

Monthly Update



Child and Adult Care Food Program

April 15, 2024

Distributed to CACFP Authorized Representatives and Home Sponsors via Email and posted at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, CACFP, CACFP Monthly Updates

Claim Update

School Finance (SF) will resume posting payments Tuesday mornings, allowing Sponsors to be paid via direct deposit on Fridays. CACFP Claims are typically posted the first four Tuesdays of each month. Center and Sponsor Claims in "Approved" status by 8:00 a.m. each applicable Tuesday morning will be paid that week. Questions related to claims can be directed to Dessa Gifford at either drgifford@ksde.org or (785) 296-4965.

Claim Update – Home Sponsoring Organizations Only

March claims must be in "Pending Approval" status by 3:00 p.m. Monday, April 22, 2024, so that payments can be directly deposited on Friday, April 26, 2024.

New USDA Guidance & Resources

Proposed Rule: Serious Deficiency Process in the CACFP & SFSP

On February 21, 2024, Food and Nutrition Service published the Proposed Rule entitled "Serious Deficiency Process in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)" in the Federal Register. The proposed rule can be viewed here: [Federal Register Notice](#)

Through this proposed rulemaking, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is proposing important modifications to the serious deficiency process in CACFP, extending the process to CACFP unaffiliated sponsored centers, and establishing a serious deficiency process in SFSP. These changes will improve consistency in language and process among statute, regulations, and guidance for both CACFP and SFSP. Additionally, these changes will improve consistency in the serious deficiency process within and across States and strengthen program integrity.

This rule also proposes updates to the suspension process in CACFP and proposes options on implementing suspension in SFSP. Additionally, this rule proposes options on termination and disqualification procedures for school food authorities that operate SFSP and CACFP. Please see FNS's [Serious Deficiency Process in the CACFP and SFSP](#) webpage for more information, including a summary chart of proposed provisions.

SFSP 08-2024 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas: Questions and Answers #2

25. Q. Could adults other than parents or guardians and with written permission on file from the household pick-up meals on behalf of parents or guardians?

- A. No, only parents or guardians may pick-up meals on behalf of their children (7 CFR 225.16(i)(2)). Other adults (i.e., proxies) may not pick up meals without the child(ren) present.



27. Q. Is it permissible for a childcare provider, such as a day care operator or childcare center operator, located in a rural area to collect meals for the children who attend their childcare services?

- A. No, childcare providers cannot collect Program meals on behalf of parents or guardians for children attending their childcare. Childcare providers who care for whole groups of unrelated children formally enrolled in their care should not be considered guardians under the State agency's definition. Allowing a childcare provider to collect and distribute meals on behalf of groups of children introduces significant integrity risks, especially concerning meal duplication, ensuring meals reach eligible children, and food safety risks during transportation, storage, or distribution. In cases where children in childcare settings could benefit from non-congregate meals, FNS strongly encourages State agencies and sponsors to collaborate with local childcare providers. They should explore the feasibility of these providers becoming summer meal sites or participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to support meals for children in their care.

30. Q. Can non-congregate home delivery service be provided at addresses where the child does not reside?

- A. No. As outlined in Program regulations at 7 CFR 225.14(d)(6), non-congregate meal delivery should only be sent directly to a child's residence with prior written consent from a parent or guardian. Non-congregate home delivery may not be sent to daycare home programs, short-term rentals, or vacation properties.

New Food Yields Added to the Food Buying Guide

New yields are now available in the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based (FBG) Tool and FBG Mobile App! New yield data is available for: USDA Foods canned mixed fruit and canned beef, smoked salmon fillet, cactus fruit (prickly pear), purple rice, instant long grain brown rice, and quick cooking medium grain brown rice. Stay tuned for additional yield data releases coming soon. Explore the [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#) today!

Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs

Sponsors who wish to use an online or accept electronic signatures on any child nutrition form, including the Consent for Disclosure, must complete the Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs form located in Chapter 7 of Food Service Facts. The Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs form must be completed annually and returned to CNW at cnw@ksde.org. A recording can be accessed on the KSDE Training Portal at <https://learning.ksde.org>, Child Nutrition Programs, General Classes, 2024-2025 Request to Use Electronic Transactions.

