

Date: 04/04/2022

Feeding our Future Timeline

- Feeding Our Future is a sponsor who participated in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Below is a timeline that details MDE's diligent efforts to catch the unexplained growth of Feeding Our Future's programs very early on, flag it for the USDA, and continue pushing until we eventually began working with the FBI.

Pre-2020

- Feeding our Future (FOF) operated as CACFP multi-site sponsor. MDE, as required by federal regulations conducted an initial administrative review. MDE discussed the findings of that review and worked with FOF to develop a corrective action plan.

2020

- March: FOF applies for SFSP.
- March: First national waivers issued in response to COVID pandemic:
 - Meal Time Flexibility (March 20, 2020)
 - Non-congregant dining (March 20, 2020)
 - Community Eligibility guidelines (March 25, 2020)
 - Meal Pattern (March 25, 2020)
 - Parent Pickup (March 25, 2020)
- June: Feeding Our Future began operating the Summer Food Service Program.
- Summer: MDE observed rapid growth in the number of community sites sponsored by Feeding Our Future as well as an exponential increase in the rate of meal reimbursement claims and dollars flowing to this sponsor. During this time, MDE staff reached out to the USDA Midwest Regional Office seeking advice and support.
- October: MDE escalated the issue to the USDA Office of the Inspector General.
- November: After MDE raised concerns about the number of new sites being sponsored by Feeding our Future and the increase in meal reimbursement claims, Feeding Our Future filed a lawsuit against MDE in Ramsey County, related to 143 site applications.
- December: MDE stopped approving Feeding Our Future's new SFSP site applications. MDE denied dozens of Feeding Our Future site applications that month (during the pandemic, SFSP was operational during the entire 2020-21 school year).

2021

- January: MDE declared Feeding Our Future seriously deficient due to incomplete financial audits and a lapsed non-profit status with the IRS.
- March:
 - MDE again declared Feeding Our Future seriously deficient for non-conformance with CACFP Performance Standards. As a result of the seriously deficient determination, MDE denied multiple applications from Feeding Our Future to open more sites.
 - As a result of this second serious deficiency determination, MDE issued a “stop pay” order that halted all payments to Feeding our Future to give MDE time to verify that all meal claim reimbursements submitted were valid and allowable.
- April:
 - FOF files temporary restraining order (TRO) motions in Ramsey County case to force MDE to process applications faster and lift the “stop pay” put on FOF and its sites.
 - Ramsey County judge tells MDE that it does not have the authority to stop payment to Feeding Our Future and must continue to pay Feeding our Future’s claims.
 - MDE rejects all pending FOF site applications for failure to conform to performance standards noted in the serious deficiency.
- May: FOF submits corrective action plan for serious deficiency.
- June:
 - MDE accepts FOF corrective action plan.
 - Judge in Ramsey County case issues an order related to motions from April, holding in part:
 - MDE is in contempt for failing to process FOF applications;
 - fines MDE \$35,750 payable to FOF, citing MDE’s attempts to slow down application process;
 - orders MDE to pay FOF’s attorneys fees in the amount of \$11.750; and
 - allowed FOF to file an amended complaint with an allegation of defamation.
- July: FOF files another motion for contempt against MDE in the Ramsey County case because MDE rejected the 143 site applications that the FOF previously sued over for not being processed quickly enough.
- August: MDE grants FOF access to apply for additional sites based on Court’s rulings.
- September: FOF files additional discovery motions against MDE.
- October: FOF moves for another temporary restraining order and injunction.
- December: FOF files motion to compel production of additional documents in the Ramsey County case.

2022

- January:
 - Federal law enforcement agents executed multiple search warrants at properties associated with site operations under Feeding Our Future, a sponsor of USDA child nutrition programs across the state of Minnesota.
 - MDE moved to immediately terminate Feeding Our Future’s permanent agreements under the USDA’s Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program, and issued a “stop pay” order to halt all payments to Feeding our Future.

Amount of Funds Distributed to FOF by Calendar Year

Total between CACFP and SFSP is \$268,422,523.95

Calendar Year	CACFP	SFSP
2018	\$ 307,253.32	-
2019	\$ 5,485,592.05	-
2020	\$ 9,497,093.28	\$ 69,631,201.52
2021	\$ 48,100,521.40	\$ 135,400,862.38
Total	\$ 63,390,460.05	\$ 205,032,063.90