

Monthly Update

Child & Adult Care Food Program



March 5, 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 – March 13

Agenda items for the March Town Hall include Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) renewal training and administrative updates. Join the meeting on March 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>

Disrupted Phone Services for Field Staff

The KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness team has experienced disrupted phone service for field staff over the past week. Most phone lines have been restored, but our IT department is still working to resolve issues for a few staff. We apologize for any delay this has caused in our ability to respond to phone messages or return calls. If you are ever unable to contact your consultant and need immediate assistance, please contact our office at 785-296-2276. Thank you for your patience!

Home Sponsors Only – Important Claim Deadline Reminder

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

Updates to KN-CLAIM

On Thursday, March 13, KN-CLAIM will be updated to include a new dashboard feature. After clicking to enter KN-CLAIM, users will be directed to a dashboard that includes information for all programs the sponsor operates. To access the Sponsor Summary page for each program, users can select 2025 next to “Jump to Program Year” on the right side of the page.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Summer meal programs are designed to fill the nutrition gap that occurs in summer and make sure children can get the nutritious meals they need. Contact our office at 785-296-2276 or your area KSDE child nutrition consultant to discuss options for summer 2025 and determine the right fit for your Sponsorship. Multiple summer meal training opportunities are available – see details under the “Professional Development & Training” section below.



Ramadan Meal Service Waiver

USDA has authorized KSDE to approve waiver requests to allow local Program operators to offer non-congregate meals when participants observing Ramadan are fasting during typical meal service times. The waiver application is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under CACFP, CACFP What's New, Ramadan Meal Service Waiver Application.

2025 Farm to Plate Subgrant

Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Sponsors may request up to \$9,500 to support Farm to Plate initiatives that will increase the local foods served as part of Child Nutrition Program snacks and meals. Subgrants will be utilized by CNP operators to advance eligible local foods programming activities. Subgrants will be available to School Nutrition Program (SNP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors. The application is anticipated to be available at the end of March at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under Farm to Plate, What's New. Contact Eryn Davis at Eryn.Davis@ksde.gov with questions.

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 trainings include:

- **Gluten-Free Diets** on March 5 from 2-3 pm
- **Introduction to SFSP** on March 6 from 2-3 pm
- **Food Safety Basics** on March 12 from 2-5 pm
- **Feeding Infants in the CACFP** on March 25 from 1-4 pm
- **SFSP Annual Administrative Training** on March 26 from 1-4 pm
- **Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas** on March 27 from 2-3 pm
- **Sodium Savvy** on April 2 from 2-3 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:** Wellness Wednesdays: Improving & Maintain Heart Health in Children, Wellness Wednesdays: Tobacco & Nicotine Use & Prevention, and Wellness Wednesdays: Nutrition & Cardiovascular Health.

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.



Calling All Bakers!

Do you have a passion for scratch baking and yeast breads? Do you want to share that passion with other Kansas sponsors? KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness is looking for individuals like YOU to serve as baking coaches. If interested in sharing your knowledge with other Kansas sponsors through training and technical assistance, please contact Holly Steinlage at Holly.Steinlage@ksde.gov for an application.

Introduction to SFSP Training – March 6

KSDE will be hosting an Introduction to SFSP training on Thursday, March 6 from 2-3 pm. The training will provide a high-level overview of SFSP operations including sponsor responsibilities, meal planning and documentation, claiming and reimbursement, and resources available. Join the training at <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/89379675724?pwd=ILFJBsv28Sf7Rklr9E9XDaYfBLzMyW.1>
Passcode: 146195

SFSP Annual Administrative Training – March 26

Are you planning to offer meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) this summer? If so, join KSDE on Wednesday, March 26 from 1-4 pm for SFSP Administrative Training. The training will be offered live via Zoom at the following link:
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/85406961050?pwd=inGc7bnw2PzvVbOrpzBUFymJET9odP.1> Passcode: 435352

For those unable to attend the live training, a recording will be available on the KSDE Training Portal at a later date. All new and returning sponsors must have at least one representative complete this training in order to operate the SFSP in summer 2025.

Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas Training – March 27

If your sponsor is planning to offer non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in summer 2025, at least one sponsor representative must attend the Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas Training on Thursday, March 27 from 2-3 pm. The training will be offered live via Zoom at the following link:
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/85352333398?pwd=ptlrOZbRaChXtv7yjjsLYk99IXgoLv.1> Passcode: 239026

Non-congregate meal service is defined by USDA as “a food service at which meals are provided for children to consume all of the components off site”. This training will explain requirements for operating non-congregate meal service sites based on USDA guidance. For those unable to attend the live training, a recording will be available on the KSDE Training Portal at a later date.

CACFP Child Nutrition Professional Certification Awarded

Congratulations to Sarah Kennington of The Growing Place in Humboldt, KS! She has earned the CACFP Child Nutrition Professional (CCNP) Certification from the National CACFP Sponsors Association. The CCNP Certification is a special designation for those in the CACFP profession that are committed to continually learning best practices and keeping up with changing trends in the field. Ms. Kennington has shown this commitment by attending additional trainings and workshops to further her knowledge of the CACFP program. This achievement reflects dedication to upholding high standards in the CACFP profession. Please click [here](#) for more information about this program.



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.

FNS hosted an informational Webinar for State Agencies, Local Operators, and the Public on January 28 on the Zoom platform. The [webinar recording](#) and [PDF of slides](#) are now available.

More information about the request for information can be found on the FNS website: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr-122624>. Comments can be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to [Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs](#) and follow the online instructions for submitting comments. For more information on submitting comments, please see [Tips for Submitting Effective Comments here: Tips-For-Submitting-Effective-Comments.pdf](#). (Please note this is a Federal Register resource and not an FNS resource.)

New Resources

Shop KS Farms is Coming to Douglas County!

Shop Kansas Farms Market of Farms will be in Lawrence on March 29 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Flory Meeting Hall on the Douglas County Fairgrounds. Vendors from across the state will be selling beef, pork, poultry, eggs, honey, jams and jellies, and more! More information is available here: <https://shopkansasfarms.com/douglas-county-market-of-farms>

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/>.

Celebrate National Nutrition Month in March!

National Nutrition Month®, celebrated each year during March, focuses on the importance of making informed food choices and developing healthful eating and physical activity habits. This year's theme is "Food Connects Us." Food is a connecting factor for many of us. Food connects us to our cultures, our families, and our friends. Check out a list of ideas to celebrate during each week of March at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under CACFP, CACFP What's New.

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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