Annual Reminders

While it may be hard to believe 2019 is here, now is a good time to review annual recordkeeping requirements. Annual staff training related to CACFP job duties and Civil Rights must be complete. Remember to document that the trainer has also been trained. In addition, all free and reduced-price income applications and enrollment forms must be updated annually, if applicable to your program. CACFP documentation must be retained for three years plus the current fiscal year for both active and inactive participants. Review your annual requirements list to check your progress.

Celebrate National CACFP Week

It’s a brand-new year and that means the annual celebration of CACFP Week is right around the corner! This year’s CACFP week will be celebrated March 17th-23rd.

CACFP Week is a national education and information campaign sponsored by the National CACFP Sponsors Association. It is designed to raise awareness of how the USDA’s Child and Adult Care Food Program works to combat hunger. The CACFP brings healthy foods to tables across the country for children in child care centers, homes, and afterschool programs as well as adults in day care. There are many fun and exciting ideas, opportunities and challenges to help celebrate CACFP Week. You can even join a challenge to share your involvement via social media and enter a drawing to win $100!
Creating awareness of the CACFP ensures that over 4 million children will continue to receive healthy and nutritious meals. When we all contribute to the success of CACFP Week, the message provided is stronger and this incredible program will receive more attention. Check out the following website for more information: https://www.cacfp.org/news-events-conferences/national-cacfp-week/

Farm to CACFP

Local Foods and Related Activities in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Early childhood is the ideal time to establish healthy eating habits. Farm to preschool works to connect early child care and education settings to local food producers with the objectives of serving locally grown, healthy foods to young children, providing related nutrition education, and improving child nutrition. Farm to preschool activities can increase children’s’ willingness to try new foods and help them become familiar with local foods they will see in school. Farm to preschool creates a reliable outlet for producers and the smaller purchasing volumes for early child care settings are a good fit for local farmers.

FNS Resources for Farm to CACFP

Food Buying Guide Calculator

On December 20th, FNS released the FBG Calculator as a new feature included with the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-Based Tool. The FBG Calculator was first created and hosted by the Institute of Child Nutrition, however has now been added to the Food Buying Guide Interactive Web-Based tool to create a one stop shop for all Food Buying Guide resources. The FBG Calculator is designed to assist Child Nutrition Program operators in creating a shopping list to streamline food ordering needs for their programs and may be accessed along with the other Food Buying Guide resources.

Feeding Infant Training

The State of North Dakota was selected to be a pilot testing state for the New Feeding Infants Training developed by USDA. With being one of the pilot states, our CACFP personnel get to be the first group to see the training and give your feedback directly to USDA on the training through their evaluation process. We are hosting the training in Fargo at Dakota Medical Foundation on January 10,2019. The training will start at Noon and it is scheduled to be a 4-hour long training. Register here if you wish to register for the training and be a part of the process. Once the training is finalized by USDA, we will be conducting more Feeding Infants Trainings later in the year throughout the state.
Nibbles for Health: Nutrition Newsletters for Parents of Young Children

An exciting and colorful collection of newsletters is now available to help Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) providers talk with parents of young children about nutrition. The highly anticipated and newly designed Nibbles for Health newsletters share information about the CACFP meal patterns and provides tips for families to promote healthy eating at home. The collection is comprised of 12 newsletters, available in English and Spanish, and range in topics from fruits, vegetables, healthy celebrations, tips for ‘choosy’ eaters, portions for preschoolers and more. These informative newsletters are great communication tools to share with your families.


Parent Provided Meal Components

Menu Substitutions for Disability Reasons

Under the updated CACFP meal patterns, reasonable substitutions must be made on a case-by-case basis for meals and snacks for participants who have a disability that restricts their diet. A written medical statement must support the need for the substitution which must include recommended alternative foods and be signed by a medical doctor, physician’s assistant, or a nurse practitioner. A parent or guardian may voluntarily supply one or more components of the reimbursable meal but cannot be required to do so. The institution or facility must provide at least one required meal component (7 CFR 226.20 (g) (1)(ii)).

Menu Substitutions for Non-Disability Reasons

Substitutions may be made on a case-by-case basis for meals and snacks for individual participants without disabilities who cannot consume the regular meal because of a medical or other special dietary need. A written medical statement must support the need for the substitution and include recommended alternate foods. The statement must be signed by a medical doctor, physician’s assistant, or a nurse practitioner. Under this circumstance, a parent or guardian may voluntarily supply one components of the reimbursable meal if the component meets meal pattern requirements. The parent or guardian cannot be required to supply the component. The institution or facility must provide all other required meal component (7 CFR 226.20 (g)(2)(ii)).

