

Child Nutrition Thursday Update

In this week's Thursday Update

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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

Claims, State Match

Monthly Claim Submission

Supply Chain Assistance Office Hours

From the USDA

Child Nutrition Training

Farm to School Cook-off 2024

DEADLINE EXTENDED

Register your team by

!!March 1, 2024!!

Only one competition!!

May 7, 2024 from 11am-2pm at

Central Maine Community College

Teams consisting of one student and one School

Nutrition staff member will prepare two lunch

dishes..One using local *Tofu*,

the other local *Chicken*

3 Team Spots Remain

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

A meeting for all registered teams is scheduled for March 5, 2024 at 1:30pm
a Zoom link will be emailed prior to the meeting.

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

Thank you to those of you who have placed your Annual Order!!

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

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

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.

Monthly Claim Submission

Please remember, monthly claims must be in “Approved” status by 4pm the 8th of each month for payment to process that month.

Approved Claims submitted after 4pm the 8th of the month will not be paid until the following month.



Supply Chain Assistance Office Hours

Maeghan will be holding one more office hour session. 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 the next SCA Fund Office Hours, please email maeghan.hass@maine.gov.

Monday February 26th 12:30pm-1:30pm

Some common errors seen during reviews to be sure to avoid with SCA funds:

- Ensure that the food items being procured using SCA funds are products of the United States, not only distributed from the United States.
- 100% juices often contain juice sourced from a variety of countries, including the US. Unless SFAs has documentation to confirm that at least 51% of the fruit is a product of the US, these juices are an unallowable item for SCA funds.
- Bananas, kiwi, pineapple, mango, oranges are also likely not products of the US and are an unallowable use of SCA funds, unless SFAs has documentation to confirm Product of US.
- Paper products are an unallowable use of SCA funds.
- Foods that are generally understood to be significantly processed may not be purchased using SCA funds: chicken nuggets, fish sticks, meatballs, sausage links/patties, pre-cooked egg patties, hummus, pre-sliced deli meats, pre-made pizzas, breads, muffins, crackers, etc.
- SFAs may not 'double dip' funding streams. Ensure SCA fund procured items are being used for the NSLP.

From the USDA

On February 21, 2024, Food and Nutrition Service published the Proposed Rule entitled “Serious Deficiency Process in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)” in the Federal Register. The proposed rule can be viewed here: [Federal Register Notice](#)

Through this proposed rulemaking, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is proposing important modifications to the serious deficiency process in CACFP, extending the process to CACFP unaffiliated sponsored centers, and establishing a serious deficiency process in SFSP. These changes will improve consistency in language and process among statute, regulations, and guidance for both CACFP and SFSP. Additionally, these changes will improve consistency in the serious deficiency process within and across States and strengthen program integrity.

This rule also proposes updates to the suspension process in CACFP and proposes options on implementing suspension in SFSP. Additionally, this rule proposes options on termination and disqualification procedures for school food authorities that operate SFSP and CACFP.

FNS will host a webinar providing an overview of the Proposed Rule on February 27th for State agency staff and on February 29th for CACFP sponsoring organizations. This webinar is only for administering agencies. Please register and join to learn about the proposed rule.

WEBINAR for CACFP sponsoring organizations and second option for CACFP and SFSP State agency staff: February 29, 2024, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM Eastern Time.

Please register for the webinar here:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsceuprjloGCmwhp_YltX-XTV72eMU9i4

Please see FNS’s [Serious Deficiency Process in the CACFP and SFSP](#) webpage for more information, including a summary chart of proposed provisions.

The [Child Nutrition \(CN\) Labeling Manual](#) is now available online. The CN Labeling Manual provides food manufacturers with instructions on how to apply for and obtain approval for a Child Nutrition (CN) label. It also contains instructions for calculating the contribution that meats, meat alternates, poultry, and seafood products make toward the meal pattern requirements for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP). CN labels are approved by USDA and provide a way for a manufacturer to demonstrate how a processed food product contributes to the meal pattern requirements in CNP.

Access the CN Labeling Manual here

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/labeling-manual>

In addition, food manufacturers and CNP operators can find other CN label-related resources at the [CN Labeling Program website](#), which includes policy guidance and technical assistance.

USDA Memo

SFSP 07-2024, SP 13-2024 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas Questions and Answers

The purpose of this memorandum is to update earlier guidance originally issued for Summer 2023 operations, and to ensure consistency with the provisions of the interim final rulemaking, Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs (88 FR 90230).

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.

Registration deadline is March 8, 2024

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 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.

Experienced Sponsor Training

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.

April 4, 2024

9:00am-12:00pm

Dennis Paper

Ron Dennis Conf. Ctr.

101 Mecaw Road

Hampden

New and Make-up Sponsor Training

March 28, 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.