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USDA Foods

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

Last USDA Monthly Order for SY26

- The last USDA Monthly Order for SY26 is April 1st-15th
- The Monthly Order opens at 7:30am on April 1st
- Bonus items will be offered. ****FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED****
- **Items not taken throughout the school year will be shipped in May.**
- **Orders cannot be refused or sent back to PFG once shipped.**

April Monthly Order

- Both column totals for Available Qty and Order Qty must match.

FDP Maine Department of Education
Sponsor Order Form

Both column totals for Available Qty and Order Qty must match



Code	Description	Unit Value	Available Qty	Order Qty
Entitlement Commodities				
100019	CHEESE, AMERICAN, WHITE, PROCESS, SLICED, CHILLED Pack Size: 6/5 LB PACKAGE Processing Fee: 0.00	75.49	2	1
		Incorrect		
110473	BROCCOLI, NO SALT ADDED, FROZEN Pack Size: 30 LB CASE Processing Fee: 0.00	56.10	1	1
		Correct		



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 and bonus items, please contact Terri, 624-6882 or terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov.

For instructions on how to place your final SY26 USDA order and how to order Bonus Items, visit the [Food Distribution Program](#) page of our website.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 is less than a week away!

April 1st is the date to be used for CEP eligibility, this is the date when the Direct Certification list and District enrollment are pulled. Both of these documents **must** be dated.

More information can be found on the [Special Provisions](#) page of our website or by contacting David at david.hartley@maine.gov or 624-6878.

Documentation **must** be uploaded into CNPweb by June 1, 2026



Serving Meals to Students Off-Site in the NSLP

sarah.d.platt@maine.gov

We would like to remind you of the [Serving Meals to Students Off-Site in the NSLP](#) guidance available on our website. This document provides guidance regarding reimbursement for meals served to students at off-site locations, meaning not at the school where they are enrolled.

SP05-2026, CACP03-2026, SFSP03-2026 2026 Appropriations Act: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs

This memorandum provides notice to Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators regarding the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 ([Public Law 119-37](#), the 2026 Appropriations Act), enacted on November 12, 2025. This memorandum applies to State agencies administering, and local organizations operating, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) CNPs.

To view the full memo, visit the [USDA Policy Memos](#) page of our website.

Welcome Back Adriane!



We are excited to welcome back Adriane Ackroyd with the Child Nutrition team! Adriane joins us as a Child Nutrition Supervisor and Summer Food Service Program Manager. She brings nearly a decade of experience working in Public Health Nutrition in Maine and is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. She is happy to be back working to support Maine Child Nutrition Programs.

Adriane is passionate about expanding USDA Child Nutrition Programs to ensure every child in Maine receives the nutrition they need to thrive. In her free time, Adriane loves spending time outdoors with her husband and son and cuddling with her two grey tuxedo cats.

Farm & Sea to School Office Hours

Thursday, March 27th

12:30-2:00PM

[Register Here!](#)

These virtual office hours are unstructured time to hop on and discuss all things farm & sea to school!

Ask questions, seek technical assistance, brainstorm ideas. As always, if these hours don't work for you, please email Katie Knowles to set up a time to chat!

Katie.Knowles@Maine.gov

2025-2026 SFA Survey

NOW is Your Chance!
Tell FNS How You Feel!

(there is a section on Buy American)

The 2025-2026 SFA Survey will be e-mailed directly to you (SFA's) on Monday, March 30, 2026. This survey is the best way to directly share your thoughts about our program with the decision makers in DC. So, watch your mailboxes, and carve out some time to share your comments and concerns.

National School Lunch Program Information Portal

National School Lunch Program Sponsors

Our office is now using EnGiNE, Maine DOE's open-source learning portal. You **must** sign up using this [link](#).

Please be sure to use your school email address.

No matter how many schools in your District,
please only register one time.

Once you have access to EnGiNE or you already have access to EnGiNE, you **must** enroll in the National School Lunch Program Information Portal using this [link](#).

Not a National School Lunch Program Sponsor?

If you would like access to the NSLP Portal, please contact Paula, paula.nadeau@maine.gov **prior** to signing up, using the links above, as your access will need to be approved.

Instructions on how to send a message using the Portal can be found on our [website](#).

Child Nutrition Training

- All of any kind will be removed from the virtual training.
- The links to register are in the training titles - unless otherwise noted.
- We are unable to hold virtual and in person training simultaneously.
- All of our webinars are recorded and put on our website within a week of the training.
- Pay attention to registration deadline dates. Deadlines must be adhered to.
- Be sure to register to ensure that we have enough space for everyone.
- If there is a registration fee - Per Maine DOE policy, payment is due by credit card at the time of registration.
- Mark your calendars once you have registered.
- If State offices are closed webinars/trainings will be rescheduled. Anyone who has already registered will be notified of the new date and time.

If you have any questions about any of the Child Nutrition Training, please contact Paula at paula.nadeau@maine.gov

Webinars

paula.nadeau@maine.gov

Community Eligibility Provisions (CEP)

Registration link is in the date and time.

March 27, 2026

10:00am

This program allows districts/schools/group of schools to claim free meals based on the number of enrolled students that qualify based on the Direct Certification List (DC). This webinar will help explain the process and time line for applying for CEP.



