

Monthly Update

Child & Adult Care Food Program



April 1, 2026

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

We Appreciate You!

The KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness team is grateful for each of you and the vital role you play in nourishing children and building lifelong healthy habits through the CACFP. **Be sure to share pictures of the great meals, snacks, and activities being offered in your programs by using #FuelingKSKids!** Not on social media? Don't hesitate to email pictures to anyone on the Child Nutrition & Wellness team!

CACFP Sponsoring Organization Annual Financial Review

All Sponsoring Organizations (sponsors with more than one site) are required to have a CACFP Financial Review conducted annually. Sponsors that are scheduled for an Administrative Review will have this financial review in conjunction with the Administrative Review. Sponsoring Organizations that are not scheduled for an Administrative Review this year will have a stand-alone CACFP Financial Review. This review may be conducted as a desk review or conducted on-site. The reviewing consultant will send out communication to schedule this review.

Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs

Sponsors who plan to use an online Enrollment & Income Eligibility Form or accept electronic signatures on any child nutrition form must complete the Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs form available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under SNP, SNP Food Service Facts, Chapter 7. The form must be completed annually and returned to CNW at cnw@ksde.gov. More information on the requirements of online systems and how to complete the online system review process will be provided during a virtual training on Tuesday, April 7 from 9 to 11 a.m. The training link is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under Training, [CNW Calendar](#).

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Summer meal programs aim to bridge the nutrition gap during summer and ensure children receive the nutritious meals they need. Contact our Topeka office at (785) 296-2276 or your child nutrition consultant to discuss options for summer 2026.

SUN Bucks 2026

SUN Bucks, also known as Summer EBT, is a program to help families buy food for their school-aged children during the summer. SUN Bucks auto-enrollment was completed in February, and notices have been sent to those households. If a child's household did not receive a letter from the Department for Children and Families (DCF) regarding SUN Bucks eligibility, they can apply through the DCF Self-Service Portal at dcfapp.kees.ks.gov. SUN Bucks benefits will be issued in summer 2026. Updates about the distribution timeline will be shared as details become available. More information, FAQs, and informational flyers in both English and Spanish can be found on the SUN Bucks webpage at SUNBucks.dcf.ks.gov.



Kansans CAN 2025-26 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 CACFP, CACFP 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 at the August State Board of Education Meeting!

USDA Updates

SP 05-2026, 2026 Appropriations Act: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs

USDA Food and Nutrition Service has released the policy memorandum, *2026 Appropriations Act: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs (SP 05-2026, CACFP 03-2026, SFSP 03-2026)*. Consistent with the guiding principles regarding nutrition programs identified by USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins to clarify statutory, regulatory, and administrative requirements, this memo provides guidance regarding implementation of the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 (Public Law 119-37).

Now Available: Revised Crediting Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program

The revised [Crediting Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\)](#) is now available online! This updated resource will help CACFP operators serve meals and snacks that encourage healthy choices, healthy families, and healthy outcomes.

The Crediting Handbook is a technical assistance resource that helps CACFP operators plan menus that meet current USDA meal pattern requirements. The handbook works with the [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#) to help with crediting foods and planning meals. This resource provides information on the current CACFP meal patterns, crediting guidance for each meal component, a "Crediting in Action" section to practice crediting skills, and a list of helpful resources. The handbook was recently revised to make the guidance clear and consistent, add new crediting examples, and update the words we use to match current policy. Check out the revised Crediting Handbook for CACFP today by visiting <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/cacfp/crediting-handbook>

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 or registration information. Upcoming trainings include:

- **Request to Use Electronic Transactions** on April 7 from 9-11 a.m.
- **Food Safety Basics** on April 15 from 2-5 p.m.
- **Jump Start: The Business of CACFP** on April 21 from 1-4 p.m.
- **Jump Start: Meal Planning for CACFP** on April 22 from 1-4 p.m.
- **SFSP Menu Planning** on April 28 from 2-4 p.m.
- **Summer Meals: Best Practices in Local Foods & Menu Planning** on April 29 from 2-3 p.m.
- **Balancing Budgets & Better Meals: Cost Control Strategies** on May 6 from 2-3 p.m.
- **May Town Hall** on May 14 from 2-3 p.m.



