

Monthly Update

Child & Adult Care Food Program



February 4, 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

Town Hall Thursday at 2 – February 13 (NEW – held via Microsoft Teams)

The February Town Hall will provide important reminders and updates, including a preview of the new dashboard feature in KN-CLAIM. Join the meeting on February 13 at 2 pm at this Microsoft Teams link: [Join the meeting now](#) (Meeting ID: 241 814 717 448 Passcode: hW7Wy3Ax).

Please note that Town Hall meetings will now be held on Microsoft Teams (not Zoom). The previous Zoom link will not work for Town Hall meetings moving forward. Instructions for joining a Microsoft Teams meeting are available at <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/join-a-teams-meeting-078e9868-f1aa-4414-8bb9-ee88e9236ee4>

Home Sponsors Only – Important Claim Deadline Reminder

January 2025 Provider Claims are due to KSDE by 3 pm on Monday, February 24, 2025. Claims will be vouchered on Tuesday, February 25, allowing direct deposit payment Friday, February 28, 2025. Upward revisions for December 2024 are due by the end of Saturday, March 1, 2025.

Ramadan Meal Service Waiver

USDA has authorized KSDE to approve waiver requests to allow local Program operators to offer non-congregate meals to participants in attendance and fasting in observance of Ramadan. The waiver application is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under CACFP, CACFP What's New, Ramadan Meal Service Waiver Application.

Congratulations to Farm to School Sub-Grantees!

A total of \$123,842.66 in sub-grant funding will be provided to these sponsors for their projects to increase the use of local foods in Child Nutrition Programs: D0237 Smith Center (beef project), D0264 Clearwater (hydroponics), D0266 Maize (grow rings kit), D0269 Palco (gardening/chickens), D0340 Jefferson West (gardening), D0346 Jayhawk Schools (plant grow system), D0362 Prairie View (grow towers), D0373 Newton (gardening), D0445 Coffeyville (hydroponics/kitchen equipment), P0074 Child Care Links (bread maker kits/training), P0076 Martin Luther King Jr CACFP (blender/fruit & vegetable training), P0157 Norton Area Child Care Assn (freezer), P0164 JC Family Home Assn. (gardening), P0167 The Opportunity Project Schools Inc. (planter), P0189 Quality Care Services, LLC (bread maker kits/training), P0243 First Christian Church Child Care Center (gardening), and P0757 Integrated Behavior Technologies (gardening).



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 Zoom links.

Upcoming trainings include:

- **Wellness Wednesdays** each Wednesday in February from 9:30-10:30 am
- **Food Safety Basics** on February 19 from 2-5 pm
- **CACFP Child & Adult Meal Pattern** on February 27 from 1-3 pm

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:** CACFP Production Records Tutorial (10 min).

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 – 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. Sponsors can choose from four training topics: Critical Culinary Skills, Knife Basics, Cooking Basics, and Baking Basics. 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 scheduling a culinary coach session, please contact Holly Steinlage at Holly.Steinlage@ksde.gov.

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 at this link:

<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/81507958865?pwd=bx7xCpCRuewqd6WAw1NMzbDA1o5Fie.1> Passcode: 512850

- **February 5, Improving & Maintaining Heart Health in Children: How We Can Have an Impact.** Join KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness in kicking off the Wellness Wednesdays series with an introduction to this year's theme, Heart Health. Learn about the American Heart Association's "Life's Essential 8 for Kids" - key measures for improving and maintaining cardiovascular health. Hear best practices and new ideas for how to further support heart health and overall wellness by promoting healthy habits at an early age.
- **February 12, Tobacco Use: Why Prevention Efforts are Critical to Protecting Young Hearts.** The use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes can have lifelong harmful effects on the cardiovascular health of children and adolescents. Join Teresa Denk Smajda, Student Wellness Specialist at Shawnee Mission School District, to learn why tobacco prevention efforts at a young age are important and hear initiatives available to support schools.
- **February 19, Fueling Healthy Hearts: Nutrition & Cardiovascular Health in Children.** An overall healthy eating pattern has a significant role in cardiovascular health, especially if those healthy habits are started at an early age. Hear how child nutrition program sponsors and the meals they serve are key to establishing heart-healthy eating habits and lifelong cardiovascular health.



- **February 26, Promoting Heart Health Through Restorative Sleep.**

Getting a good night's sleep not only helps children feel their best, but it is also associated with heart health. Too little sleep can lead to cardiovascular disease, higher blood pressure, and obesity. Learn about the science behind sleep and evidence-based interventions to promote healthy, restorative sleep in children.

