

Monthly Update

Child & Adult Care Food Program



May 3, 2021

Distributed to CACFP Authorized Representatives and Home Sponsors via Listserv

As posted to www.kn-eat.org, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Updates from CNW

USDA Guidance

Expanded Access to CACFP Meals for Young Adults in Emergency Shelters

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced that young adults under the age of 25 experiencing homelessness will now be able to receive meals at emergency shelters participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) from the date of enactment on March 11, 2021, until the date of the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted. Under normal circumstances, USDA only reimburses shelters for meals served to children, through age 18, but the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act expanded several nutrition assistance programs to reach the most vulnerable populations experiencing food hardship due to the pandemic, including homeless young adults.

Child Nutrition Program Nationwide Waivers and Flexibilities Announced

On April 20, 2021, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released a suite of twelve Child Nutrition Program nationwide waivers and flexibilities to support a successful school reopening in **school year 2021-2022**. State and local officials are working hard to plan for the new school year, and FNS recognizes that providing flexibility will support their extraordinary efforts. The suite of waivers and flexibilities, listed below, increases funding, supports access, and balances operational needs with the goal of providing nutritious meals. The Cover Letter and Nationwide Waivers in bold below are applicable to the CACFP.

- **Cover Letter: Child Nutrition Nationwide Waiver Update for School Year 2021-2022**
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow the Seamless Summer Option through School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program Reimbursement Rates in School Year 2021-2022
- **Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Meal Service for School Year 2021-2022**
- **Nationwide Waiver of Meal Times for School Year 2021-2022**
- **Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children for School Year 2021-2022**
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific School Meal Pattern Flexibility for School Year 2021-2022
- **Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for School Year 2021-2022**
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibility for Senior High Schools in School Year 2021-2022
- **Nationwide Waiver of Area Eligibility in the Afterschool Programs and for Family Day Care Home Providers in School Year 2021-2022**
- Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs – Revised – EXTENSION 3
- **Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for State Agencies in the Child and Adult Care Food Program – EXTENSION 3**
- **Nationwide Waiver of Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors in the Child and Adult Care Food Program – EXTENSION**



These waivers are posted at: [Child Nutrition Nationwide Waiver Update for School Year 2021-2022](#) | USDA-FNS or <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/child-nutrition-response-84>. After reading the memos, please reach out to your area Child Nutrition Consultant if you have questions. Information on how to elect the waiver opportunities will be provided in future Updates, Administrative Workshop and the Program Certification Live Zoom Webinar.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. In reference to COVID-19: CN Response #93 – Nationwide Waiver of Area Eligibility in the Afterschool Programs and for Family Day Care Home Programs in SY 2021-22. Come July 1 when Sponsors can tier a tier 2 provider as Tier 1 by waiver, can these homes claim their own children for reimbursement when other children are present for care at the day care home?

A. No, Tier 1 providers can only claim their own children if they are income eligible, per 226.6(b)(1)(ii)(B) and 226.18(e), which have not been waived.

Q. Should Sponsoring Organizations of day care homes continue to try and tier providers by School or Census data beginning July 1, 2021?

A. KSDE encourages Sponsors to continue trying to tier day care home providers by school or census even after July 1, 2021 when the Nationwide Waiver of Area Eligibility for Family Day Care Home Providers in School Year 2021-22 goes into effect. Eligibility for providers that are tiered by school or census is extended for five years from the date in which the provider is tiered; whereas Tier 1 determinations will expire on June 30, 2022 for providers in which the area eligibility waiver is used to Tier the provider as Tier 1.

Q. Can Sponsoring Organizations conduct both on-site and desk audits?

A. Up until 30 days after the end of the federally declared public health emergency, Sponsoring Organizations can conduct on-site and/or desk audits. This flexibility is made available through the COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #96: Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors in the CACFP.

Q. Will CACFP Providers and Centers be reimbursed for a fourth meal and snack in PY2022?

A. No, the policy suite for SY 2021-2022 did not include provisions for a fourth meal or snack to be reimbursed by CACFP providers and centers.

New Feature Alert for the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs

A new feature is now available on the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG) Interactive Web-based Tool. Team Nutrition appreciates receiving your feedback on the FBG and works continuously to enhance the user experience. Team Nutrition has further enhanced the capability of the Recipe Analysis Workbook (RAW) for Grains using Method C. With this latest update, Method C can be used to determine the ounce equivalent grains contribution based on the grams of creditable grains for all items (Groups A-I) listed in Exhibit A: Grain Requirements for Child Nutrition Programs. Program operators can use Method C to calculate the grains contribution of the recipe when a grain product is made on-site or a manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement is available. Registered users of the FBG Web Tool can view their saved RAWs on the FBG Mobile App. Check out the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs today!