Meal Counting in Alternative Serving Locations: Requirements & Best Practices

March 30, 2026

1:30pm

This must-watch webinar is designed for schools that operate alternative serving locations- where meals are served outside of the traditional cafeteria. These locations may include classrooms, hallways, and other areas. We will review how to accurately count meals at the point of service, or when a student receives a reimbursable meal. We will also discuss common review findings related to Breakfast in the Classroom and Pre-K meals served in the classroom, along with best practices to support compliance.



Did you miss a webinar?

You can view it by going to the [Webinars and Training](#) page of our website.



Training Opportunities

April 9, 2026

9:00-12:00

Dennis Paper

101 Mecaw Road, Hampden

3 Spots Left

This training is for Summer Food Service Program Sponsors who have recently operated the program. It is mandatory that Summer Food Service Program Sponsors receive training in order to qualify to operate the program. The training will include an overview of program regulations and highlight areas where additional training is needed and tips for program promotion.

April 30, 2026

9:00-12:00

Child Nutrition Office

90 Blossom Lane, Augusta

7 Spots Left

This training is for new Summer Food Service Program Sponsors who would like to operate the program. It is mandatory that all Summer Food Service Program Sponsors receive training in order to qualify to operate the program. The training will include a detailed overview of program regulations, tips for successful operations, and ample opportunity for questions. Experienced sponsors are also welcome to register for this training if they would like to have a more detailed training.

ServSafe Class & Exam

April 21 & 22, 2026

Gorham High School

41 Morrill Avenue, Gorham

The class is for School Food Service and CACFP only

Books are ordered and mailed once registration has ended

Please note start times for each day

April 21st 9:00am - 3:00pm

April 22nd 8:00am - Approximately Noon for Exam

Bring photo id, pen or pencils with erasers

You must provide an email address as notification of results
are sent via email

Lunch is NOT provided. Bring your lunch, snacks, drinks

Charge for the class is \$102

Payable by credit card, at the time of registration

Registration deadline – Thursday, April 2, 2026

Funding Opportunity

Community Greenhouse Grant

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Community Greenhouse Grant application opens on **Wednesday, March 18, 2026.**

Application Deadline: April 28, 2026, no later than 12:00 p.m., ET.

Information Sessions: Online information sessions will be hosted through Zoom on the following dates and times:

[Register: Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.](#)

Grant Purpose: The purpose of this funding opportunity is to fund projects that will deliver the greatest measurable benefit by enhancing food production opportunities through investments in shared, educational-use, durable greenhouses. This RFA provides instructions on how schools, community centers, and other public entities may apply for one-time grant funding for durable greenhouse structures, including, but not limited to, structures made of glass or polycarbonate, and associated siting and installation costs.

Eligibility to Apply: Schools, colleges, universities, community centers and public entities located in Maine are eligible to apply.

For the purpose of this RFA, "public entity" means:

- A state agency or authority;
- The University of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy, and the Maine Community College System; and
- A county, municipality, or school district.

Funding Available: DACF anticipates awarding up to \$500,000 through this grant opportunity.

Award Range: Award ranges will be between \$25,000 and \$250,000

For more information and to apply, please visit:

<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ard/grants/community-greenhouse.shtml>.



Apply by March 31 for a \$2,000 equipment kit to expand school meal access.



Nutrition Equipment Grants for Your School

Expanding access to school meals isn't always easy in busy school environments. The right equipment helps remove barriers and bring nutritious meals closer to students.

Through the End Student Hunger Equipment Grants, GENYOUth provides qualified K-12 schools with innovative equipment solutions that support more flexible meal service models. Applications are submitted through the new [GENYOUth School Wellness Portal](#), a centralized space where schools can apply for grants and access additional wellness resources.

If your school is looking to enhance meal service and better meet student needs, we encourage you to apply.

[LOG IN TO THE PORTAL
TO START AN APPLICATION](#)

Apply by March 31, 2026

Explore the Equipment Options

Schools may apply for one of the following:

Mobile Meal Carts

Deliver meals to students anywhere on campus – ideal for breakfast beyond the cafeteria and flexible service models.

[Learn More](#)

Healthy Start Smoothie Cart

Launch or expand a smoothie program with branded equipment and promotional materials to energize breakfast participation.

[Learn More](#)

Who Can Apply

- K–12 schools participating in the National School Lunch Program
- Schools that have previously received funding or equipment (or were declined) are welcome to apply again

Application Requirements

Applications must clearly demonstrate how the requested equipment will:

- Increase students' access to school meals
- Support greater participation in nutritious meal programs

You can [preview the application questions](#) before getting started.

If you need assistance with your application, you can contact us at fundsadminoffice@mmseducation.com.

Full Plates' Summer Meals Grant is Now Open!

Apply by April 10 for up to \$10,000 to support your summer meal operations. The grant can help with equipment and supplies, staff training and professional development, taste tests, transportation, marketing and outreach, and more. Learn more on the [grant webpage](#) and contact Finn at fmadden@fullplates.org with any questions. There will be a virtual office hour this Friday, March 27 from 1-2pm ([register here](#)) for any potential applicants to ask questions.

Note that Full Plates will also have a mini-grant later in the summer specifically to support summer spike events. More to come in late June!