

# Monthly Update

## Child and Adult Care Food Program



February 8, 2024

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

### **Claim Updates – All CACFP Sponsors**

All claims for reimbursement submitted by COB on Thursday, February 22, 2024, will be paid on February 29, 2024. **All CACFP claims will only be processed once per month.**

**\*\*Home Sponsoring Organizations Only:** The due date for the January claim has been moved up one day to Thursday, February 22. Claims must be entered and certified by 3:00 pm February 22 so that payments can be directly deposited on February 29.

### **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>, CACFP, CACFP 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.

### **Healthier CACFP Award Application**

The Healthier CACFP Award criteria and application were recently updated. The Healthier CACFP Award is a recognition system that supports the wellness efforts of child care providers, day care center staff, and home providers participating in the CACFP. Caregivers going above and beyond the Program requirements by taking steps to improve the menus, physical activity, professional development, nutrition, and wellness environment and/or infant care can apply for an award in one or more of these categories. Three award levels are offered: Honors, High Honors and Highest Honors. For more information and to access the application and resource book visit <https://cnw.ksde.org>, CACFP, USDA Healthier CACFP Award or email Karen Seymour at [kseymour@ksde.org](mailto:kseymour@ksde.org). CNW will be hosting a webinar explaining the award and the application process on March 5 from 1-2 pm at the following link: <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/84356626761?pwd=eDVNNGFLVfk1enFBOXZOT0hsbmJjQT09> Passcode: 880161

### **Online Professional Development – Classes and Tutorials**

CNW staff continue to develop new interactive online trainings and tutorials that can be accessed free of charge 24/7 via the KSDE Training Portal. Accounts can be created at <https://learning.ksde.org>. For detailed instructions on creating an account, go to <https://cnw.ksde.org>, Training, How to Create Online Account. New to the portal this month: Nutrition Education in Child Nutrition Programs (3 hours).



### Professional Development Opportunities

Many opportunities for learning are available for CACFP Sponsors. Go to <https://cnw.ksde.org>, Training, CNW Calendar to access the class list with dates, times, and Zoom links. Upcoming trainings include Food Safety Basics on February 21 from 2-5 pm and Managing Food Allergies on March 6 from 2-3 pm.

### Virtual Wellness Workshops in February – Wellness Wednesdays

Join KSDE for the "Wellness Wednesdays" webinar series. A one-hour virtual Zoom session will be offered each Wednesday morning in February with topics aimed at assisting Kansas school wellness committees in implementing wellness policies and creating healthier school environments. Sessions will be from 9:30 am to 10:30 am at the following link:

<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/83632335961?pwd=WTRDSUtoSi90L3FUZ1pUWjUwSGtmdz09>.

Participants will receive a certificate of participation for each session they complete. Recordings of each session will be available on the KSDE Training Portal at a later date.

- **February 14, Supporting Health & Wellness Through Gardening.** Gardens encourage healthful eating as a key component of children's physical and mental wellbeing and support academic and social success. Join KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness and Pantaleon Florez III, Experiential Learning Specialist at USD 497 Lawrence, to learn about Farm to School grant projects in Kansas and hear how gardens are being used as positive learning environments.
- **February 21, Strategies & Resources to Promote Social/Emotional Health.** Join KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness, Kent Reed, KSDE School Counseling Program Manager, and Hanna Kemble-Mick, School Counselor Leader Consultant, in discussing social/emotional health and how nutrition can play a role. Learn about resources available to promote social/emotional health and to ensure children have the nutrition security needed to be socially, emotionally, and academically successful.
- **February 28, Safe Routes to School.** Join KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness, the Kansas Department of Transportation, and the Kansas Department of Health & Environment for a Safe Routes to School program introduction and overview. Learn why Safe Routes to School is an important part of Kansas School Wellness Policy Guidelines under Physical Activity and hear ways that Kansas students and their families can walk, bike, and roll to school safely, comfortably, and enjoyably.

### Food Buying Guide Interactive Features – NEW!

Team Nutrition is excited to announce new tools and food yields in the Food Buying Guide (FBG) for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based Tool.

- Interactive flow chart on using the preparation yield walks users through when to use the Preparation Yield factor in the Recipe Analysis Workbook (RAW).
- An Ounces to Pounds Calculator allows users to easily convert ounces to pounds and pounds to ounces to make converting units a breeze.
- New foods are available in the FBG. New additions consist of USDA Foods frozen mixed vegetables and a variety of meat items.

Explore the [Food Buying Guide](#) today!

### 2024 National CACFP Conference

The National CACFP Sponsors Association (NCA) serves as a national platform that provides education, support, and resources to organizations who administer the CACFP. This year's conference will be held in Orlando, April 22-26, 2024. For information go to: [National Conference - National CACFP Sponsors Association](#).



### CACFP Week is March 10-16!

We look forward to seeing how you celebrate National CACFP week and National Nutrition Month! Use the #FuelingKSKids hashtag as you increase **C**: Community **A**: Awareness of the healthy meals and snacks that benefit Kansas **C**: Children because of the **F**: Food Program and encourage others to **P**: Participate to combat hunger. Consider highlighting awesome things that your programs are doing in relation to Farm to CACFP/ECE. We'd love to recognize those of you that go above and beyond by using local foods.

### Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition February "Message of the Month"

Breast milk is classified as food. It is not a bodily fluid or biohazard.

DID YOU KNOW? Breast milk is food! Just like cow's milk is food for baby cows, human milk is food for human babies. The **CDC** does not list human breast milk as a body fluid. And both **OSHA** and the **CDC** agree handling breast milk does not require special precautions when feeding an infant.

Child care providers do not need to store breast milk in a separate refrigerator or wear gloves to prepare or feed a bottle/cup of breast milk. Breast milk should be treated like any other infant food.

### Join the CNW Team

The CNW team has the following position openings: Child Nutrition Consultants - field and Topeka office based and part-time Body Venture Consultant. For more information or to apply, go to: [Careers \(ks.gov\)](https://ks.gov/careers).

### Staffing Update

Dessa Gifford will be transitioning to the School Finance team effective February 5<sup>th</sup> to fill the position previously held by Jennifer Barger. Dessa will be training with Jennifer Barger for the month of February as well as wrap up her work on the CNW team. We are pleased to be able to continue to work with Dessa in her new position!

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:

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