

Monthly Update



School Nutrition Programs

December 13, 2024

Distributed to the School Nutrition Program Authorized Representatives Listserv and the Food Service Directors Listserv and posted at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, SNP, SNP Monthly Updates

Town Hall Thursday at 2

The December 19 Town Hall has been **cancelled**. Make plans to join CNW for the January Town Hall on January 9th at 2 PM.

Verification Deadline Reminder

Complete reporting of Post-Verification Results in KN-CLAIM by December 15.

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP) Claim Reminder

FFVP Sponsor Claims must be submitted and placed in Pending Approval status by Sponsor before Child Nutrition & Wellness (CNW) staff can review and put into Approved status. Please remember to edit the FFVP Sponsor Claim in order to certify and submit the claim. Sponsor Claims that are not in Approved status are unable to be vouchered and paid.

FFVP Sponsor Claims will be processed in December on Tuesday, December 17, 2024. Beginning January 2025, FFVP claims will be processed twice a month.

Heartland Farm to School Institute Deadline Extended!

The deadline to apply for the 2025 Heartland Farm to School Institute has been extended to January 15, 2025. The Heartland Farm to School Institute aims to assist schools in incorporating Farm to School programming in the classroom, cafeteria, and community. The year-long Institute kicks off May 2025 with a retreat where school teams will engage in action planning to set programmatic goals with the assistance of a coach and learn through educational sessions.

Following the retreat, teams will implement their Farm to School action plans with the support of the Institute network consisting of their coach, organizations across the three states, and the cohort of participating teams. Participation in the Institute is free. The Heartland Farm to School Institute application can be found on the Child Nutrition and Wellness website at cnw.ksde.org under [Farm to Plate, What's New](#). For more information contact Eryn Davis at edavis@ksde.org

Harvest of the Month Resources are available for 2025

A reminder that Harvest of the Month materials are available now on CNW's website under [Farm to Plate, What's New](#). Materials include Pre-K through 5th grade curriculum, poster and sticker graphics, newsletters, social media graphics and more. January's Harvest of the Month is Beef! Show how you're showcasing beef in menus by using the hashtag #fuelingkids.



USDA Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant

The Fiscal Year 2025 **USDA Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant** Request for Applications (RFA) is now available! Applications are due by 11:59 pm ET on January 10, 2025. Schools and school districts, CACFP and Summer sponsors, Indian tribal organizations, State agencies, local agencies, non-profit organizations, and agricultural producers are encouraged to apply. Applicants may apply for grants of up to \$100,000 in one of the five grant tracks. State agencies, Indian tribal organizations, or other eligible organizations proposing projects that are multi-state or national in scope may apply for up to \$500,000. RFAs by desired grant track:

- Implementation: <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/356877>
- Turnkey: <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/356876>
- State Agency: <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/356878>

Be sure to visit the [applicant resources page](#) for more helpful resources, including links to webinars that provide specific assistance on applying for a Farm to School Grant.

Training Opportunities

Many opportunities for learning are available to SNP sponsors. Go to <https://cnw.ksde.org>, Training, CNW Calendar to access the schedule of live virtual classes with dates, times, and Zoom links.

Upcoming trainings include:

- **Contracting with a Food Service Management Company** on January 9 from 9-11 am
- **Meal Modification Basics** on January 14 from 2-3 pm
- **Food Safety Basics** on January 15 from 2-5 pm
- **Procurement 101: The Basics** on January 22 from 2-3 pm
- **Wellness Wednesdays** on every Wednesday in February from 9:30-10:30 am

Food Safety Basics will not be offered via Zoom in December, but KSDE will resume offering it on the third Wednesday of each month in 2025. As a reminder, it is available 24/7 on the KSDE Training Portal under Child Nutrition & Wellness: General Classes.

Training is offered 24/7 on 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.

If you would like to schedule an in-service, culinary coach session, or have questions about professional development, contact Holly Steinlage at hsteinlage@ksde.org.

Culinary Coaches – NEW Training Program!

KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness is excited to be launching a Culinary Coaches Program in SY 2025! This training opportunity allows sponsors to request in-person, hands-on culinary training conducted at their site. The sessions will be led by trained culinary coaches and will focus on developing culinary skills that will better enable child nutrition program sponsors to prepare scratch and speed scratch recipes. If interested in the culinary coaches training, please contact Holly Steinlage at hsteinlage@ksde.org.

Contracting with a Food Service Management Company Training – January 9

An important training session for Sponsors considering contracting with a Food Service Management Company for SY 2025-26 will be held on January 9 from 9:00-11:00 am via Zoom. Join the training at <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/85250069275?pwd=ORdmBaW039KbxW6hEL6CAcqHBbpdGt.1> Meeting ID: 852 5006 9275 Passcode: 753001



Procurement Training – January 22

Per the Child Nutrition Program Integrity Final Rule, school nutrition program directors, management, and/or staff who work on procurement activities must complete procurement training annually. For School Year 2025-26, all sponsors must complete procurement training by June 30, 2025. The first session for meeting School Year 2025-26 requirements will be on January 22 from 2-3 pm via Zoom. Join the training at <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/89019977097?pwd=ij6sFSr3AhEEDyExpdvNwfpizYRDjK.1> Passcode: 646112. An additional session will be offered in May, and the training will also be on the KSDE Training Portal.

Jump Start Your Success in School Nutrition Programs – January 30

If you missed the Fall 2024 Jump Start Your Success in School Nutrition Programs, make sure to join CNW for the spring kick-off event on Thursday, **January 30, 2025, from 9 am to 3 pm in Salina**. Jump Start is a free, multi-week program that offers a blend of in-person, live virtual, and on-demand trainings for new and aspiring school food service directors and managers. This training opportunity is for those with less than three years of experience. Those with three years of experience or more may participate as a mentor.

Jump Start has been developed to incorporate personalized training and leadership development through mentoring opportunities. The program encourages open-group discussion so participants can be actively involved in learning best practices from the field. Participants who complete the Jump Start program will develop the skills and knowledge needed for the successful operation of school nutrition programs. **For more information about Jump Start as a participant or mentor or to register, contact Holly Steinlage at hsteinlage@ksde.org.**

Save the Dates! Virtual Wellness Workshops in February

Join KSDE for the "Wellness Wednesdays" webinar series in February. A one-hour 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. This year's theme is Heart Health. Sessions will be from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Stay tuned for more details!

Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2025!

The CNW Team



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