Summer Meals Text Numbers and Hunger Hotline

The automated texting service which connects families to local summer meal sites is 914-342-7744. The USDA National Hunger Hotline number is also available. Individuals can call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE to speak with a representative who will find food resources such as meal sites, food banks, and other nearby social services. Parents and caregivers can also text the word "FOOD" or "COMIDA" to 304-304 to find the nearest meal sites through the No Kid Hungry Hotline.



Professional Development Update

Professional development is offered through the KSDE Training Portal and through live virtual events via Zoom. A full listing of live virtual events and links can be found on the CNW Calendar at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, Training, CNW Calendar. No pre-registration is required for the live virtual classes through Zoom. Upcoming trainings include: Food Safety Basics on April 17 from 2-5 pm, SFSP Menu Planning on April 23 from 2-4 pm, and Equipment Upkeep on May 1 from 2-4 pm.

Online Professional Development Classes and Tutorials

Over 30 classes and tutorials, including the 3-hour Food Safety Basics class, can be accessed free of charge 24/7 via the KSDE Training Portal. Create an account at <https://learning.ksde.org>. For detailed instructions on creating an account, go to <https://cnw.ksde.org>, Training. **New to the portal:** 2024 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas and Healthier CACFP Award.

The Heartland Farm to ECE Institute

The Heartland Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Institute program application is now available! The Heartland Farm to ECE Institute is a year-long program aimed to create new or expand existing Farm to ECE efforts in the cafeteria, the classroom, and the community.

Eligible applicants must participate in either the CACFP or the NSLP, and serve an ECE program such as a Head Start, Early Head Start, Child Care Center, or Preschool OR be a sponsoring organization of the CACFP.

Participation in the Institute is free. The program will kick off with a retreat November 13-15, 2024, in Nebraska City, NE at the [Arbor Day Farm Lied Lodge](#). Registration, lodging and meals for the retreat are included in program. Following the retreat, participants will have one-on-one support from a coach throughout the program to set goals and implement activities. Regular meetings with the state agencies and partnering organizations will also take place for resources, technical assistance, and training. The program will conclude October 2025.

Find the application to apply [here](#), or on the [CNW website](#) under Farm to Plate/What's New. The application will be open until April 30th. Applications will be notified of selection by June 3rd.

For more information or questions regarding the Institute, please contact Eryn Davis at edavis@ksde.org or 785-296-5060.

Kansas Appleseed 2024 Hunger Action Summits

Join Kansas Appleseed and fellow community members to collaborate on ways to expand food access across Kansas. At each summit, folks will have the exciting opportunity to dialogue with anti-hunger advocates, collaborate in workshops, listen to presentations from community experts, and much more!

- **Southwest Kansas Summit:** Thursday, May 23, 2024, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Lee Richardson Zoo Baffa Lecture Hall, Garden City, KS 67846. Register here: [//bit.ly/GC2024HAS](https://bit.ly/GC2024HAS)
- **Southeast Kansas Summit:** Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at Bowlus Fine Arts Center, Iola, KS 66749. Register Here: [//bit.ly/Iola2024HAS](https://bit.ly/Iola2024HAS)
- **Topeka Summit:** Wednesday, May 29, 2024, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Topeka Public Library, Topeka, KS 66604. Register Here: [//bit.ly/Tpka2024HAS](https://bit.ly/Tpka2024HAS)



Child Nutrition & Wellness KANSANS CAN 2023-24 Best Practice Awards

We encourage you and your staff to make nominations for outstanding and/or innovative practices for recognition of your heroic efforts this past program year. A simple one-page nomination entry form is available at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, SNP, SNP What's New. **Nominations are due to the Child Nutrition & Wellness office on or before June 30, 2024.** Awardees will be notified by July 31 and presentations will be made at the August State Board of Education meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact any Child Nutrition & Wellness team member if we can be of assistance with the application process. We look forward to receiving your nominations and celebrating the Kansans CAN Best Practice Awards with you at the August 2024 State Board of Education Meeting.

As always, please call or email your area child nutrition consultant or the Topeka office with any questions. The CNW team is always happy to assist!

The CNW Team



For more information, contact:

Kelly Chanay
Director, Child Nutrition & Wellness
(785) 296-2276
<https://cnw.ksde.org>
kchanay@ksde.org

Kansas State Department of Education
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.