

Monthly Update

Child & Adult Care Food Program



November 30, 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

CACFP 02-2022 - Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Flexibilities During COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions

State agencies and sponsoring organizations should use discretion to provide technical assistance in lieu of fiscal action when they observe noncompliance related to meal pattern requirements due to COVID-19-related supply chain disruptions during Federal fiscal year 2022. If CACFP operators are making a good faith effort to comply with meal pattern requirements but cannot, due to COVID-19-related supply chain disruptions, State agencies and sponsoring organizations should prioritize training and technical assistance to identify solutions that are specific to CACFP operators' local circumstances. If substitutions in planned menus are necessitated due to COVID-19-related supply chain issues, the reasons for substitutions must be documented and menu records must be updated to reflect changes. Menus must document the actual meal components served to participants. All technical assistance provided should be documented and maintained on file.

State agencies and sponsoring organizations should exercise discretion when determining whether CACFP operators should be found seriously deficient when meals fall short of meeting the meal pattern requirements during Federal fiscal year 2022 due to COVID-19-related supply chain disruptions. This applies to institutions under a State agency and facilities under a sponsoring organization, including day care homes (7 CFR 226.16(l)(2)(iv)). Under such circumstances, FNS strongly encourages State agencies and sponsoring organizations to work with institutions and facilities, respectively, who are not meeting the meal pattern requirements to identify solutions on a case-by-case basis and continue to prioritize technical assistance.

CACFP 03-2022 - Updates to the Federal Micro-Purchase Threshold in 2 CFR 200.320(a)(1)

The purpose of this guidance is to make Child Nutrition Program operators aware of regulatory changes made by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to the Federal information procurement method, micro-purchases. These changes may be helpful to Program operators experiencing challenges related to supply chain disruptions. Read the entire policy memo at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/updates-federal-micro-purchase-threshold>.

- **Micro-Purchase Distribution.** Language has been changed to state that to the maximum extent practicable, Program operators *should* distribute micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. Previously, the language had said *must*.
- **Micro-Purchase Awarded Without Competition.** Language has been updated to state that micro-purchases may be awarded without soliciting competitive price or rate quotations, if the Program operator "considers the price to be reasonable based on research, experience, purchase history, or other information and documents its files accordingly.



- **Micro-Purchase Thresholds.** The Federal threshold in the Federal Acquisition Regulations is still \$10,000 for micro-purchases. This guidance provides Program operators the option to self-certify a micro-purchase threshold up to \$50,000 on an annual basis and maintaining documentation of such self-certification. The self-certification must include a justification, clear indication of the threshold, and supporting documentation of any of the following:
 - Qualification as a low-risk auditee, in accordance with the criteria in 2 CFR 200.520;
 - An annual internal institutional risk assessment to identify, mitigate, and manage financial risks;
 - For Public institutions, a higher threshold consistent with State law.

Study of Nutrition and Activity in Childcare Settings in USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (SNACS)

Centers and family daycare homes participating in USDA's CACFP play an important role in supporting the health and wellness of the children they serve. The Study of Nutrition and Activity in Childcare Settings (SNACS) is the first nationally representative, comprehensive assessment of the CACFP. Data were collected in program year (PY) 2016–17 from CACFP providers and participating children on:

1. the wellness policies and practices of childcare providers,
2. the nutritional quality of the meals served in CACFP,
3. CACFP meal costs and revenues,
4. the nutrient intake of infants and children in CACFP childcare settings and outside of childcare, and
5. the observed plate waste in CACFP settings.

The CACFP providers in the study were both early care providers and before and after school care providers. Early care programs included childcare centers, Head Start programs and family daycare homes, and typically served infants through children ages 5 years and younger. Before and after school programs included At-Risk and Outside School Hours programs and typically served children ages 6 years and older. Findings serve as an important baseline for the subsequent updates to the meal pattern and nutrition standards, which were implemented in October 2017. Explore the Results at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/study-nutrition-activity-childcare-settings-usdas-cacfp>.

