

# 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.

**Welcome to this week's edition of the Child Nutrition Thursday Update! The Thursday Update is your one stop to stay informed about all the updates, changes and exciting things happening in the National School Lunch Program.**

Farm to School Cook-off

USDA Annual Order is OPEN

Claims

State Match

FY2024 Spring Checklist

Grant Opportunities

Off Site Meal Notice

After School Snack Program

Harvest of the Month

From USDA

Child Nutrition Training

Shout Out!



# Farm to School Cook-off 2024

Register your team by

**!!February 16, 2024!!**

**Only one competition!!**

May 7, 2024 from 11am-2pm at  
Central Maine Community College

Teams will prepare two lunch dishes,  
One using local *Tofu*, the other local *Chicken*

**Space is limited to 8 teams**

**To register your team, please complete [this form](#).**

More information regarding the cook-off can be found on our [website](#).

If you have questions about the cook-off,  
contact Stephanie, Katie or Michele

Stipends are available; \$100 for food - \$50 in supplies

# USDA Annual Order



**The SY2025 Annual Order is OPEN.** The orders will be due on Friday, March 8, 2024, no extensions!

Please visit the USDA Foods page of our website for these helpful resources for completing your Annual Order.

**How to place your SY2025 USDA Foods Annual Order Instructions**  
**Important things to keep in mind when placing your Annual Order**  
**Food being offered on the Annual Order**

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## New Meal Rate

The NSLP SY2025 meal rate is .45.  
All PAL entitlements will increase this year.

# Jodi's Financial Corner

[jodi.truman@maine.gov](mailto:jodi.truman@maine.gov)

## Claims

All original claims and claim revisions must be completed within 60 days of the last day of the claim month.

- If the original claim or a revision increasing the meal count is received after 60 days, a one time exception is required and must be approved by the State of Maine Child Nutrition Director.
- Revisions decreasing your meal counts will require documentation explaining the reason for the adjustment. This documentation must be submitted to [jodi.truman@maine.gov](mailto:jodi.truman@maine.gov)

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## State Match

### What is the State Match Payment?

The State Match payment is based on the total lunch meals served from July through December of 2023 at each public school. The total number of meals at each public school gets an equal percent of the total sum of all payments. The total sum payment is calculated by USDA and is a requirement for the State of Maine.

State Match one time payment to public schools will be issued March 1st. These funds must be deposited into the Child Nutrition account using MEFS code in 3250.

# Supply Chain Assistance Office Hours

Many SFAs in our state are in progress with their SCA fund review. If your SFA has not been contacted as of today, please note that Maeghan will be reaching out to you next month to request SCA fund documentation for review.

Maeghan will be holding once a week office hours for the rest of the month of February and will schedule into March if there is continued interest. SCA Open Office Hours are a casual Teams meeting space where Food Service Directors, Business Managers, or anyone else in your district who may be working with SCA funds can join to ask any SCA related questions.

If you would like to receive the link to any of the following SCA Fund Office Hours, please email [maeghan.hass@maine.gov](mailto:maeghan.hass@maine.gov), noting which date you will be attending, and I will send you the link!

Wednesday February 21st 1:00pm-2:00pm  
Monday February 26th 12:30pm-1:30pm



# FY2024 Spring Checklist

With a busy spring approaching, we thought a list of deadlines would be helpful. The form is in Word, so you can add and delete as needed.

The form can be found on our [website](#).

## Grant Opportunities

The School Nutrition Foundation announced last week multiple grant opportunities. Be sure to check them out to see if any of them could help improve your school's nutrition program!

<https://schoolnutrition.org/snf/equipment-grants/>

## Off Site Meal Notice

Please visit our [website](#) for the notice regarding off-site meals. This will be sent via a priority notice to Superintendents in the upcoming week. This is specific to meal sites, *not* participating in the National School Lunch Program.

# Counting & Claiming in the NSLP After School Snack Program

## For traditional and base year Special Provision II schools

- For sites that are “Area Eligible”/Site Eligibility: 50% or greater, as noted on the site information sheet in CNPweb - Count the total number of snacks served at the point of service (POS) using a snack count form or tic sheet. Claim all reimbursable snacks served to children in the ‘free’ category.
- For sites that are “Non-Area Eligible”/Site Eligibility: less than 50%, as noted on the site information sheet in CNPweb - Count snacks at the POS by name and eligibility (free, reduced, paid). Claim reimbursable snacks served to children in the appropriate category (free, reduced, paid).
- Leftover snacks, seconds and snacks selected by adults may not be claimed.

