

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

ALTSD stated that current rules for nutrition do not prevent programs from growing their own fruits and vegetables for consumption or for preparation of meals served in the programs. A number of programs operate community gardens on site. The fresh fruits and vegetables grown are a wholesome addition to the meals served, and if bountiful, are distributed to participants for use at home. Promulgation of rules by ALTSD may create a conflict with the programs that already operate community gardens.

ALTSD also said that the amendment requiring the department to train appropriate persons, will add an unfunded mandate requiring staff time and resources not currently available.

ALTERNATIVES

Peer training and technical assistance provided by staff of senior centers that have on-site gardens to staff of senior centers wishing to start on-site gardens.

EC/jle/sb/jle