

Monthly Update

Child & Adult Care Food Program



January 5, 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

State Holiday - January 19

The KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness office will be closed on January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Critical Update to Tentative Payment Schedule

Please note that beginning January 2026, Child Nutrition Program (CNP) reimbursement payments will typically be processed on only the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Sponsor Claims that are in "Approved" status by 8 a.m. each applicable Tuesday morning will get batched that week.

CNP vouchers are posted between 8 and 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, which allows direct deposit payment on Fridays (posting of vouchers is a 4-business-day process before Sponsors receive the payment via ACH, and physical checks are mailed out on Thursdays).

The 60-day deadlines are outlined on the "Claim Deadlines - Program Year 2026," available at <https://chw.ksde.gov>, CACFP, Administrative Handbook, Chapter 12. Should you have any questions regarding payments for CNPs, please contact [Dessa Gifford](mailto:desa.gifford@ksde.gov), Public Service Administrator, School Finance, at desa.gifford@ksde.gov or (785) 296-4965.

USDA Updates

Updated Procurement Thresholds

This announcement provides notification that procurement thresholds have been updated by the Office of Management and Budget, effective October 1, 2025. The final rule at [90 FR 41872](#) amends the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to further implement a statute, which requires an adjustment every five years of statutory acquisition-related thresholds for inflation.

Thresholds administered under Federal awards are referenced in [48 CFR 2.101](#) (also known as FAR 2.101) and increased to the following starting October 1, 2025:

- Federal micro-purchase threshold increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and;
- Federal simplified acquisition threshold (formerly known as the Federal small purchase threshold) increased from \$250,000 to \$350,000.
- Note: Kansas state purchasing requirements still require formal purchasing to be used for non-food items and services valued at \$20,000 or more.

State agencies and program operators are reminded to continue referencing Federal procurement regulations at [2 CFR 200](#), which cite the above regulations. This update applies to all child nutrition programs including the [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#), [School Breakfast Program \(SBP\)](#), [Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\)](#), and the [Summer Food Service Program \(SFSP\)](#).



State and local agencies continue to possess the authority to set lower micro-purchase and simplified acquisition thresholds, thereby imposing more restrictive procurement requirements. If the state has not set a lower threshold, local Program operators may set higher limits in line with regulations found at [2 CFR 200.320\(a\)\(1\)](#). Kansas state purchasing requirements require formal purchasing to be used for non-food items and services valued at \$20,000 or more.

This notification supersedes and rescinds SP20 CACFP07 SFSP06-2019 Revised.

2025 Turnip the Beet Nominations

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service is pleased to share the [2025 Turnip the Beet Nomination Packet](#). The Turnip the Beet Awards recognize outstanding Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer children high-quality meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. This supports Agriculture Secretary Rollins' commitment to encouraging healthy choices, healthy outcomes, and healthy families. Nominations must be sent by the State agency to the appropriate FNS Regional Office **by Friday, January 23, 2026**. More information can be found on the [Turnip the Beet webpage](#).

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:

- **Introduction to Yeast Breads** on January 7 from 2-3 p.m.
- **Procurement 101: The Basics** on January 20 from 2-3 p.m.
- **Food Safety Basics** on January 21 from 2-5 p.m.
- **Wellness Wednesdays** each Wednesday in February from 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- **CACFP Jump Start for Centers** on April 7 in Topeka

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](#).

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.



Introduction to Yeast Breads – January 7

The January monthly professional development training, Introduction to Yeast Breads, will be held on January 7 from 2 to 3 p.m. This training will explore the ingredients used in yeast bread production, and participants will learn more about their functions and how they can impact the characteristics of finished products. The steps to ensuring high-quality yeast bread production will also be reviewed. The training link is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under Training, [CNW Calendar](#).

Procurement 101: The Basics – January 20

This training introduces the fundamentals of Federal procurement, including key requirements and definitions. Participants will gain a basic understanding of the different procurement methods. Procurement training is required for School Nutrition Program (SNP) sponsors, but Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) sponsors are also encouraged to attend. The training will be held on January 20 from 2 to 3 p.m., and the link is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under Training, [CNW Calendar](#).

Virtual “Wellness Wednesdays” Webinars in February

Join KSDE for the annual "Wellness Wednesdays" webinar series. A one-hour virtual 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. Sessions will be from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Links to each week are available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under Training, [CNW Calendar](#).

This year’s theme is “Food Questions and Myth Busting with Kansas Farmers and Ranchers.” Join the organizations powered by Kansas farmers and ranchers to explore your food questions, examine the latest food trends, and engage in science- and nutrition-based conversations that strengthen your confidence in the foods you choose for children. Topics will include:

- **February 4: Seed Oils** – Kansas Soybean Commission
- **February 11: Cow’s Milk** – Midwest Dairy
- **February 18: Antibiotics and Hormones** – Kansas Beef Council
- **February 25: Pesticides** – Kansas Farm Bureau

CACFP Jump Start for Centers – April 7

Join KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness for this free six-hour training on April 7 in Topeka.

- **The Business of CACFP** will be held from **9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** and provide information on enrollment and income eligibility forms, meal counts, and claims.
- **Meal Planning for CACFP** will be held from **1 to 4 p.m.** and provide information on recordkeeping requirements for menu planning and meal documentation. Individuals can register for the morning, afternoon, or both sessions.

Both sessions are required for new authorized representatives of centers and recommended for new support staff who provide assistance to the authorized representative. For more information or to register, contact Holly Steinlage at holly.steinlage@ksde.gov.



New Resources

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>.

Farm to Plate in Our State Newsletter is Back!

The Kansas Farm to Plate in Our State Newsletter took a hiatus while we focused on other projects. The newsletter resumed in November and will be sent monthly. If you would like to receive the newsletter, please email Eryn Davis at eryn.davis@ksde.gov.

Applications Open! 2026 Farm to School & Early Childhood Education (ECE) Institute

The 2026 Heartland Farm to School and Early Care and Education (ECE) Institute Application is now available! The year-long Institute kicks off in June 2026 with a retreat where teams will engage in action planning to set programmatic goals with the assistance of a coach and learn through educational sessions. Following the retreat, teams will implement their Farm to Plate action plans with the support of the Institute network, consisting of their coach, organizations across the three states, and the cohort of participating teams. The Institute aims to promote the three tenets of Farm to School (Procurement, School Gardens, and Education) as well as the Three C's (Classrooms, Cafeterias, and Communities) through School-led Farm to Plate initiatives.

Participation in the Institute is free, and travel expenses are covered as part of the program. The Heartland Farm to School and ECE Institute application can be found on the Child Nutrition and Wellness website at cnw.ksde.gov under Farm to Plate, What's New, linked [here](#).

For more information or questions regarding the Institute, contact Eryn Davis at eryn.davis@ksde.gov or (785) 296-5060.

2026 National Child Nutrition Conference – Scholarships Available

The National CACFP Association is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2026 National Child Nutrition Conference which is being held April 13-17, 2026, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The scholarship application is available at <https://www.cacfp.org/conference/scholarships/>

Fifteen scholarships will be awarded: seven to attend the conference in-person, and eight to attend virtually. Each in-person scholarship includes conference registration fees, four nights lodging, and up to \$450.00 toward transportation costs at a value of over \$1,900 per scholarship. Applications are due by January 12, 2026, and recipients will be announced in early February.

Staffing Update

Sean Hoffman has rejoined the Child Nutrition & Wellness team as a training specialist. Sean previously worked as a child nutrition consultant and training specialist from 2016 to 2021. Welcome back, Sean!



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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