

Monthly Update



Child and Adult Care Food Program

March 8, 2024

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

Payment Clarification

All claims for reimbursement in "Approved" status by 5:00 pm on Thursday, March 7, 2024, will be directly deposited on Friday, March 15, 2024. Additionally, any claims in "Approved" status by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, will be directly deposited on Friday, March 29, 2024.

Claim Update – Home Sponsoring Organizations Only

February claims must be in "Pending Approval" status by 3:00 pm Monday, March 25, 2024, so that payments can be directly deposited on Friday, March 29, 2024.

DCH Sponsors and Homes Payment Summary

DCH Sponsors now have access to the "Homes Payment Summary" in KN-CLAIM by clicking on the Reports Tab, Sponsor Accessible Reports, DCH Sponsors Provider Claim Payments. School Finance will no longer be emailing the report to DCH Sponsors.

USDA Guidance

Revised Crediting Tofu and Soy Yogurt Products in School Meals, CACFP 02-2024

This memorandum provides updated guidance on crediting tofu and soy yogurt products in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and extends previous guidance on crediting tofu and soy yogurt products to the Summer Food Service Program, as well as to the infant meal pattern in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Procuring Local Meat, Poultry, Seafood, Game and Eggs for Child Nutrition Programs-REVISED CACFP 01-2016

Questions and answers providing guidance for procurement and inspection requirements for local meat, poultry, seafood, game, and eggs have been revised.

NEW! Family Style Meal Service with Children in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

USDA Team Nutrition is pleased to announce new *Family Style Meal Service with Children in the Child and Adult Care Food Program* resources. These resources include:

- An Operator Booklet: includes information on how to help prepare and support children, train staff, and meet CACFP meal pattern requirements to successfully serve meals "family style" in the CACFP.
- Classroom Posters: discussion tools teachers can use in their classrooms to introduce the steps of family style meal service, rules for family style meals, and sample scripts for conversations at mealtime with children.
- Training Slides: ready-to-go presentation slides to help train staff on family style meal service in the CACFP.



- Photographs: original photographs depicting family style meal service in child care and afterschool settings to use in training materials.
- Social media graphics: three animated graphics to help spread the word about this new resource and the benefits of family style meal service.

All materials are free and available online at www.fns.usda.gov/tn/cacfp/family-style-meals. Check out our parent newsletter, "Serving Meals 'Family Style'" at www.fns.usda.gov/tn/nibbles.

Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs

Sponsors who wish to use an online Enrollment & Income Eligibility Form or accept electronic signatures on any child nutrition form, including the Consent for Disclosure, must complete annually the Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs form located in Chapter 3 of Administrative Handbook. A webinar explaining the review process is available on the KSDE Training Portal at <https://learning.ksde.org>, Child Nutrition & Wellness, Child Nutrition Programs (General Classes), 2024-2025 Request to Use Electronic Transactions.

CACFP Menu Planners for Breakfast and Snack in English and Spanish – New!

USDA's Team Nutrition initiative is excited to announce the availability of *It's Breakfast Time! Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Breakfast Menu Planner for Children 3 Through 18 Years of Age* in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Additionally, the revised version of the *Let's Make a Snack! Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Snack Menu Planner for Children 3 through 18 Years of Age* is now available in [English](#) and the [Spanish](#) version is available for the first time. These menu planners are an excellent training resource for CACFP operators and cover creditable and non-creditable foods at breakfast and snack, interactive meal planning activities, sample menus, and quick and easy recipes.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) 2024

Summer Meals Programs are designed to fill the nutrition gap that occurs in summer and make sure children can get the nutritious meals they need. Many sites provide not just meals, but educational, enrichment, and recreational activities that help children continue to learn and stay safe when school is not in session. Summer meals act as a "magnet" to draw children to activities and activities draw children to summer meals. Meals can be served at a variety of locations, including schools, camps, parks, recreation centers, YMCAs, Head Start Centers, Community Action Agencies, Boys and Girls Clubs...and many other places.

Contact our office at 785-296-2276 or your area KSDE child nutrition consultant to discuss options for Summer 2024. SFSP applications are due May 1. See the following Summer Food Service Program training opportunities.

SFSP Administrative Training – March 27

Are you planning to offer meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) this summer? If so, join KSDE on Wednesday, March 27 from 1:00-4:00 pm for SFSP Administrative Training via live Zoom at: <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/86448106303?pwd=eXF2ZjNVYW9CbUExSElqeWp5OGN0QT09> (Passcode: 416571). For those unable to attend the live training, a recording will be made available on the KSDE Training Portal at a later date. All new and returning sponsors **must have at least one representative complete** this administrative training in order to operate the SFSP in summer 2024.



Summer Non-Congregate Meals Training – March 28

If your sponsor is planning to offer non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in summer 2024, **at least one sponsor representative must attend the Summer Non-Congregate Meals Training** on Thursday, March 28 from 2:00-3:00 pm. The training will be offered live via Zoom at the following link: <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/89544189590?pwd=ckVtSVZTWlluUDJ6Y3JreTQ5RGJtZz09> (Passcode: 923074). Non-congregate meal service is defined by USDA as “a food service at which meals are provided for children to consume all of the components off site”. This training will explain requirements for operating non-congregate meal service sites based on new USDA guidance. For those unable to attend the live training, a recording will be made available on the KSDE Training Portal at a later date.

