

Monthly Update



School Nutrition Programs

January 8, 2024

Distributed to School Nutrition Program Authorized Representatives and Food Service Directors via Email and posted at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, School Nutrition Programs, SNP Monthly Updates

Town Hall Thursday at 2 on January 11

Join us for a Town Hall meeting on January 11 at 2:00 pm at this link:

<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/87204779621?pwd=NEhrcHloRjBobGtOZTJEWfJtR0tUQT09>

Meeting ID: 872 0477 9621. Passcode: 746337

Agenda items for the January Town Hall include: Updates on training, Local Meat for Schools, Round 4 Supply Chain Assistance Funds, and Supplemental/Summer P-EBT. Training will be provided by DCF about School Food Authorities responsibilities for Supplemental/Summer P-EBT. **It is important that at least one person attend Town Hall and preferably a staff member who completes benefits issuance for the Sponsor.** Please be on the lookout for an email from DCF with important information and instructions for Sponsors prior to the Town Hall.

Payment Clarification

Sponsors received a payment for "State Match" on December 8. This payment was mislabeled and is a reimbursement payment for the School Nutrition Program (SNP) and should be deposited to the Food Service Fund.

Annual On-Site Accountability Reviews

The School Food Service On-Site Accountability Review (Form 9-G) can be accessed online at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, SNP, SNP Food Service Facts, Chapter 9. **By February 1**, Sponsors with more than one serving site must review each site approved to participate in the National School Lunch Program at least once per year and review 50% of all sites approved to participate in the School Breakfast Program once per year. It is a best practice to rotate review of breakfast sites to ensure all sites are monitored at least every other year. Someone not involved in the daily meal accountability procedures at the site must conduct the On-Site Accountability Review. Each on-site review must ensure the school's claim is based on the counting system, as reported on the site application, and yields the actual number of reimbursable free, reduced price, and paid lunches, respectively, served for each day of operation. If the review discloses problems with a school's meal counting or claiming procedures, the Sponsor must ensure that the school implements corrective action, and within 45 days of the review conduct a follow-up on-site review to determine that the corrective action resolved the problems. **Keep completed reviews on file with school food service program documents for review or audit.**

Jump Start Your Success in School Nutrition Programs – Save the Date!

Make plans to join CNW for the Jump Start spring kick-off event, which will be held in conjunction with the SNA-KS annual conference on **Friday, February 9, 2024, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the DoubleTree by Hilton Wichita Airport Hotel.** Jump Start is a free, multi-week program that offers a blend of in-person, live virtual, and on-demand trainings for new and aspiring school food service directors and managers. **This training opportunity is for those with less than three years of experience. Those with three years of experience or more may participate as a mentor.**



Jump Start has been developed to incorporate personalized training and leadership development through mentoring opportunities. The program encourages open-group discussion so participants can be actively involved in learning best practices from the field. Participants who complete the Jump Start program will develop the skills and knowledge needed for the successful operation of school nutrition programs.

For more information about Jump Start as a participant or mentor, contact Holly Steinlage at hsteinlage@ksde.org. All participants must register at https://ksde.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_577eu6HSSn2VhRk.

Virtual Wellness Workshops in February – Wellness Wednesdays

Join KSDE for the "Wellness Wednesdays" webinar series. A one-hour virtual Zoom 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 am to 10:30am at the following link:

<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/83632335961?pwd=WTRDSUtoSi90L3FUZ1pUWjUwSGtmdz09>.

Participants will receive a certificate of participation for each session they complete. Recordings of each session will be available on the KSDE Training Portal at a later date.

- **February 7, Food & Mood: Advancing Wellness by Connecting Nutrition & Emotional Health.** Join KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness in kicking off the Wellness Wednesdays series with an introduction to this year's theme, "Food and Mood". Learn from USDA and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Food and Mood Project team about how consistent access to nourishing, culturally diverse food sources can support the emotional wellness of children and youth. Additionally, KSDE will provide a brief overview of wellness policy requirements and resources.
- **February 14, Supporting Health & Wellness Through Gardening.** Gardens encourage healthful eating as a key component of children's physical and mental wellbeing and support academic and social success. Join KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness and Pantaleon Florez III, Experiential Learning Specialist at USD 497 Lawrence, to learn about Farm to School grant projects in Kansas and hear how gardens are being used as positive learning environments.
- **February 21, Strategies & Resources to Promote Social/Emotional Health.** Join KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness, Kent Reed, KSDE School Counseling Program Manager, and Hanna Kemble-Mick, School Counselor Leader Consultant, in discussing social/emotional health and how nutrition can play a role. Learn about resources available to promote social/emotional health and to ensure children have the nutrition security needed to be socially, emotionally, and academically successful.
- **February 28, Safe Routes to School.** Join KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness, the Kansas Department of Transportation, and the Kansas Department of Health & Environment for a Safe Routes to School program introduction and overview. Learn why Safe Routes to School is an important part of Kansas School Wellness Policy Guidelines under Physical Activity and hear ways that Kansas students and their families can walk, bike, and roll to school safely, comfortably, and enjoyably.