Breastmilk and the CACFP Infant Meal Pattern

Centers participating on the CACFP can still receive reimbursement for meals and snacks when a mother has provided pumped breastmilk or has breastfed her baby at your child care site even after the child's first birthday. Did you know that if a breastfed baby regularly drinks less than the minimum amount of breastmilk required with the CACFP meal pattern, providers may offer less than the minimum amount of breastmilk at each feeding as long as more breastmilk is offered later when the baby is hungry? The meal or snack is still reimbursable when less than the minimum amount of breastmilk is offered in this situation. Remember, you may claim reimbursement of meals when a mother nurses her baby at your child care site. This includes meals when the baby is only drinking breastmilk.

Professional Development Opportunities

Virtual professional development will continue this fall. The CNW Calendar has the class announcements, dates, times, and ZOOM links here: www.kn-eat.org, CNW Calendar. There is no need to preregister for the Zoom classes. Upcoming classes through Zoom include: Nutrition 101, and The Path to Personal Wellness.



November Culinary Quick Bite

Baby It's Cold Inside! Give winter leafy greens a try. For quick tips and ideas on how to incorporate winter leafy greens into your menus, view the November CNW Quick Bite at: <https://youtu.be/uVvUsl1NSEM>.

Quick Train on Grains: Determining Ounce Equivalents of Grains in CACFP Recipes

Grain items prepared from scratch can be a wonderful addition to CACFP menus. Have you ever wondered how these items count in ounce equivalents toward the minimum amount of grains required at CACFP meals and snacks? Join KSDE on **Thursday, January 6 from 1:00-2:00 p.m.** via zoom at <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/81229567961?pwd=cTZUVi8ycjNJS296ZnZ4U3ErTGWQT09> for a quick train on grains where you will learn how to determine ounce equivalents of grains in CACFP recipes!

Online Professional Development Classes and Tutorials

Over 30 classes and tutorials 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, CACFP, Training. New to the online training portal this month Determining Eligibility for the CACFP, Mealtimes with Toddlers, and Culinary Corner: CACFP Knife Skills. Food Safety Basics is also available as an online class in the KSDE Training Portal at: <https://learning.ksde.org>. A recording of the Food Safety Basics in Spanish is available upon request. Contact Kyleen Harris at kharris@ksde.org.

Updated COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated its *COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs*. Updates to the guidance emphasize the importance of universal masking for everyone ages 2 and older, regardless of vaccination status. Additionally, this guidance provides more information on screening testing and updated guidance for fully vaccinated staff. Early Care Education (ECE) programs can promote vaccinations among staff and families, including pregnant women, by providing information about COVID-19 vaccination, encouraging vaccine trust and confidence, and establishing supportive policies and practices.

The updated version of the guidance outlines strategies for ECE programs to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and maintain safer operations. ECE programs include childcare centers, home-based programs and family child care, Head Start, and other pre-kindergarten programs.

While fewer children have been sick with COVID-19 compared with adults during the pandemic, children can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, get sick, and spread the virus to others. CDC's [science brief on transmission in schools](#) includes scientific evidence about the spread of the virus among children and in school and ECE settings.

Scholarships Available for the National Child Nutrition Conference

The 36th National Child Nutrition Conference will be held April 18-22, 2022 in New Orleans. A virtual attendance option will also be available. Scholarships are available for CACFP Sponsors. Apply by January 10, 2022 at <https://www.cacfp.org/scholarships/>. Over \$20,000 in scholarships will be awarded for the conference.



CACFP Training Tools from Team Nutrition

USDA's Team Nutrition has recently released several new and updated resources for use in training and supporting operators of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

CACFP Meal Pattern Training Slides: These ready-to-go presentation slides are designed for interactive 30-minute trainings, and can be used by sponsoring organizations and others to train providers, operators, and menu planners on the CACFP meal patterns. Slides are available in English and in Spanish, and can be viewed and downloaded from Team Nutrition's website at fns.usda.gov/tn/meal-pattern-training-slides-cacfp.