CACFP Child & Adult Meal Pattern Training – February 27

This training will help participants understand the meal pattern requirements of the CACFP child and adult meal patterns. Join the training on February 27 from 1-3 pm at this link:

<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/86007630403?pwd=GONgrfX7nOGIVehj4GtREBlg6ZLmPP.1> Passcode: 794703

Kansas Certificates in Child Nutrition Management Awarded

The Kansas Certificate in Child Nutrition Management is a program sponsored by Child Nutrition & Wellness and approved by the Kansas State Board of Education. To receive a Kansas Certificate in Child Nutrition Management, 120 hours of KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness approved management classes must be completed. These Child Nutrition Professionals completed the requirements in 2024 and will be awarded the Certificate at the February 2025 State Board meeting: Lynn Fry of USD 320 Wamego, Kim Fitzgerald of USD 320 Wamego, Cayde Sterling of KVC Hospital, Inc., LaDonna Schuetz of USD 340 Jefferson West, and Erin Taff of USD 430 South Brown County. The awardees are to be commended for their initiative to achieve the Certificate and prepare themselves to lead Child Nutrition Programs of excellence. Congratulations!

USDA Updates

CACFP 05-2025: Grain Requirements in the CACFP – Questions and Answers

This memorandum provides updated guidance reflecting the final rule, explains the grain requirements for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and includes questions and answers. This memorandum supersedes CACFP 09-2018, *Grain Requirements in the Child and Adult Care Food Program; Questions and Answers*, published April 4, 2018. The policy memo is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/grain-requirements-qas>

CACFP 06-2025: Feeding Infants and Meal Pattern Requirements in the Child and Adult Care Food Program – Questions and Answers

This memorandum provides updated guidance reflecting the final rule, provides recommendations on infant feeding and infant meal pattern requirements in the CACFP, and includes questions and answers. This memorandum supersedes CACFP 11-2023, *Feeding Infants and Meal Pattern Requirements in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Questions and Answers (Revised September 2023)* published September 20, 2023. The policy memo is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/feeding-infants-meal-pattern-requirements-qas>

New Resources

National CACFP Week: March 16-22

CACFP Week is a national education and information campaign sponsored annually the third week of March by the National CACFP Sponsors Association. The campaign is designed to raise awareness of how the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program works to combat hunger. The theme of CACFP Week in 2025 is Trying New Foods! We look forward to seeing how you celebrate National CACFP week! Use the #FuelingKSKids hashtag as you highlight the activities in your programs. Resources are available at <https://www.cacfp.org/national-cacfp-week-main/>.



Farm to Early Care and Education Opportunity for Kansas Licensed Early Child Care Facilities

The Kansas Department of Agriculture, in partnership with the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, is now accepting applications from Kansas licensed early child care facilities to participate in a program to increase child nutrition knowledge and consumption of local fruits and vegetables.

The program, titled “Our Earliest Eaters: Bringing the Farm to Kansas Licensed Early Child Care Facilities,” will provide Kansas licensed early child care facilities with age-appropriate curriculum about Kansas specialty crops and reimbursements for purchasing locally grown fruits and vegetables. Through a competitive application process, 50 facilities will be selected to receive agricultural education activities and resource kits developed by the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom at no cost. Upon demonstration of teaching the provided curriculum, the selected facilities will receive reimbursement of up to \$250 per growing season to cover the costs of purchasing fruits and vegetables grown by Kansas farmers and producers to use in the provided educational activities as well as serve in their meal programs.

KDA will help the selected licensed early child care facilities identify farmers and producers local to their facility to purchase healthy fruits and vegetables from. By building relationships between licensed early child care facilities and local farmers and producers, this program will increase nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops in our earliest eaters, while creating new market outlets for Kansas specialty crop producers.

Applications are due to KDA no later than 5:00 p.m. CT on Friday, February 28, 2025. For more information, please visit “Our Earliest Eaters at: [//www.agriculture.ks.gov/grants](http://www.agriculture.ks.gov/grants).

Funding for this program was made possible by the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service.

Empowering Your 2025 SRTS Projects: Building Grant Writing Capacity & Preparing Successful Proposals

[Kansas Safe Routes to School](#) is partnering with the [Kansas University - Center for Public Partnerships & Research](#), with support from the [Kansas Health Foundation](#), to offer a free grant writing webinar. This 1-hour Zoom webinar is for nonprofit organizations, state associations/coalitions, school districts, state agencies, and tribal councils/communities in Kansas looking to build grant-writing capacity and learn what it takes to prepare a successful proposal. The webinar will briefly review the [KDOT Seven Es](#) which summarize the key components of a comprehensive, integrated approach to successful and sustainable SRTS efforts. Join the webinar on **February 26th at 2pm** by registering here: [Empowering Your 2025 SRTS Projects: Building Grant Writing Capacity & Preparing Successful Proposals](#). Presenters will be Ann Katt, SRTS Coordinator, KDOT and Jenny Memmott, Senior Grants Monitor, KU Center for Public Partnerships and Research.

Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association Market Directory

The Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association has launched a Market Directory that will allow Child Nutrition Program sponsors to search for produce by a county or crop. Access the website at www.kscga.org then click on Grower/Market Directory, Directory Info and Access. Scroll down and click the box titled “Enter-KSCGA Grower/Market Directory.” Start finding local products and contact the producers for purchase options!



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:

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