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. On-demand training is also available from the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) at <https://theicn.org>, Training, iLearn. **New to the KSDE Training Portal:**

- **2026 Wellness Wednesdays: Navigating Milk & Dairy Options** (1 hour) under General Classes
- **2026 Wellness Wednesdays: Antibiotics & Hormones in Beef Production** (1 hour) under General Classes

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 Training Program

This training opportunity allows sponsors to request in-person, hands-on culinary training conducted at their site. **Sponsors can choose from five training topics: Critical Culinary Skills, Knife Basics, Cooking Basics, and Baking Basics: Quick Breads or Yeast Breads.** The sessions are led by trained culinary coaches and 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.

Request to Use Electronic Transactions – April 7

Sponsors who wish to use an online application, an online enrollment & income eligibility form, or accept electronic signatures on any child nutrition form, including the Consent for Disclosure, must complete the Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs form located on the Checklist tab in KN-CLAIM. This training will explain the requirements of online systems and how to complete the online system review process with KSDE. It will be held virtually on Tuesday, April 7 from 9-11 am, and the training link is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under Training, [CNW Calendar](#).

Jump Start: The Business of CACFP – April 21

This training will provide information on enrollment and income eligibility forms, meal counts, and claims. It is recommended that both sections of CACFP Jump Start (The Business of CACFP and Meal Planning for CACFP) be completed by new authorized representatives of centers within 6 months of hire. They are also recommended for new support staff who assist the authorized representative. The Business of CACFP will be held virtually on Tuesday, April 21 from 1 to 4 p.m. The training link is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under Training, [CNW Calendar](#).

Jump Start: Meal Planning for CACFP – April 22

This training will provide information on recordkeeping requirements for menu planning and meal documentation. It is recommended that both sections of CACFP Jump Start (The Business of CACFP and Meal Planning for CACFP) be completed by new authorized representatives of centers within six months of hire. They are also recommended for new support staff who assist the authorized representative. Meal Planning for CACFP will be held virtually on Wednesday, April 22 from 1-4 pm. The training link is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under Training, [CNW Calendar](#).



Balancing Budgets & Better Meals: Cost Control Strategies – May 6

The May monthly professional development training will be held virtually on May 6 from 2-3 pm. This training will provide practical strategies for managing program costs while maintaining high-quality, appealing meals. Key cost control strategies such as menu planning, forecasting, portion management, and smart purchasing practices will be covered. The training link is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under Training, [CNW Calendar](#).

May Town Hall – May 14

All Child Nutrition Program sponsors are invited to the May Town Hall, which will cover updates to the Kansas Certificate in Child Nutrition Management. Plan to join KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness on Thursday, May 14 at 2 p.m. The meeting link is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under Training, [CNW Calendar](#).

New Resources

Hydroponic Tower Gardens

Child Nutrition & Wellness has two gently used hydroponic tower gardens available to give away to interested sponsors on a first come, first serve basis. To claim a tower garden, please contact Eryn Davis at eryn.davis@ksde.gov or 785-296-5060.

Harvest of the Month Materials

Child Nutrition & Wellness will be placing an order for additional Harvest of the Month materials. Materials include posters, static clings and stickers for each month of the calendar year. If you are interested in receiving Harvest of the Month materials, please contact Eryn Davis at eryn.davis@ksde.gov or 785-296-5060.

National CACFP Association “Provider Day” Event – May 16

In celebration of Provider Appreciation Month and the 40th anniversary of the National CACFP Association (NCA), NCA is hosting Provider Day, a free virtual event, on Saturday, May 16. During the event, providers will explore easy menu ideas, playful ways to turn everyday meals into opportunities for learning and movement, and helpful resources designed with their programs in mind. For more information or to register, visit [Provider Day 2026 - Event Registration](#).

Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN)

The Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN), a division of the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN), offers a wide range of resources and training opportunities designed to strengthen culinary skills within child nutrition programs. Their offerings include training programs, recipes, monthly webinars, and instructional videos covering baking techniques, basic kitchen equipment, knife skills, and much more. Explore all the CICN resources at <https://theicn.org/cicn>.

Join the KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness Team!

The KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness team has an open position for a Child Nutrition Consultant in Western Kansas. For more information or to apply, go to [KSDE Program Consultant Job Description](#).

As always, if you have questions or need technical assistance, please contact your Child Nutrition Consultant or the Topeka office at (785) 296-2276.



For more information, contact:

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