Monthly Update

Child & Adult Care Food Program

November 4, 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 Are THANKFUL for You!

The KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness team appreciates your continued commitment to nourishing Kansas children through the CACFP. Your work makes a meaningful difference every day. We invite you to showcase your program's successes by sharing photos of meals, snacks, and activities using the hashtag **#FuelingKSKids** or by emailing photos to any member of our team.

State Holiday – November 11

The KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness office will be closed on Wednesday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day. KSDE offices will also be closed on November 26 and 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

CACFP Reimbursement Claim Reminders

Original and upward claim revisions are due within 60 days of the end of the claiming month. As a reminder, 60-day deadlines are outlined on the resource titled "Claim Deadlines–Program Year 2026". 60-day deadlines for PY 2027 are also available in CACFP Administrative Handbook, Chapter 12.

Please note that voucher dates are not dependent on or altered by claim due dates. Vouchers, including for Child & Adult Care Food Program Child Care Centers and Daycare Home Sponsors, are typically posted on the first and third Tuesdays of each month between 8 and 9:30 am. This allows direct deposit payments to be made on Fridays, as posting of vouchers is a four-business day process before payment is received via ACH direct deposit (if ACH is not set up, physical checks are mailed on Thursdays of the vouchering week). Center/Site and Sponsor Claims in "Approved" status by 8 am on each applicable Tuesday will be batched and paid that corresponding Friday. Multiple claims can be paid in one batch. For questions regarding claims or meal reimbursement payments, please contact Dessa Gifford, Public Service Administrator for School Finance, at (785) 296-4965 or dessa.gifford@ksde.gov.

USDA Updates

Final Rule Memorandum: Simplified Geographic Preference Procurement in CNPs

On September 30, 2026, FNA released SP11-2026, CACFP 05-2026, SFSP 05-2026, *Simplified Geographic Preference Procurement in the Child Nutrition Programs*. This memorandum provides information on the direct final rule published by FNA on September 9, 2026, titled, Simplified Geographic Preference Procurement in Child Nutrition Programs (91 FR 57245) effective November 9, 2026. The rule does not change policy or implementation — it simply clarifies existing requirements to make the geographic preference option easier to understand and use the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program for Children, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program, collectively known as USDA's Child Nutrition Programs. This rule also supports USDA's Harvest to Hallways Initiative to improve school meals and strengthen the connection between American agriculture and America's children.

Fiscal Year 2027 CACFP & SFSP Area Eligibility Data Now Available

USDA's Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA) is excited to announce that the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Area Eligibility Mapper has been updated for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027. This update aligns with USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins' commitment to provide timely and satisfactory customer service.

At the beginning of each fiscal year, USDA releases a special tabulation of American Community Survey data provided by the United States Census Bureau, which can be used to establish area eligibility in CACFP and SFSP. To make the data easier to use, the data release is accompanied by an interactive mapping tool, which now reflects the FY 2027 update.

The data set is also available for download on USDA's open data site. To learn more about using census data to establish area eligibility for CACFP and SFSP, please review SP 08, CACFP 04, SFSP 03-2017, Area Eligibility in Child Nutrition Programs.

Team Nutrition Training Grant

KSDE has been awarded the USDA FY26 Team Nutrition Training Grant. The three-year grant will fund $760,634.00 to strengthen the capacity and skillset of Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) providers to serve healthy meals, deliver nutrition education to participating children, and build and sustain healthy food environments aligned with the 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Eat Real Food initiative. More information coming soon!

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:

- **Food Safety Basics** on November 18 from 2-5 p.m.
- **Write It Right: Creating Standardized Recipes** on December 2 from 2-3 p.m.

On-demand training is offered 24/7 on the KSDE Training Portal. Detailed instructions on creating an account are available on the CNW website under Training, How to Create Online Account. On-demand training is also available on the Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) iLearn platform.

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 Tandy Rundus at tandy.rundus@ksde.gov.

Write It Right: Creating Standardized Recipes – December 2

This training will explain the importance of standardized recipes and walk participants through how to turn a home-style recipe or informal recipe notes into standardized recipes. It will be held on December 2 from 2 to 3 p.m. The training link is available on the CNW Calendar.

New Resources

2027 National Child Nutrition Conference – Scholarships Available

The National CACFP Association is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2027 National Child Nutrition Conference which is being held March 29-April 2, 2027, in Chicago, Illinois. 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 toward transportation costs at a value of over $2,000 per scholarship. Applications are due by December 1, 2026, and recipients will be announced December 18, 2026.

Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition's Message of the Month

Supporting the Breastfed Infant in the Child Care Setting During an Emergency:
Currently, nearly 90% of families in Kansas choose to breastfeed, and over 75% of infants are still being breastfed at 6 weeks of age, which is when most enter child care. If there is an emergency, do you know how you will transport, prepare, and provide breast milk to your breastfed infants? We can help!

Through a collaborative partnership process, the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition Child Care Section created "*Guidelines to Support the Breastfeeding Infant During Emergencies While in Child Care*". A checklist was created for child care providers to consider what is needed for a breastfed infant in the event of an emergency, whether in or outside the facility. Creative methods of thawing and warming the milk need to be considered in advance. Breast milk storage and handling guidelines are also an important part of the planning process to keep milk safe.

If power goes out and you have breast milk in the freezer, help keep it cold by packing any empty spaces with crumpled newspaper and keeping the freezer door closed. Once the power is back on, check your stored breast milk. Milk is still considered frozen if ice crystals are visible. Frozen breast milk that has started to thaw but still contains ice crystals can be refrozen. If breast milk has completely thawed but still feels cold, put it in the refrigerator and use it within the next day, or throw it away. Thawed milk cannot be refrozen. After 24 hours, throw out unused, thawed milk. Remember "when in doubt, throw it out."

Using these resources can help ensure that children are fed safely during disasters. Using information from the CDC's Infant and Child Feeding in Emergencies Toolkit and the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition's *Supporting the Breastfed Infant During Emergencies in the Child Care Setting* guidelines, you can feel confident in your ability to feed the infants in your care if disaster strikes.

If you have questions or need technical assistance, please contact your child nutrition consultant or call the Child Nutrition & Wellness office at (785) 296-2276.

For more information, contact:

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