Topics of these new presentation slides are:

- Crediting Single-Serving Packages of Grains in the CACFP*
- Crediting Store-Bought Combination Baby Foods in the CACFP
- Identifying Whole Grain-Rich Foods for the CACFP Using the Ingredient List Part 1*
- Identifying Whole Grain-Rich Foods for the CACFP Using the Ingredient List Part 2*
- Serving Snacks in the CACFP
- Using the Nutrition Facts Label in the CACFP

Updated Training Worksheet on Identifying Whole Grain-Rich Foods for the CACFP Using the Ingredient List:* Team Nutrition's "Identifying Whole Grain-Rich Foods for the CACFP Using the Ingredient List" training worksheet has been updated to include more examples of whole-grain ingredients, including corn masa and masa harina. Practice questions to help operators test their knowledge and understanding of the topic have also been added. This updated worksheet is available in English and in Spanish at fns.usda.gov/tn/identifying-whole-grain-rich-foods-cacfp.

CACFP Training Worksheets Available in Print: Five new Team Nutrition training worksheets for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) were recently made available in print. Each worksheet is available in English and in Spanish, with 25 worksheets per pack. Sponsoring organizations and program operators who participate in one of USDA's Child Nutrition Programs may order these worksheets by visiting the links below. For bulk orders, please email TeamNutrition@USDA.gov.

- [Crediting Single-Serving Packages of Grains in the CACFP](#)
- [Crediting Store-Bought Combination Baby Foods in the CACFP](#)
- [Determining Ounce Equivalents of Grains in CACFP Recipes](#)
- [Feeding Infants Using Ounce Equivalents for Grains in the CACFP](#)
- [Reducing the Risk of Choking in Young Children at Mealtimes](#)

To see Team Nutrition's collection of CACFP training worksheets, please visit: fns.usda.gov/tn/meal-pattern-training-worksheets-cacfp.

Team Nutrition Web Quizzes on Infant Nutrition and Toddler Nutrition: Team Nutrition recently released English and Spanish-language [web quizzes](#) on Infant Nutrition and Toddler Nutrition. These 10-question quizzes can be used by staff at trainings and other nutrition events as a fun learning activity. Upon completion of each quiz, quiz takers receive a score along with a link to resources that can help expand their knowledge on the topic and build their nutrition skills. Quiz takers can also view a printable version of the questions and answers upon quiz completion. These web quizzes are available as a widget, so State agencies can easily embed and feature the quiz on their websites.



Farm to Plate

FY2022 Farm to School Grant Request for Applications (RFA) Now Available

The fiscal year (FY) 2022 Farm to School Grant Program RFA is now available at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=336252>. USDA has a number of resources to assist those interested in applying for a FY 2022 Farm to School Grant at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cfs/resources-farm-school-grant-program-applicants>. **Continuing in FY 2022, institutions operating the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program at non-school based sites are included in the definition of eligible schools and may apply for funding.**

Farm to Plate: Mountain Plains Crunch Off Results

While Kansas came in 3rd for percentage of population that crunched, Kansas had the second most participants crunch in the month of October with 52,198 crunchers. Kansas nearly swept the subcategories: Most Overall registrants (Kansas-306); Most Towns registered (Kansas-83); **Most Early Childhood Education participants (Kansas-5,352)**; and Biggest Crunch Event (Wichita Kansas Public Schools with more than 28,000 crunchers). Thanks to all that participated and promoted the Mountain Plans Crunch Off!

Healthy Holidays!

The holidays provide a fantastic opportunity to add cultural awareness to your menu. No matter the traditional food culture, it is always important to choose healthy options. Try preparing and serving healthy, delicious, and culturally-conscious recipes from around the world this holiday season. Find recipes at the Institute of Child Nutrition Recipe Box: <https://theicn.org/icn-resources-a-z/usda-standardized-recipes>.

Happy & healthy holidays from the Child Nutrition & Wellness team! Please call or email your area Child Nutrition Consultant or any of the Topeka office staff if you have questions or for technical assistance!

Cheryl, Jill and Julie



For more information, contact:

Cheryl S. Johnson
Director, Child Nutrition & Wellness
(785) 296-2276
www.kn-eat.org
csjohnson@ksde.org

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

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