

# Monthly Update

## Summer Food Service Program

May 9, 2025

*Distributed to Summer Food Service Program Authorized Representatives and posted at <https://cnw.ksde.gov>, SFSP, SFSP Monthly Updates*



### **Claim Deadlines for State Fiscal Year End – Important!**

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) May Claims submitted and in “Approved” status by 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 10, will be paid and money deposited on Friday, June 13. June claims won’t be paid until the state accounting system re-opens in July with anticipated direct deposit being Friday, July 11.

### **SFSP Reimbursement Rates**

Reimbursement rates are posted at <https://cnw.ksde.gov>, Key Links, Reimbursement Rates.

### **SFSP Annual Administrative Training – Complete by May 15, 2025**

Are you planning to offer meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) this summer? All new and returning sponsors must have at least one representative complete the SFSP Annual Administrative Training in order to operate the SFSP in summer 2025. The training must be completed by May 15. A recording is now available on the KSDE Training Portal at <https://learning.ksde.org>, K12 Staff, Child Nutrition & Wellness: Summer Meals.

### **Serving Safe Summer Meals – May 13 at 2 pm**

In this one-hour training, participants will learn how to ensure safe summer meals are served and foodborne illness is prevented. The training will cover how to practice good personal health and hygiene habits, handle foods safely, and follow proper cleaning and sanitizing protocols. The training will be offered on May 13 from 2-3 pm at this link: [Join the meeting now](#) (Meeting ID: 211 881 449 877 Passcode: 6oR7Vy65). For those unable to attend the live training, a recording will be available on the KSDE Training Portal.

### **Summer Meals: Best Practices for Serving Up Success – May 14 at 2 pm**

Join KSDE for this webinar highlighting Kansas sponsors and their innovative ideas for serving up successful summer meal programs! Sponsor best practices in non-congregate meal service, congregate meal service, and local foods will be highlighted. The training will be held on May 14 from 2-3 pm at this link: [Join the meeting now](#) (Meeting ID: 245 930 746 427 Passcode: mN2JJ7tG). For those unable to attend the live training, a recording will be available on the KSDE Training Portal.

### **Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas Training – Complete by May 15, 2025**

If your sponsor is planning to offer non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in summer 2025, at least one sponsor representative must attend the Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas Training. The training must be completed by May 15. A recording is available at <https://learning.ksde.org>, K12 Staff, Child Nutrition & Wellness: Summer Meals.



### Non-Congregate Summer Meals and Childcare

**Question #1:** Is it permissible for a childcare provider, such as a day care operator or childcare center operator, located in a rural area to collect meals for the children who attend their childcare services?

**Answer #1:** No, childcare providers cannot collect Program meals on behalf of parents or guardians for children attending their childcare. Childcare providers who care for whole groups of unrelated children formally enrolled in their care should not be considered guardians under the State agency's definition. Allowing a childcare provider to collect and distribute meals on behalf of groups of children introduces significant integrity risks, especially concerning meal duplication, ensuring meals reach eligible children, and food safety risks during transportation, storage, or distribution.

**Question #2:** Is it permissible for a childcare provider, such as a day care operator or childcare center operator located in a rural area, to take the children in care to a summer meals site to collect one or more meals?

**Answer #2:** The children present could get one meal, but not multiple days' worth of meals. The provider isn't a legal guardian, so they cannot receive the meals with children in their care and take them back to the childcare home or center to distribute. It would not be allowable for the summer meals site to give the children multiple days' worth of meals while in care because the provider would be responsible for storing them. Allowing a childcare provider to collect and distribute meals on behalf of groups of children introduces significant integrity risks, especially concerning meal duplication, and ensuring meals reach eligible children whether during their care or getting them to the parent/guardian to take home.

\*In cases where children in childcare settings could benefit from non-congregate meals, they should explore the feasibility of becoming summer meal sites or participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to support meals for children in their care.

### Summer Meals Food Safety Resource in Spanish

ICN has reprinted the *Spanish Summer Meals Food Safety Guide*—a 28-page spiral-bound booklet covering essential food safety topics like portable handwashing stations, thermometer use, and temperature control. To request copies of the guide, please reach out to Katy Hatch at [katy.hatch@ksde.gov](mailto:katy.hatch@ksde.gov).

### Summer Outreach Materials

KSDE has free promotional materials for your site to use this summer, including yard signs, feather flags, and door hangers. Portable hand-washing station supplies are available to any Sponsor operating a meal service site without access to running water. New sites are also eligible for a Team Nutrition kit and/ or a Summer Meals Food Safety kit. Contact Katy Hatch at [katy.hatch@ksde.gov](mailto:katy.hatch@ksde.gov) to request materials.

### New! Summer Meal Site Locator Cards

CNW 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 on the back that households can scan to access the CNW Locate a Site Near You. Contact Katy Hatch at [katy.hatch@ksde.gov](mailto:katy.hatch@ksde.gov) to request cards.



### Summer Kick-Off Events

Kick-off events are a great way to build awareness among parents, recruit volunteers, and create excitement around Summer Meals! Please share with CNW your plans for kick-off events this summer by emailing Emily Bonilla at [emily.bonilla@ksde.gov](mailto:emily.bonilla@ksde.gov).

### 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!

### Online Professional Development – Classes and Tutorials

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. Trainings and tutorials specific to SFSP include: Introduction to SFSP (1 hr), SFSP Menu Planning (2 hrs), Serving Safe Summer Meals (1 hr), Summer Food Service Program: Daily Meal Count Form (20 min), and SFSP Food Safety Toolkit (20 min).

### New Branding – SUN Meals

KSDE has adopted the USDA summer meals branding campaign of **SUN Meals**. Sun Meals branding includes meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). Be on the lookout for more information and resources for Sun Meals branding.

SUN Programs communication materials for state agencies, territories, and Indian Tribal Organizations are now available on the FNS website. The **SUN Programs Communications Toolkit** includes both ready-to-use and customizable materials for use by agencies administering SUN Bucks (Summer EBT), SUN Meals (summer meals), and/or SUN Meals To-Go (non-congregate summer meals) in 2025. **The SUN Programs Communications Toolkit** can be found at this link: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summer/toolkit>

### 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](https://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>

**SFSP and Local Foods: A Dynamic Duo!****Local Food Sourcing at the Farmers' Market**

Farmers' Markets are a great way to source locally throughout the summer months. The Farmers' Market provides locally grown produce, meat, and eggs, and can be a great way to connect with farmers and ranchers in your community. You can find a list of registered Farmers' Markets [here](#).

**Harvest of the Month and Farm Fresh Fridays**

Summer Child Nutrition Programs are the perfect time to incorporate local foods. CNW has two resources, Harvest of the Month and Farm Fresh Fridays, to assist with adding local into program menus. Find downloadable resources with recipes, newsletter handouts, activities, curriculum and more on the CNW website under [Farm to Plate, What's New](#).

**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!

**The CNW Team**

For more information, contact:

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