# Harvest of the Month

katie.knowles@maine.gov



The Maine Harvest of the Month Newsletter is back!

The February issue went out on Tuesday.

Here is the link to it if you missed it.

If you are not signed up, or did not receive an email, please sign up here! There were many emails that bounced back, so we may not have everyone's up-to-date information!

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## **A Reminder to Harvest of the Month Pledged Schools**

There are a couple of districts who have asked about stickers but haven't filled out a sticker request form. If you indicated you wanted stickers on your initial pledge form but did not fill out a separate sticker request, here is the link to the form!

As a reminder, HOM stickers are **ONLY** available for schools that have pledged for Harvest of the Month.



# From the USDA

## USDA Memo

The USDA has released memo SFSP 06-2024 Interim Final Rule State Agency Monitoring in the Summer Food Service Program.

Please visit the [Legal Reference](#) page of our website to read the full memo.



# Child Nutrition Training Opportunities

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

## ServSafe Exam Only

March 26, 2024

2:00pm

Child Nutrition Office

Deering Building

Room 101

90 Blossom Lane, Augusta

This is the last scheduled exam for SY2024, next exam opportunity offered by the Child Nutrition office will be in October.

# Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

USDA has changed the qualification to participate in CEP. It has gone from 40% to 25%.

We will be offering three webinar opportunities for Districts to learn:

**\*How to Participate in CEP**

**\*What you need to do for your District or group of schools within the District to participate.**

CEP removes the need for collecting applications and completing the Verification process for 4 years.

February 26, 2024 - 1:30pm

March 5, 2024 - 10:00am

March 15, 2024 - 10:00am

A recording of the webinar will be available on our website

A bright sunburst graphic with many rays emanating from a central point, set against a blue background.

# Summer

## Summer Meal Options for SFAs Webinar

March 7, 2024 - 1:30pm

School Food Authorities are in a great position to feed children over the summer months when school is not in session. During this webinar, SFAs will learn about the variety of options available to provide meals to children over the summer months. Program examples include the Summer Nutrition Programs (group dining with the Summer Food Service Program and pick-up or home delivered meals in rural areas with the Summer Food Service Program), the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option and traditional National School Lunch Program over the summer months. Join DOE to learn more about these programs and make the best decision to feeding your students over the summer time.



# In Person SFSP Training

## Experienced Sponsor Training

March 28, 2024

9:00am-12:00pm

Child Nutrition Office

Deering Building

Room 101

90 Blossom Lane

Augusta

This training is for experienced Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors. In this session, sponsors will hear about updates to the SFSP and receive a refresher on SFSP requirements. There are many changes to 2024 operations. This training will offer an in-person opportunity to review them.

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April 4, 2024

9:00am-12:00pm

Dennis Paper

Ron Dennis Conf. Ctr.

101 Mecaw Road

Hampden

## New and Make-up Sponsor Training

May 9, 2024

9:00am-3:00pm

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.

# Serving Up Science

Kansas State University is excited to host a second session of Serving up Science: The Path to Safe Food in Schools this June. The in-person program will take place June 24-28, 2024 at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

If selected, all cost incurred for travel to and from Manhattan, Kansas is the responsibility of the participant or their employer. Other program expenses, including meals and lodging are provided Monday evening through noon on Friday while participants are in Manhattan.

The nominated individuals must complete the nomination form by March 1st, 2024. Notification of acceptance to attend the program will be sent by March 11th, 2024. Please send a letter of interest to [Jane.mclucas@maine.gov](mailto:Jane.mclucas@maine.gov) by **February 16, 2024** to receive the nomination form.



# Shout Out!!

As part of their lunch on Valentine's Day, students in RSU 12 were treated to smoothies made with Milkhouse Maple Yogurt and Waldaberry Farms Raspberries, which are ordered through Peak Season.



Thank you to Vicki Hull for sharing!