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs>



Professional Development Update

Professional development is offered through the KSDE Training Portal 24/7 and as scheduled live virtual events through Zoom. A full listing of live virtual events and links can be found on the CNW Calendar at www.kn-eat.org, CNW Calendar. There is no preregistration for the live virtual classes through Zoom.

Food Safety Basics will be offered on Wednesday, May 19th from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Join at: <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/94099394145?pwd=eE9aVzk4b1NpdGNwVnBWM2dqQzZFdz09>

CACFP Administrative Workshop

Sponsors should make plans to attend CACFP Administrative Workshop for Centers on July 14 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. At least one representative from each Sponsor must participate in the CACFP Administrative Workshop. This training will be conducted virtually via zoom. Use the following link - <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/96838328648?pwd=R1owRVRfajBxaFNMUHYzTmVKTjJlDdz09> to join. Sponsors unable to attend the live virtual session will have the opportunity to take the training through the KSDE Learning Portal at a later date.

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 and accessing the training, go to www.kn-eat.org, Training.

New to the KSDE Training Portal this month:

Using the Crediting Handbook for CACFP - This 2-hour training provides an overview of using the Crediting Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The Crediting Handbook for the CACFP is an essential resource for assisting Sponsors with ensuring creditable foods are served and that meal pattern requirements are met. Access the training at <https://learning.ksde.org>, Child Nutrition & Wellness, Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

Have You Seen the Updated Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) Mealtime Memo?

The ICN Mealtime Memo offers information for child care providers participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), focused on nutrition related topics and activities for young children. The 2021 Mealtime Memos (MTM) feature a new look. It is now a blog-style electronic newsletter. Each month there will be a variety of sections filled with useful information.

- Monthly and Daily Food Themes to help create appealing and nutritious menus
- What's In Season will offer useful information about in-season produce
- Food Facts for Kids provides fun and interesting nutrition education facts to share
- Sneak Peak will highlight upcoming themes and topics.

Face Covering Update

The Kansas State Department of Education and the Kansas Department of Agriculture do not have face covering requirements. The decision to require face coverings occurs at the local level. It is important to partner with local health departments, since they have information on local transmission levels and can provide the appropriate guidance for your community. KSDE does **recommend** that nutrition program staff continue to wear face coverings while providing meal services, regardless of decisions made at the local level. Nutrition program staff have contact with many customers during meal service and the viral load can become significant. There are also emerging variants to the corona viruses and there is still much to be learned about how the emerging variants affect people.



Current CDC health and safety recommendations include the following:

- Fully vaccinated individuals may be outdoors without wearing face coverings. Fully vaccinated individuals should continue to follow preventive measures when they are indoors. If a fully vaccinated individual has been exposed to COVID-19 but remains asymptomatic, that individual is no longer subject to work restrictions.
- Unvaccinated individuals should continue to wear face coverings outdoors unless they are attending a small outdoor gathering with family and close friends.
- All individuals should wear face coverings at large outdoor events, since it cannot be easily determined who is vaccinated and who is not vaccinated.
- All individuals, even if they have been vaccinated or have already had COVID-19, should continue to follow preventive measures when they are indoors. Preventative measures include wearing masks, physical distancing when possible, avoiding poorly ventilated places, washing hands, and covering coughs and sneezes.
- All individuals should continue to follow any other workplace guidance at the local level.

Community Resources by Kansas County

In order to help low-income Kansans who are having to make choices between food, rent, utilities, client obligation, spenddown, medical expenses and health insurance premium, the KanCare Ombudsman Office has created a [Community Resources by County for Kansas](#) webpage. This resource can help provide information for each Kansas County about basic services including medical, information and referral, food transportation, shelter and other general resources. For additional information, contact the KanCare Ombudsman Office at 1-855-643-8180 or KanCare.Ombudsman@ks.gov.

Nutrition & Wellness KANSANS CAN 2021-22 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 www.kn-eat.org, Child & Adult Care Food Program, What's New. **Nominations are due to the Child Nutrition & Wellness office on or before June 30, 2021.** 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 2021 State Board of Education Meeting.

As always, if you have questions or need assistance, please contact your local Child Nutrition Consultant or the Topeka Office!

Cheryl, Jill and Julie



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