

Monthly Update

Child & Adult Care Food Program



January 8, 2025

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

Important Updates, Reminders, & Deadlines

Town Hall Thursday at 2 – January 16 (DATE CHANGED)

Thursday, January 9 has been designated a state holiday in observance of the National Day of Mourning for President Jimmy Carter. The Town Hall meeting scheduled for this day has been rescheduled to January 16. The meeting will provide important reminders and updates for SNP and CACFP. Join the meeting on January 16 at 2 pm at this link:

<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/87204779621?pwd=NEhrcHloRjBobGtOZTJEWfJtR0tUQT09> Meeting ID: 872 0477 9621 Passcode: 746337

KSDE Website Address & Email Changes

As of January 8, the KSDE website address will switch from ksde.org to ksde.gov. The Child Nutrition & Wellness website address will switch from cnw.ksde.org to cnw.ksde.gov. If someone types in the old address, they will automatically be redirected to the .gov address.

As of January 15, KSDE employee email addresses are moving to a new industry standard. The new default address will be firstname.lastname@ksde.gov. For example, John Doe will be John.Doe@ksde.gov. The old address will still work to receive emails, so individuals will not experience any disruption in service.

USDA Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Deadline is January 10

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.

Home Sponsors Only – Important Claim Deadline Reminder

December Provider Claims are due to KSDE by 3 pm on Monday, January 27, 2025. Claims will be vouchered on Tuesday, January 28, allowing direct deposit payment Friday, January 31, 2025. Upward revisions for November 2024 are due by the end of Wednesday, January 29, 2025.



Professional Development & Training

Training Opportunities

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

- **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** each Wednesday in February from 9:30-10:30 am

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 scheduling a culinary coach session, please contact Holly Steinlage at hsteinlage@ksde.org.

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. Many of the topics are applicable to CACFP wellness efforts as well! 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.** Tobacco use in any form, including 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 & 26** – Stay tuned for more details!



USDA Updates

Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) requests comments from the public. The request for information was issued on December 26, 2024, to obtain input to help inform future policymaking, guidance, and technical assistance related to grain-based desserts and high-protein yogurt crediting in Child Nutrition Programs (CNP). The public is invited to submit comments to www.regulations.gov through March 26, 2025.

On February 7, 2023, FNS issued a [proposed rule](#) to update Child Nutrition Program (CNP) meal pattern requirements. The rule included a proposal to limit grain-based desserts in the School Breakfast Program to no more than two ounce equivalents per week, consistent with the National School Lunch Program. However, based on public feedback, FNS did not finalize that proposed limit in the [final rule](#), which published on April 25, 2024. Partners raised concerns that the proposal would limit options at school breakfast and recommended that FNS re-evaluate use of grain-based desserts at school breakfast. In the final rule, USDA committed to exploring methods for improving and simplifying grain-based dessert requirements by soliciting further partner input.

Yogurt is a popular menu item in CNPs. It may be offered in a variety of forms: plain or flavored, unsweetened or sweetened, strained or non-strained, and/or high-protein or regular; as a standalone option or in different menu items, such as yogurt parfaits or smoothies. The variety of yogurt available at retail and in the K-12 market, including high-protein yogurt (e.g., Greek and Greek-style yogurt), has grown and evolved significantly. Therefore, in 2017, FNS requested public input on whether high-protein yogurt (including Greek and Greek-style yogurt) should credit differently than regular yogurt. Those comments were mixed and, as a result, FNS maintained consistent crediting for all yogurt in the CNPs. FNS is now seeking additional public input to determine if any new information warrants a change to yogurt crediting in the CNPs.

SP 07-2025, CACFP 07-2025: Requirement to Accept Medical Statements from Registered Dietitians for Schools and Child and Adult Care Institutions and Facilities

This memorandum with Questions and Answers clarifies the updated regulatory requirement for Program operators to accept medical statements from registered dietitians. This requirement applies to Program operators of the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The change requiring Program operators to accept medical statements from registered dietitians must be implemented by July 1, 2025, for school meal programs and October 1, 2025, for CACFP. Program operators have the option, but are not required, to implement this change prior to the implementation dates.

New Resources

Harvest of the Month Resources Available for 2025

Harvest of the Month materials are now available on the Child Nutrition & Wellness website at <https://cnw.ksde.org> 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 #fuelingkskids.



New Recipes in the Child Nutrition Recipe Box

Fifteen standardized recipes have been added to the Child Nutrition Recipe Box (CNRB), 7 of which are existing favorites that have been revised to reflect updates from the final rule, “Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020–2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans,” and 8 new recipes that provide additional ideas for breakfast and lunch menus. The 8 new recipes include Whole Wheat Pancakes, Cauliflower Rice, Chicken Salad, Griddle Corn Cakes, Breakfast Bowl, Taco Salad, Sweet Potato Hummus, and Quinoa Bowl. The 7 revised recipes are Pumpkin Bread, Oatmeal Muffin Squares, Kati Kati Chicken, Jerk Fish Wrap, Orange Glazed Carrots, Orange Glazed Sweet Potatoes, and Vegetable Frittata.

USDA Standardized Recipes provide program operators and menu planners with appealing and practical menu options for the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. You may access the newly-released recipes in the [Child Nutrition Recipe Box – USDA Standardized Recipes](#).

Staffing Update

Kirsten Angell has joined the Child Nutrition & Wellness team as a Child Nutrition Consultant and Farm to Plate Coordinator. Welcome Kirsten!

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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