



100 North First Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001

## CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY, AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTIONS

### NUTRITION DEPARTMENT

This certification is required by the regulations implementing Executive Orders [12549](#) and [12689](#), Debarment and Suspension, [2 CFR part 3485](#), including Subpart C Responsibilities of Participants Regarding Transactions (also see federal guidance at [2 CFR part 180](#)).

Child Nutrition Program Operators are required to ensure that all sub-contractors and sub-grantees are neither excluded nor disqualified under the suspension and debarment rules found at [2 CFR 200.212](#) by doing any **one** of the following:

- Checking the [Excluded Parties List](#) found at the System for Award Management (SAM) [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov).
- Collecting a certification that the entity is neither excluded nor disqualified. Since a federal certification form is no longer available, the grantee or sub-grantee electing this method must devise its own.
- Including a clause to this effect in the sub-grant agreement and in any procurement, contract expected to equal or exceed \$25,000, awarded by the grantee or a sub-grantee under its grant or sub-grant.
- Sub-grantee and contractors must obtain a Unique Entity ID. All Federal Government awards are required to have a Unique Entity ID. To obtain a Unique Entity ID, visit [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov) to register. There is no charge for a Unique Entity ID. The Unique Entity ID serves as a means of tracking and identifying applications for Federal assistance and is required on all applications for Federal assistance.

**BEFORE COMPLETING CERTIFICATION, READ INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.**

## CERTIFICATION

The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this Certification, that:

1. Neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
2. It will provide immediate written notice to whom this Certification is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
3. It shall not knowingly enter any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.
4. It will include the clause titled *Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion—Lower Tier Covered Transactions*, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
5. The certifications herein are a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into.
6. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this Certification.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company/Organization Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
PR/Award Number or Project Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Company / Organization  
Authorized Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Digital or Original** Signature of  
Authorized Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Instructions for Certification

1. By signing and submitting this Certification, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certifications set out herein.
2. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue all available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
3. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 3 above, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue all available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
4. The terms *covered transaction*, *debarred*, *suspended*, *ineligible*, *lower tier covered transaction*, *participant*, *person*, *primary covered transaction*, *principal*, *proposal*, and *voluntarily excluded*, as used herein, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order [12549](#) and Executive Order [12689](#). You may contact the person to which this Certification is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
5. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the "GSA Government- Wide System for Award Management Exclusions" (SAM Exclusions) at <http://www.sam.gov>.
6. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required herein. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.