Message to Child Care Facilities from the Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal

The Office of the Kansas State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is dedicated to ensuring all buildings in the State of Kansas are safe for those who occupy them. This is done through the review of plans and by conducting in-person inspections across the state. They also partner with some local fire departments who have established inspection programs on these plan reviews, license amendments, and annual inspections. Some of you may have had your inspections conducted by local fire department personnel in the past, however as our state and local fire codes have grown farther apart, there have been more instances of conflicting information being given to project managers and childcare providers.

Effective January 2024, staff from the Office of the State Fire Marshal will be conducting all Child Care facility approvals and annual inspections throughout the state. OSFM will be responsible for handling all Fire and Life Safety Inspection for licensing requirements for home daycares, pre-schools, and Child Care centers at the state level. This will streamline the application and licensing process while providing more consistent guidance to childcare providers.

How does this change affect you?

- If you are a newly licensed Childcare Center, Preschool, After School program (any program but Home Day cares) or if you are amending your license with KDHE, you will now be responsible for providing OSFM with a code footprint from a licensed Kansas architect/engineer for approval. All documents must be submitted to prevention@ks.gov. Please refer to the OSFM website for further details – <https://firemarshal.ks.gov/365/Childcare>
- If you are an existing Child Care Center, Preschool, After School program (any program but Home Day cares) and you are awaiting your annual inspection for the year, you will not need to take any action since the OSFM already has you in our system and will contact you directly to schedule your inspection at the appropriate time.
- New Home Day care providers: KDHE will provide your information to the OSFM and they will schedule your initial fire code inspection.
- Existing Home Day care providers: Nothing will change for you unless you amend your license. If you already have been approved, you will not need to receive an additional inspection from the OSFM.

If you have questions, concerns, or feedback, please feel free to reach out to The Office of the Kansas State Fire Marshal (OSFM) at prevention@ks.gov.



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: 2024 Wellness Wednesdays: Supporting Health & Wellness Through Gardening (1hr) and 2024 Wellness Wednesdays: Strategies & Resources to Promote Social/Emotional Health (1hr).

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 March 20 from 2-5 pm and Controlling Costs in the Kitchen on April 10 from 8:30 am-3:30 pm.

Farm to ECE Institute Applications Available Soon

The Heartland Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Institute is a year-long program for CACFP sponsors to initiate or expand Farm to ECE efforts. The Institute connects the cafeteria, classroom, and community to build strong and sustainable Farm to ECE programming. Applicants will form a team of 3-5 people with interest in stake in Farm to ECE goals.

This program is formally led by the Kansas Department of Education, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Nebraska Department of Education to share ideas and resources. A kick-off retreat will be held November 13-15 at Lied Lodge in Nebraska City, Nebraska. Following the retreat, applicants will work with a coach to provide support, technical assistance, and education for Farm to ECE projects.

The Institute model is designed by Vermont FEED, who has been hosting a Northeast Farm to School Institute for over a decade. To learn more about the Institute model, visit the Vermont FEED website at: [Northeast Farm to School Institute | Vermont FEED \(vtfeed.org\)](https://vtfeed.org). Applications will be available on the CNW Website under Farm to Plate, What's New by the end of March with a deadline to apply by April 30, 2024. For more information, contact Eryn Davis at edavis@ksde.org, or by phone at 785-296-5060.

National Ag Day – March 19th

National Ag Day is about recognizing - and celebrating - the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant, and affordable products.

Read more about National Ag Day at: [National Ag Day | HOME](#)

Harvest of the Month

Harvest of the Month will be launching soon! Kits including a poster, window clings, and stickers for each month will be available, as well as downloadable resources from the CNW website including recipe cards, a newsletter, table tent, morning announcement template and a video. To request a kit, email cnw@ksde.org.



Farm to Plate Newsletter

The Farm to Plate Newsletter has officially launched! The newsletter includes CNW Farm to Plate Updates, News from organizations around the state regarding Farm to School, Local Tip of the Month, Frequently Asked Questions, and more. To subscribe to the Farm to Plate Newsletter, email Eryn Davis at edavis@ksde.org.

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. If you missed the webinar hosted by CNW on March 5, explaining the award and the application process then make sure to check the KSDE Training Portal in early April for the recorded webinar.

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 March "Message of the Month"

DID YOU KNOW? Child care providers participating in CACFP receive reimbursement for meals and snacks when an infant is provided pumped breast milk or is breast/chestfed on site, even after the child's first birthday! CACFP best practice encourages persons to supply breast milk for their infants in childcare and offer a quiet area that is comfortable and sanitary for persons who come on site to breast/chestfeed. Breast milk can be used to meet the fluid milk requirement in the CACFP program for children over 12 months of age. Nearly 90% of families in KS choose to #breastfeed and they are looking for breastfeeding supportive child care. Become a "Breastfeeding Friendly Childcare Provider." Learn more at the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition Childcare Resource Page. @KSBreastfeeding #childcare #breastfeed @CCAKansas



Join the CNW Team

The CNW team has the following position openings: Child Nutrition Consultants - field (2) and Topeka office (1) and part-time Body Venture Consultant. For more information or to apply, go to: [Careers \(ks.gov\)](https://ks.gov).

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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