

Monthly Update

Child & Adult Care Food Program



May 8, 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 in June & July

There will not be regularly scheduled Town Hall meetings in June or July unless new guidance is received from USDA. Town Hall meetings will resume in August.

Claim Deadlines for State Fiscal Year End – Child Care Centers & Daycare Homes

Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) April and May claims submitted and in “Approved” status by 8 am on Tuesday, June 10 will be paid and money deposited by Friday, June 13. If April and May claims are not submitted by this time, payment will not be made until July due to the state fiscal year end closeout. Remember, the April claim deadline for both original and upward revisions is Sunday, June 29.

Open CACFP Audits

KSDE is working to catch up on outstanding audits from past program years (PY18-PY23). We will do our best to include all outstanding audits for the sponsor in one email. When the email comes, it will have a separate attachment for each CACFP audit with a summary in the body of the email. The sponsor may also receive a duplicate copy of a previous audit letter as a reminder of the audit status. Safeguards are in place to ensure that fiscal action is not assessed twice for the same audit. If you have questions, contact information will be listed at the bottom of the audit letter.

School Breakfast for Morning Preschool Students

All Kansas public schools are required by State law to participate in the School Breakfast Program unless they meet certain criteria and receive an annual waiver from the Kansas State Department of Education. Starting in SY 2025-26, if morning preschool students are counted in the student enrollment count on September 20, schools must offer these students breakfast. This requirement is per Kansas State Statute 72-17,145.

Reminder: Use #FuelingKSKids on Social Media

When sharing on social media, be sure to use the hashtag #FuelingKSKids. This allows KSDE and all Kansas sponsors to see all the great meals, snacks, and activities being offered in your programs!

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Outreach

If your Sponsor does not have SFSP sites, consider sharing a link to the site locator tool with families. This would allow families to find a location to receive free meals at sites across Kansas. The site locator tool is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under SFSP, SFSP Locate a Site Near You. **Now available:** CNW also has summer meal site locator cards available in bulk quantities for program operators. The cards are the size of a business card and contain a QR code that households can scan to access the Locate a Site Near You webpage. Contact Katy Hatch at katy.hatch@ksde.gov to request cards.



Various texting services and hunger hotlines are also available. The automated texting service that connects families to local summer meal sites is 914-342-7744. Individuals can text a question that contains a keyword such as “food” or “summer meals”. Parents and caregivers can also text the word “food” or “comida” to 304-304 to find the nearest meal sites through the No Kid Hungry Hotline. The USDA National Hunger Hotline number is also available – individuals can call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE to speak with a representative who will find food resources such as meal sites, food banks, and other nearby social services.

SUN Bucks 2025

SUN Bucks, also known as Summer EBT, is a program to help families buy food for their school-aged children during the summer. Families will get a one-time benefit of \$120 per year for each eligible child to help buy groceries during the summer months. Children who get SUN Bucks can still participate in other summer meal programs. Receiving SUN Bucks will not affect children or families' immigration status. If a child's household did not receive a letter from DCF in January 2025 regarding SUN Bucks eligibility, they can apply through the DCF self-service portal at dcfapp.kees.ks.gov. Applications for 2025 SUN Bucks must be submitted no later than 5 pm on August 29, 2025. The SUN Bucks benefit distributions expected to begin in mid to late April 2025 have been delayed. An updated distribution timeline has not been determined, but updates will be provided on the DCF website and Facebook page - @KansasDCF. More information on SUN Bucks can be found at <https://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Pages/Food/SUNBucks.aspx>

Kansans CAN 2024-25 Best Practice Awards – Nomination Deadline is June 30

The purpose of the Kansans CAN Best Practice Awards is to encourage and reward outstanding practices in Child Nutrition & Wellness Programs in Kansas. We encourage you and your staff to make nominations for outstanding and/or innovative practices. A simple one-page nomination form is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under SNP, SNP What's New. Nominations are due to the Child Nutrition & Wellness office on or before June 30. Awardees will be notified by July 31, and presentations will be made at the August State Board of Education meeting. Please contact any Child Nutrition & Wellness team member for assistance with the application process. We look forward to receiving your nominations and celebrating the Kansans CAN Best Practice Awards with you at the August State Board of Education Meeting!

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:

- **Reducing Added Sugars** on May 7 from 2-3 pm
- **Serving Safe Summer Meals** on May 13 from 2-3 pm
- **Summer Meals: Best Practices for Serving Up Success** on May 14 from 2-3 pm
- **Food Safety Basics** on May 21 from 2-5 pm
- **Procurement 101: The Basics** on May 22 from 2-3 pm
- **SNP/CACFP Annual Administrative Training** on July 8 from 8:30 am-12:30 pm
- **CACFP Annual Administrative Training** on July 29 from 1-4 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.