For additional information, please review CACFP 14-2017

"Serving School Meals to Preschoolers” Now Available!

The USDA’s Team Nutrition initiative is pleased to announce the release of the “Serving School Meals to Preschoolers” training worksheet. School Meals Program operators can use this colorful four-page worksheet to plan and prepare menus that meet preschool meal patterns in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program. This resource also includes information regarding co-
mingle of preschool students and students from older grade groups, as well as scenario-based questions to test for knowledge and understanding.

All materials are currently available in English online at https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/serving-school-meals-preschoolers. Team Nutrition will announce the availability of Spanish and printed versions later.

Please share this information with School Food Authorities (SFAs) in your State and encourage them to share this with program operators. For questions or more information, please contact TeamNutrition@fns.usda.gov.

Support Breastfeeding Mothers with Team Nutrition’s Breastfed Babies Welcome Here

The USDA’s Team Nutrition initiative is pleased to announce the release of Breastfed Babies Welcome Here! resource. Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) operators can use these materials to communicate ways a child care site supports a mother’s decision to breastfeed her baby. Materials include:

- A Mother’s Guide
- Poster
- Message Graphic

All materials are currently available in English online at https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/breastfed-babies-welcome-here. Team Nutrition will announce the availability of Spanish and printed versions later.

These materials support the implementation of the Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 Final Rule (Final Rule), which allows for reimbursement of meals when the mother provides breastmilk or directly breastfeeds her infant at the child care center or home. These materials also encourage mothers to talk with their child care provider about their breastfeeding plans and the space available for breastfeeding at the child care site.

FNS extends its gratitude to the State agencies that assisted in the development and field testing of these resources, including the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Department. If you have a social media account, please consider sharing the message graphic using the hashtag #TeamNutrition. For questions or more information, please contact TeamNutrition@fns.usda.gov.

USDA Policy Memos

View the latest policy memos from the U.S Department of Agriculture for CACFP. All policy memos can be found online. Here are recent highlights:
Round-Up Newsletter
JANUARY 2019

- **CACFP 12-2018**, Child Nutrition Program Waiver Request Guidance and Protocol- Revised. This memorandum revises the current USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) process for State agencies and eligible service providers seeking a waiver of statutory or regulatory Program requirements for the Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs), including the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This memorandum superseded CACFP 12-2017, *Child Nutrition Program Waiver Request Guidance and Protocol*, dated April 26, 2017.

- **CACFP 13-2018**, Child Nutrition Programs’ Flexibilities for School Year 2018-2019. An interim final rule published on November 30, 2017 (82 FR 56703) provides Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators targeted flexibilities for milk, whole grains, and sodium requirements for School Year (SY) 2018-2019. This memorandum summarizes the flexibilities’ that will be effective July 1, 2018. The following three flexibilities apply to SY 2018-2019 only. USDA is currently developing a final rule that will address the availability of flexibilities beyond SY 2018-2019

- **CACFP 01-2019**, Guidance for FY19: Updated CACFP Meal Patterns and Updated NSLP and SBP Infant and Preschool Meal Patterns. On April 25, 2016, USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service published the final rule “Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Action of 2010” (81 Fr 24348). These regulations were intended, in part, to update the CACFP meal pattern requirements in 7 CFR 226.20 and the meal pattern requirements for infants and preschoolers in the Nation School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs under 7 CFR 201,20 and 220.8. Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators were required to comply with these updated meal pattern requirements no later than October 1, 2017.

- **CACFP 02**, Update of Food Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs. This memorandum informs stakeholders on the progress made by the Food Nutrition Service in updating the food crediting system for all Child Nutrition Programs (CNP), including the Nation School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program. This is a first step by FNS towards improving the CNP crediting system to best address today’s evolving food and nutrition environment and meet the needs of those operation and benefiting from the CNPs.

**Why You Should Serve Family Style**

Family style dining encourages learning and development not only at the table but away from mealtime as well. Children learn independence, social skills, and other important habits that will last them through adulthood. Check out [Why You Should Serve Family Style](#) a Fun and informative one-page resource from the National CACFP Sponsors’ Association.