

Monthly Update

Child & Adult Care Food Program



December 1, 2025

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

Important Updates, Reminders, & Deadlines

December Town Hall - Canceled

The town hall meeting scheduled for December 11 has been canceled. The next town hall meeting will be on January 8 from 2-3 pm.

State Holidays

The KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness office will be closed on December 25 and January 1 in observance of the holidays.

December Payment Dates

Child Nutrition Program (CNP) vouchers, including Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) vouchers, are posted between 8:00 and 9:30 am on Tuesdays. This allows direct deposit payment on Fridays; posting of vouchers is a four-business day process before Sponsors receive the payment via ACH, and physical checks are mailed out on Thursdays. CNP vouchers, including CACFP Child Care Center and Daycare Home vouchers, will only be posted on Tuesday, 12/2, 12/9, and 12/16 this month. Sponsor Claims in "Approved" status by 8:00 am each applicable morning will get paid in the month of December.

The 60-day deadlines are outlined on the "Claim Deadlines - Program Year 2026" document available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov/cacfp/cacfp-administrative-handbook/chapters/chapter-12-claiming-reimbursement>. Should you have any questions regarding payments for CNPs, please contact [Dessa Gifford](#), Public Service Administrator, School Finance, either by email or calling (785) 296-4965.

Electronic Payments

The Kansas Secretary of Administration has notified KSDE that all sponsors who receive \$50,000 or more or 10 payments or more annually from KSDE **must** be paid via electronic deposit. Child Nutrition & Wellness will be reaching out to those sponsors who meet these criteria and currently receive their reimbursement via a paper check.

2025 Mountain Plains Crunch-Off Results

The seven Mountain Plains Region states had a combined 508,811 crunches – over half a million crunches! Kansas contributed 37,378 registrations (1.27% per capita) to this number. The winning state was North Dakota with 73,404 registrations (9.42% per capita). Kansas' largest count of registrations came from child care programs with 206 registrations (82%). We are pleased to continue to have USD 259 Wichita as our largest crunch with 13,650 participants. A shout out to the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) for sponsoring our From the Land of Kansas partners, Papa Baldy's and Nu Life Market, to provide popcorn or popped sorghum to those that registered for the crunch off. Unfortunately, our popcorn bags arrived late, so we are well-stocked for next year!



USDA Updates

2025 Turnip the Beet Nominations

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service is pleased to share the [2025 Turnip the Beet Nomination Packet](#). The Turnip the Beet Awards recognize outstanding Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer children high-quality meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. This supports Agriculture Secretary Rollins' commitment to encouraging healthy choices, healthy outcomes, and healthy families. Nominations must be sent by the State agency to the appropriate FNS Regional Office by **Friday, January 23, 2026**.

USDA Food and Nutrition Service will host a webinar on Tuesday, December 9 at 1 pm at this link: [2025 Turnip the Beet Awards Information Webinar](#). There is no calendar invite. Please make a note of the webinar link and scheduled date/time to join. The session will cover alignment with USDA priorities, eligibility and award levels, the nomination and review process, and tips for submitting a strong nomination packet. Participants will also learn about available resources. More information can be found on the [Turnip the Beet webpage](#).

Professional Development & Training

Training Opportunities

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

- **Managing Responses to Stressful Events** on December 3 from 2-3 pm
- **Introduction to Yeast Breads** on January 7 from 2-3 pm
- **Procurement 101: The Basics** on January 20 from 2-3 pm
- **Food Safety Basics** on January 21 from 2-5 pm
- *Note: Food Safety Basics will not be held in December*

On-demand 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.gov>, Training. New to the portal: **Safe Receiving & Storing** (1.5 hours) and **Handling a Food Recall** (1 hour) – under General Classes

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

Culinary Coaches Training Program

This training opportunity allows sponsors to request in-person, hands-on culinary training conducted at their site. **Sponsors can choose from five training topics: Critical Culinary Skills, Knife Basics, Cooking Basics, and Baking Basics: Quick Breads or Yeast Breads.** The sessions are led by trained culinary coaches and focus on developing culinary skills that will better enable child nutrition program sponsors to prepare scratch and speed scratch recipes. If interested in scheduling a culinary coach session, please contact Holly Steinlage at holly.steinlage@ksde.gov.



New Resources

Farm to Plate in Our State Newsletter is Back!

The Kansas Farm to Plate in Our State Newsletter took a hiatus while we focused on other projects. The newsletter resumed in November and will be sent monthly. If you would like to receive the newsletter, please email Eryn Davis at eryn.davis@ksde.gov.

2026 Farm to School & Early Childhood Education (ECE) Institute

The Heartland Farm to School and Early Childhood Education (ECE) Institute will be hosted by Missouri in June 2026 at The Elms in Excelsior Springs, Missouri. The Kansas application is expected to be released in December. Consider forming a team to submit a Farm to Plate project application. For more information or questions regarding the institute, contact Eryn Davis at eryn.davis@ksde.gov.

2026 National Child Nutrition Conference – Scholarships Available

The National CACFP Association is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2026 National Child Nutrition Conference which is being held April 13-17, 2026, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The scholarship application is available at <https://www.cacfp.org/conference/scholarships/>

Fifteen scholarships will be awarded: seven to attend the conference in-person, and eight to attend virtually. Each in-person scholarship includes conference registration fees, four nights lodging, and up to \$450.00 toward transportation costs at a value of over \$1,900 per scholarship. Applications are due by January 12, 2026, and recipients will be announced in early February.

Barb Depew to Retire from KSDE

Barb Depew, Farm to Plate Project Director, will retire from KSDE on December 5. Barb has spent 45 years working as a Registered Dietitian and the last 25 years working with Child Nutrition Programs. Thank you, Barb, for your contributions to Child Nutrition Programs and your work to provide all Kansas children with local, healthy foods.

You are Appreciated!

The KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness team appreciates each of you and your work to create healthy habits for a lifetime through the CACFP. **Be sure to share your best practices by using #FuelingKSKids!** Not on social media? Don't hesitate to email pictures of the great meals, snacks, and activities being offered in your programs to anyone on the Child Nutrition & Wellness team!

As always, if you have questions or need technical assistance, please contact your Child Nutrition Consultant or the Topeka office.

The CNW Team



For more information, contact:

Kelly Chanay
Director, Child Nutrition & Wellness
(785) 296-2276
<https://cnw.ksde.gov>
kelly.chanay@ksde.gov

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.