child Nutrition Programs and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) in Fiscal Year 2009. Programs affected by the reauthorization bill will include WIC, the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Program, and the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. The reauthorization process provides Congress with a regular opportunity to examine program operations and effectiveness, and to consider potential changes to the laws governing the programs. In anticipation of the reauthorization, the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is gathering information to help clarify the needs and concerns of our Program cooperators, participants, and partners at the State and local levels. We believe this information will be useful to Congress as it considers potential program changes; and will also assist the next Administration in determining whether to offer specific recommendations to Congress. I am pleased to invite you to participate in this information-gathering process.

Representatives from State agencies, local program offices, professional organizations, industry, and advocacy groups, as well as program participants, their families, and other interested parties located within the States of the Southeast Region are invited to attend a listening session in Atlanta, Georgia, on August 20, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. During the session, representatives from the FNS Regional and National Offices will listen to recommendations for the programs. This listening session will be one important piece of a larger FNS information-gathering initiative.

All comments presented at the listening session will be considered during the reauthorization process. While not required, participants are strongly encouraged to provide written copies of their comments. Attendees may choose to focus comments on, but need not be limited to, issues within the following three themes:

1. Strengthening program management and improving nutrition
2. Ensuring all eligible people have access to program benefits
3. Advancing technology and innovation

I hope that you will be able to join us on August 20, 2008, to share your vision and perspectives on these vitally important nutrition assistance programs. To RSVP, please respond no later than August 6, 2008, in one of the following ways:

- Phone: (404) 562-7106
- Fax: (404)527-4518 or 4514
- Email: serolisteningsession@fns.usda.gov
- Mail: USDA/Food and Nutrition Service
61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Room 8T36
Atlanta, GA 30303
ATTN: Listening Session

After an RSVP is submitted, FNS will respond with additional details of the agenda and the meeting format.

If you are unable to attend, you may fax or mail comments and recommendations to our office via any of the above addresses. In addition, FNS will publish a Federal Register notice to solicit comments on the above three themes and include the opportunity to submit comments online. FNS must receive all comments by October 15, 2008.

Please share this invitation with other interested groups. Enclosed are the following documents: the RSVP, Draft Agenda, and the Recommendation/Suggestion Form. Thank you for your consideration and for the important role you play in making a positive difference in the health and nutrition of our Nation.

Sincerely,



for DONALD E. ARNETTE
Regional Administrator

Enclosure



**Child Nutrition and WIC Listening Session
 Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
 Conference Room D
 61 Forsyth Street, SW
 Atlanta Georgia 30303
 August 20, 2008**

R S V P

To be returned no later than August 6, 2008

Session # 1	9:00 AM – 11:15 AM
Session # 2	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

_____ **YES! I plan to make a 5 minute oral statement** for the following Program:

Child Nutrition _____

WIC _____

(Please also complete the Recommendation/Suggestion Form. You are encouraged to leave your written statement at the Listening Session)

_____ **NO, I will not be able to attend, but I will be providing written recommendations(s) and/or suggestions(s).**

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61 Forsyth Street, SW – Suite 8T36
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
ATTN: Listening Session



**Child Nutrition and WIC Listening Session
August 20, 2008 Atlanta, GA**

Organization Representatives

Name

Title

Organization/Agency

Address

Telephone Number

Email Address

Fax Number

Additional Representatives from your organization:

Name

Title

Name

Title

Name

Title

Name

Title

Name

Title

Do you need special accommodations? _____ If so, please specify:



**Child Nutrition and WIC Listening Session
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Southeast Region
August 20, 2008**

Draft AGENDA

Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Remarks Donald E. Arnette, Regional Administrator	9:00 a.m.
Listening Session Testimonies	9:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
BREAK	11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Listening Session Testimonies (Continued)	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Closing Remarks Donald E. Arnette, Regional Administrator	1:00 p.m.



Child Nutrition and WIC Listening Session – August 20, 2008

Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center – Conference Room D
61 Forsyth Street, SW – Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RECOMMENDATION / SUGGESTION FORM

Written comments can be submitted in person, faxed, electronically, or mailed to:

Fax: (404) 527-4518 or 4514
Email: serolisteningsession@fns.usda.gov
Mail: USDA/Food and Nutrition Service
61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Room 8T36
Atlanta, GA 30303
ATTN: Listening Session

Submitted by: Name: _____
Title: _____

Organization/Agency: _____
Address: _____

Recommendation(s) or Suggestion(s):

Please use additional sheets if necessary. Thank you for your input!