Professional Development Opportunities

Many opportunities for learning are available for School Nutrition Program Sponsors. Go to <https://cnw.ksde.org>, Training, CNW Calendar to access the class list with dates, times, and Zoom links. Upcoming trainings include Food Safety Basics on January 17 from 2- 5 pm.

Online Professional Development – Classes and Tutorials

CNW staff continue to develop new interactive online trainings and tutorials that can be accessed free of charge 24/7 via the KSDE Training Portal. Accounts can be created at <https://learning.ksde.org>. For detailed instructions on creating an account, go to <https://cnw.ksde.org>, Training, How to Create Online Account. New to the portal this month: Afterschool Snack Program Tutorial.

Contracting with a Food Service Management Company Training – January 10

An important training session for Sponsors considering contracting with a Food Service Management Company for SY 2023-24 will be held on January 10 from 9:00-11:00 am via Zoom. Join at <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/88454571988?pwd=UCthYThRaE5SaUpzN1pxWFo2MFZzQT09> Meeting ID: 884 5457 1988 Passcode: 757688

School Nutrition Association of Kansas 2024 Conference

Registration for the School Nutrition Association of Kansas (SNA-KS) Conference is now open! The conference will be held from February 9-11, 2024, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Wichita Airport Hotel. Various training opportunities are available throughout the weekend along with food, socializing, and fun! For more information or to register, visit the conference website at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=wwj9s9wab&oeidk=a07ek4n29kl66c57dbc> Please note that hotel rooms must be booked by January 9 for the discounted rate.

2023 Farm to School Census

Kansas contributed an 88.9% response and ranks 8th nationally of census surveys completed. Thank you, Kansas sponsors! Once USDA completes final response data, Kansas and each district's responses will be viewable at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/census>

Celebrate Kansas in menus, the classroom, and the community – January 22-26, 2024!

Kansas will turn 163 years old on January 29, and Child Nutrition Programs are encouraged to celebrate! Utilize local products in menus, tell Kansas's food story in the classroom with Ag Education, and engage community members to participate. Find Kansas products through [Shop Kansas Farms](#) and [From the Land of Kansas](#). [Kansas Agriculture in the Classroom](#) has great options available for classroom education. A field trip to a local farm is an opportunity for hands-on education. Promote Farm to Plate at community events through flyers, presentations, or announcements. Invite community members to your meal when serving local products.

The 2023 Mountain Plains Region Crunch Off was a success!

In celebration of Farm to School Month, states throughout the Mountain Plains Region (CO, MT, MO, KS, NE, ND, SD, WY) competed to see which state can get the most “crunches” into local produce per capita. Many participated in the challenge including school districts, day care homes and centers, K-State Research and Extension, Farm Bureau members, state agency and local government staff, non-profit organizations, and local businesses. Kansas as a state totaled 86,639 crunches! Kansas took 1st place for Photo of the Year with a submission from USD 376 Sterling! Thank you to all who made the 2023 Mountain Plains Region Crunch Off a success!



Kansas Harvest of the Month is coming!

This program features one Kansas-grown product each month. Recipes, educational and promotional materials will be available including posters, table tents, newsletters, videos, and social media graphics. The program is anticipated to be available early 2024. More updates to come!

Grant Opportunity: Kansas Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program

The purpose of the RFSI program is to build resilience in the middle of the food supply chain by awarding competitive grants for projects to expand capacity and infrastructure for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, or distribution of targeted local and regional agricultural products. This program is intended to support food system crops and products meant for human consumption excluding meat and poultry products, which are funded through other USDA programs.

Grants will be awarded to Kansas food and farm businesses and other eligible entities, including nonprofit organizations, local government entities, Tribal governments, and institutions such as schools and hospitals.

Two grant types will be offered through the RFSI program. Infrastructure Grants will range in value from a minimum award of \$100,000 and a maximum award of \$3,000,000. Simplified Equipment-Only Grants will range in value from a minimum award of \$10,000 and a maximum award of \$100,000. Infrastructure Grant recipients are required to contribute 50% of the total proposed project cost as a match to federal funding. This applies to all applicants except those who qualify for the reduced match of 25%. Simplified Equipment-Only Grants do not require cost sharing or matching. Resources and applications can be found at www.agriculture.ks.gov/RFSI

Join the CNW Team

The CNW team has the following position openings: Registered Dietitian, Child Nutrition Consultant and part-time Body Venture Consultant. For more information or to apply, go to: [Careers \(ks.gov\)](https://careers.ks.gov).

Staffing Update

Emily Bonilla has accepted the Assistant Director position for the Child Nutrition & Wellness team. Emily earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a Master of Public Health with an emphasis in Public Health Nutrition from Kansas State University. Emily has worked in Child Nutrition Programs for the past 8 years as a child care program operator and KSDE Child Nutrition Consultant. Emily will join Karen Campbell, Assistant Director, to provide leadership, exceptional customer service, technical assistance, and training in the Assistant Director positions. Congratulations Emily!

Please call or email your area child nutrition consultant or the Topeka office with any questions or if we can assist in any way.

With much gratitude and appreciation, the CNW Teams sends our wishes for a wonderful 2024 to all of our amazing School Nutrition Program Sponsors!

The CNW Team



For more information, contact:

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