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!

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.

CACFP Annual Administrative Training (REQUIRED) – July 29

Sponsors should make plans to attend CACFP Annual Administrative Training. At least one representative from each Sponsor must complete this training. Join the training on July 29 from 1 to 4 pm at this link: [Join the meeting now](#) (Meeting ID: 226 775 291 16 Passcode: 8hf3Ny6w). The training will also be available on the KSDE Training Portal at a later date.

For sponsors operating both the School Nutrition Program (SNP) and CACFP, a joint SNP/CACFP Annual Administrative Training will be held on July 8 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at this link: [Join the meeting now](#) (Meeting ID: 283 539 248 463 Passcode: kB37pX2V)

New Resources

May Harvest of the Month – Mixed Berries

Did you know there are 46 berry growers listed on the [Specialty Crop Growers Directory](#)? Consider local berries for breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Newsletters, posters, table tents, and curriculum for the produce you are featuring are available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov/f2p/what's-new/may-harvest-of-the-month-berries>. KSDE would love to see how you serve local berries in your programs – please share your “berry good” stories on social media using #FuelingKSKids!

Additional Harvest of the Month Kits Available!

Additional Harvest of the Month kit materials are now available. Kits include posters, stickers, and static clings for each Harvest of the Month feature. If you would like additional materials, please contact Eryn Davis at eryn.davis@ksde.gov

Pork Recipe Booklet

The National Pork Board recently collaborated with School Food Rocks and created a 50-page recipe booklet showcasing tasty and nutritious pork recipes for K-12 cafeterias and CACFP operators. The booklet is now live on the Kansas Pork Association website at <https://www.eatpork.org/pork-on-the-plate/>

Providing children and adults with delicious, nutritious meals is central to school food and CACFP programs. Adding pork to menus delivers rich flavor, high-quality protein, and over 10 essential nutrients to everyday meals. Sourcing pork from U.S. farmers ensures fresh, safe, and sustainable food while supporting local agriculture and the economy. By including pork in meals, we nourish students and support American pig farmers, all while promoting sustainability.



Kansas Food Action Network New Website

The Kansas Food Action Network is pleased to present their new website, www.ksfoodactionnetwork.org. With the new website, Kansas Food Action Network hopes to strengthen their network with readily available information for food and farm councils and all Kansans interested in food system work. Check the website often for more information and resources being added all the time.

Join the Kansas Food Policy Council!

The Kansas Food Policy Council (KSFPC) is a statewide coalition committed to coordination, education, and action to strengthen our state's food system. The council envisions a healthy, accessible, resilient, and diversified food system for all Kansans. To continue building a representative and inclusive statewide Food Policy Council, they are now seeking six new members who can speak to different experiences across our food system. An online application is available at <https://forms.gle/1HYYZ3gFA2LBpdsf7> and is open until June 15.

CACFP Boot Camp on Adult Care

Keeping older adults healthy, engaged, and well-nourished takes creativity, knowledge, and the right strategies. Join the National CACFP Association on Zoom from 10 am to 3:45 pm on May 14 for the CACFP Boot Camp on Adult Care. Participants will walk away with fresh ideas, practical solutions, and the confidence to elevate the care provided to older adults. Discover simple ways to incorporate movement into daily routines, hands-on tips to enhance nutrition under CACFP guidelines, and bring your questions for industry experts. Register today at <https://bit.ly/CACFPAdultCare>. Unable to attend May 14? Register and get access to on-demand viewing through May 28.

CACFP Meal Pattern Boot Camp

Serving reimbursable meals begins with a solid understanding of the CACFP meal pattern. Join the National CACFP Association on Zoom from 10 am to 4 pm on June 12 for the CACFP Meal Pattern Boot Camp. This training will explore each meal component—milk, fruits, vegetables, grains, and meats/meat alternates—so sponsors can confidently serve meals that meet program requirements. Learn from the experts, bring your questions, and discover creative ways to incorporate these components into menus. Whether just getting started or needing a refresher, this event will give participants the knowledge needed to serve up great nutrition with confidence! Register today at <https://info.cacfp.org/ap/Events/Register/KVFd55eHnCBCW>.

CACFP Virtual Summit

The National CACFP Association will be hosting their virtual summit on August 13-21. The summit will include workshops on nutrition, program administration, operations, financial and nonprofit management, and more. Sponsors can find more information about the event and how to register at <https://info.cacfp.org/ap/Events/Register/mwFZJDZimC3Ce>.

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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