

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHY

Name: Sandra J. Rhoades, MPH, RD
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Sandra has Masters degree in Public Health Nutrition from the University of Michigan and is a Registered Dietitian. She has worked for the NYS Dept of Health for 25 years; 16 of those for CACFP. Sandra directs the CACFP Homes Unit, which involves all aspects of approval, payment and review of family child care sponsors and providers. Her recent initiatives are to increase the participation of legally exempt and immigrant providers in CACFP, particularly those in New York City. She is also excited to be working with colleagues to design and implement a childhood obesity prevention program in day care home settings. Prior to working for the NYS Department of Health, Sandra developed community nutrition services for residents of the St. Regis Mohawk Indian Reservation in Upstate NY. Sandra originally hails from the Midwest; she was born in Iowa and grew up in Michigan.

Sandra is a working mother of two college bound children who began their child care experiences in a family child care home. They later transitioned to Kinder-Care and after school care programs. Now that they are older, she no longer has to stand in line in the wee hours of a blustery cold Northeast March morning to get slots in a summer day camp.