

Monthly Update

Child & Adult Care Food Program



October 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

October Town Hall – October 9

The October Town Hall will cover important reminders and updates for both SNP and CACFP. Farm to Plate month will be celebrated with program updates, sponsor best practice sharing, and a “crunch off” event! Plan to bring a local product to crunch into during the meeting and add a [Farm to Plate background](#) to your video. Join KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness on October 9 at 2 pm at this link: [Join the meeting now](#) (Meeting ID: 241 814 717 448 Passcode: hW7Wy3Ax)

7th Annual Mountain Plains Crunch Off in October

Make plans to participate in the 7th Annual Mountain Plains Crunch Off during Farm to School month. Celebrate by crunching into local products any day in October. Register your event at this link to receive a toolkit and list of crunch ideas: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NK578JH>

CACFP Certification

Thank you to sponsors who have submitted their PY 2026 certification packets for approval. Consultants are currently working through documents in the order received. If certification information has not been submitted, instructions are available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under CACFP, Program Certification. To participate in CACFP for PY 2026, which begins in October, sponsors must complete program certification requirements as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for review by KSDE. Sponsors cannot claim meals in PY 2026 until program certification is complete and approved by KSDE.

October Payment Dates – Important Change to Typical Schedule

CACFP vouchers will only be posted on the first three Tuesdays of October; they will not be posted during the last week of October. Sponsor Claims in “Approved” status by 8 am on each applicable morning, 10/7, 10/14, and 10/21, will get paid in the month of October. 60-day deadlines are outlined on the “Claims Deadlines – Program Year 2025” document housed at <https://cnw.ksde.gov/cacfp/cacfp-administrative-handbook/chapters/chapter-12-claiming-reimbursement>. Should you have any questions regarding payments for Child Nutrition Programs, please contact Dessa Gifford, Public Service Administrator, at either desa.gifford@ksde.gov or 785-296-4965.

October Claim Reminder – Centers Only

Centers must report the number of free, reduced price, and paid participants on their October claims. The number of participants in each category is reported in the “Center Income Eligibility Categories” (IEC) section of the Center Claim. Sponsors are required to upload the IEC summary into KN-CLAIM in October and any other month that reported numbers are changed. An Excel version of the Income Eligibility Categories Summary template is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under CACFP, Administrative Handbook, Chapter 12: Claiming Reimbursement.



Reminder: When the claiming percentages are being established for the year, the IEC Summary must only include those participants who have complete and valid enrollment forms on file AND ate a meal/snack in the month of October.

Note: The Determining Eligibility for CACFP training is available on the KSDE Training Portal at <https://learning.ksde.org> under K12 Staff, Child Nutrition & Wellness: CACFP. The training includes a refresher on completing the Income Eligibility Categories (IEC) summary.

Celebrate Farm to CACFP Week – October 12-18

Farm to CACFP Week is a national education campaign hosted annually by the National CACFP Association. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the benefits of connecting child and adult care sponsors and operators with local foods. Through local food procurement, gardening activities, and agriculture education, Farm to CACFP leverages CACFP funding to help incorporate local foods in the nutritious CACFP meal pattern thus strengthening community food systems and supporting positive health outcomes for those in care. Find everything you need to celebrate, including resources, a webinar, and a social media challenge, at <https://www.cacfp.org/farmtocacfpweek/>. **Don't forget to share pictures of the celebrations on social media using #FuelingKSKids!**

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:

- **Handling a Food Recall** on October 1 from 2-3 pm
- **Food Safety Basics** on October 15 from 2-5 pm
- **CACFP Administrative Review Training** on October 28 from 1-2 pm
- **Is Your Attitude Showing?** on November 5 from 2-3 pm

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.

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)

At least one representative from each Sponsor must participate in the CACFP Annual Administrative Training. Sponsors who were unable to attend a live virtual session must take the training through the KSDE Training Portal. The training is posted at <https://learning.ksde.org>, K12 Staff, Child Nutrition & Wellness: CACFP.



USDA Updates

Look for New Food Yields in the Food Buying Guide

New food yields were added to the [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs \(FBG\) Interactive Web-based Tool](#) and the [FBG Mobile App](#)! The following new foods are now available: crushed pineapple, pineapple chunks, pineapple tidbits, dried mango, açai puree, dragon fruit (pitaya), and chopped romaine lettuce. Stay tuned for additional yield data releases soon.

Order Team Nutrition Materials in Print

State agencies, program operators, and sponsoring organizations that participate in the USDA's Child Nutrition Programs can request free print copies of Team Nutrition materials, while supplies last. Visit the [online order form](#) to see all resources.

New Resources

Agriculture in the Classroom Resources

Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom has launched the Vertical Gardening Curriculum. Lesson plans are available at <https://ksagclassroom.org/kansas-lesson-plans/vertical-gardening/>. The Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom also has a Local Ag Resource Map, which connects educators to local agricultural resources: <https://ksagmap.org/>. Find your farmer; find your food!

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:

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