

Child Nutrition Thursday Update



In this week's Thursday Update

You can scroll through or click on a title below and you will be taken to that page.

USDA Foods - Last Monthly Survey for SY2024

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Application

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Fund Usage Report

Edit Checks

Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (S-EBT)

Summer Food Service Program

Child Nutrition Training

Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition Webinar

Child Nutrition Website - <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition>

Child Nutrition List Serve Email - child.nutrition@maillist.informe.org

USDA Foods

Last USDA Monthly Survey for SY24!

The last USDA monthly survey for SY24 is April 1st-15th, bonus items will be offered, bonus means free items which are available first come, first serve. Items not taken by the Sponsor throughout the school year, will be shipped in May. Orders cannot be refused or sent back to the PFG warehouse once shipped.

What is left in your districts inventory?

Please check the Inventory tab on the Sponsor Summary page in CNPweb. The description and available quantity columns will show the items being shipped. If those columns are blank, then the items have been delivered throughout the year.

if you have questions regarding your USDA order or bonus items, please contact Terri, 624-6882 or terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

For directions on how to place your final SY24 USDA Order and order Bonus Items, please visit the [USDA Foods](#) page of our website.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Applications Open!

Applications to participate in FFVP in School Year 2025 are now open! To access the applications, log into CNP web, select “SNP” then Program Year 2025.

Under the “Forms” tab an application will show up for each eligible school. Read the table below for more information and common questions we receive:

Which schools are eligible to participate?	Elementary schools, or any school with a combination of grades PreK-8
How are schools awarded?	Priority must be given to schools with the highest percent of free/reduced eligible students; however, all eligible schools are welcome to apply.
When are applications due?	A complete FFVP application is due on Friday, April 26th . A “pending approval” application in CNP web means it is complete!
Is this the same as the DoD Fresh Program?	No, this is a separate program and funding source to provide fresh fruits and vegetables outside of breakfast and lunch times.
If I have questions on FFVP who do I contact?	Stephanie Stambach stephanie.stambach@maine.gov #207-215-9437.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Fund Usage Report

We have received questions on where to check FFVP balances of schools. There is a report in CNP web called “FFVP Usage” that can be used to find the balance and shows the percent of funds spent to date. FFVP funds should still be monitored internally; however, this report can be used as a tool to compare against.

To access the report, take the following steps:

1. Go to the Reports tab in CNP web and click on “Accounting Reports”.
2. Click on FFVP Usage report, then select School Year 2024 and District Name
3. Refer to the Balance column, and Oct-Sept. This will show the balance that each school has available to spend.

If you have any questions on how to read the report, please contact stephanie.stambach@maine.gov.

Edit Checks

Are you completing Edit Checks before filing the claim?

Edit checks compare daily meal counts with enrollment and attendance adjusted enrollment. They are required to be completed prior to filing the claim for reimbursement. If you do not have an electronic system that generates an edit check report for you, you must complete them manually. A new Edit Check form is available on our website.

Summer EBT

Help us address summer hunger!

A healthier future for our country begins with our children. Unfortunately, many children face hunger during the summer when they lose access to school meals. Children need good nutrition to grow, learn, and thrive. There are now three flexible ways to reduce child hunger in the summer:

1. Traditional Summer Meal Service, that we refer to as Hot Lunch Summer.
2. Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer program, shortened to S-EBT
3. To-go/delivery meal service in rural areas that will be part of the Hot Lunch Summer Program (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/rural-designation>)

Learn how all three options can work together to address summer hunger and help fuel children with the nutrition they need when school is out.

Today, I want to share some information about the Summer EBT Program. The Summer EBT program will be managed by the Office of Family Independence, under of the Department of Health and Human Services in coordination with the Child Nutrition Department, under of the Department of Education.

S-EBT will help offset food costs to families by offering each eligible child \$120.00 during the summer on an EBT card.

Each child will need to be found eligible, through streamlined certification, or by a S-EBT application. In the application they must show that they meet the eligibility requirements for free or reduced-priced school meals and verify enrollment at an eligible school in the school year immediately prior to summer operational period (June 15- August 15).

Streamlined certification will be done through the direct certification list and cross referenced with student enrollment in your schools based on April 1st data.

The S-EBT application and other information, including Q&A documents, will be able to be accessed at <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofc/programs-services/food-supplement>. Applications will be processed by DHHS, and not the Child Nutrition Program.

Letters are anticipated to be sent to all families with eligible students the week of May 6th. This letter will give them the information about the program, and the opportunity to opt out of the S-EBT program if they chose to do so.

S-EBT benefits for students receiving SNAP will be issued on a household EBT card. Students not receiving SNAP will have their own card. The S- EBT Cards are anticipated to be mailed to families in late June in one lump sum. Families that apply after the first payment in late June, will be paid in subsequent payment periods in July, August, or September.

We need your help to reach our students and their families, here are some next steps

1. Update & verify that all addresses are correct in your student information systems by April 1st
2. Share information with your families. We will be providing:
 - a. Flyers
 - b. Postings for websites
 - c. Social media posts
3. Stay up to date with information shared in the upcoming months.
4. Watch for invitations to our webinars:
 - a. April 23rd at 1:30pm
 - b. April 26th at 11:00am

Questions related to **Child Nutrition and School Administration** can be directed to jane.mclucas@maine.gov.

Eligibility and Application questions can be directed to the S-EBT website <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofc/programs-services/food-supplement>

Thank you for your help eliminating hunger for our students this summer!

Summer

The 2024 SFSP Application is now available in CNPweb!

Contact paula.nadeau@maine.gov for access or user changes as a CNPweb user access form will need to be completed.

Do you need to add or inactivate sites? Complete this [form](#).

The application has changed! Need help? Visit the “Help” tab in CNPweb for step by step instructions.

Updates for 2024!!

Non-Congregate portion of the Site Info Sheet

Help Maine Expand SFSP and SSO in Rural Areas!

The rural designations in the Summer Food Service Program and NSLP Seamless Summer Option have been revised! Please see the updated map [here](#). A permanent non-congregate (meals to go) meal service option through the SFSP and SSO for children who live in rural communities with no congregate meal service was established through the Consolidated Appropriations Act. Non-congregate operations must be approved by Maine DOE in order to claim meals taken offsite. Additional SFSP/SSO eligibility criteria are in place as to what constitutes open sites and which meals can be claimed. The area eligibility [map](#) indicates which areas are open site eligible based on census tract data. School data can also be used. Please email adriane.ackroyd@maine.gov for more information, including how to operate non-congregate sites in rural areas that are not area eligible.

Management Plan

Due to a final integrity rule released by USDA, select Sponsors, including those who only operate SFSP, will be required to complete a new portion of the SFSP application – a Management Plan. The Management Plan template will be completed in CNPweb as part of the annual application to participate. The Management Plan is located in the checklist and instructions are in the help tab.

Important Deadlines

April 21, 2024: SFSP application deadline for those who receive USDA SFSP commodities

May 1 – 15, 2024: USDA SFSP Commodity Orders for those who receive commodities

June 2, 2024: SFSP application deadline for those who do not receive SFSP commodities

By start of operations – mandatory SFSP training must be completed for all staff

2024 SFSP Reimbursement Rates

	Rural or Self-Prep	All Other Types of Sites
Breakfast	2.9775	2.9225
Lunch or Supper	5.2125	5.1300
Snack	1.2350	1.2050

If you are interested in Lawn Signs for your 2024 Summer Food Service Program open sites, please email paula.nadeau@maine.gov and let her know how many signs you would like. Signs will be provided on a first come, first serve basis. Signs are only available for open SFSP sites to advertise the location to the community. They can be for congregate or non-congregate open meal sites.

Signs cannot be mailed and will be distributed at the Summer Sponsor trainings. Please let Paula know if alternate arrangements for pick up are needed.



It's a **Hot Lunch Summer!**  

Free Meals for Kids & Teens

ALL Across Maine



To find a location near you, scan this QR Code, visit hotlunchsummer.com, or text "Summer Meals" to (914) 342-7744

This institution is an equal opportunity provider



Child Nutrition Training Opportunities

Registration links are in the title or can be found on our website

Summer EBT

April 23rd @ 1:30pm

Summer EBT

April 26th @ 11:00am

A healthier future for our country begins with our children. Unfortunately, many children face hunger during the summer when they lose access to school meals. Children need good nutrition to grow, learn, and thrive. Help us address summer hunger, by learning more about the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (S-EBT)

Accountability Webinar

April 29th @ 1:30pm

Proper accountability is one, if not the, most important parts of running a school nutrition program. This webinar will review different accountability methods, including electronic point of service (POS), rosters, and tic sheets, and when to use them. We will also look at the pros and cons of each, as well as common accountability issues that are seen with administrative reviews.

In Person SFSP Training

New and Make-up Sponsor Training

May 9, 2024

9:00am-12:00pm

Child Nutrition Office

Deering Building

Room 101

90 Blossom Lane

Augusta

This training is for new Summer Food Service Program sponsors. It is also an opportunity for experienced sponsors to receive a more in depth training opportunity. In this session, sponsors will receive a comprehensive overview of the SFSP requirements in Maine. This training is required for new sponsors operating in 2024. There will be a break for lunch.



Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition

Unlocking the Maximum Potential of Your Combi Oven

April 4, 2024 @ 3:00pm

Join the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition for their April 2024 webinar and discover practical strategies for maximizing the benefits of combi ovens in school nutrition programs. Learn how to effectively utilize convection, steam, and combination cooking techniques for various dishes, such as roasting meats and vegetables, and crisping breaded items. Differentiate between manual and programmed modes and gain insights into routine maintenance and troubleshooting to ensure smooth operation. Equip your staff with essential skills and prepare them for success with this equipment. Don't miss this opportunity to elevate your school kitchen's efficiency and productivity!