

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



CHILD AND ADULT CARE

3E'S OF HEALTHY LIVING
EDUCATION, EXERCISE AND EATING RIGHT

Food Program

March 2022 Monthly Newsletter

Events, Trainings and Resources

CACFP Farm Fresh Challenge Kickoff!

In March of each year, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) hosts the Farm Fresh Challenge for all TDA contracting entities (CE) in the Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP). The Challenge is a fun and engaging way for nutrition professionals to gain recognition for their efforts to bring local foods and garden-based activities to program participants..



Register for MegaCon 2022

Join TDA for this multi-program mega conference in Austin, May 2-6. You'll get updates on regulations and guidance, interact with peers and TDA staff, attend interactive training sessions, and find new ways to achieve program success!

Join Us for CACFP Live!

View upcoming sessions and registration information for [CACFP LIVE!](#) February Topic is "CACFP MAKES IT RIGHT - MEALS FOR CHILDREN" presented on February 9, 2022. March Topic is "IMPROVE YOUR SERVE: MANAGING FOOD EXPENSES" presented on March 9, 2022.

Celebrate National CACFP Week: March 13-19 and Help Us Improve by Taking Our Survey!

National CACFP Week is next week from March 13-19. This is your chance to promote the benefits of being a participant to your community, parents, and participants. We have plenty of resource options [here](#). Please take this [3-minute survey](#) to give us feedback on how we did this year with .

Grain Ounce Equivalent Tools for CACFP

USDA's Team Nutrition will present a special CACFP Halftime webinar on the different tools for implementing grains ounce equivalents that is now required of CACFP operators.

Four Steps to Food Safety: Clean, Separate, Cook and Chill

Clean: Wash hands and surfaces often.

- Wash hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds. Tip: Sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice.
- Clean and sanitize food preparation surfaces, chopping boards and kitchen utensils.
- Rinse produce under running water. Wash fruits and vegetables even if you are going to peel them. If you cut unwashed produce, bacteria on the surface can get inside.
- Download the [CLEAN factsheet](#) and share with staff.

Deadlines

Review This Month's Program Calendar Due Dates!

For upcoming deadlines, see the Program Year Calendar.

Claim Deadline Reminder

January and February claims are due. Claim deadline for January is April 1st. Don't delay, submit claims timely!

Reminder of the User Access Manager Transition

TDA will begin a full transition to the User Access Manager for all entities and will retire the FND-101 form in Spring of 2022.



Policy Updates and Compliance Reminders

Updated Income Eligibility Guidelines for

2022-2023

USDA has announced the annual adjustments to the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be used in determining eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk for the period from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. These guidelines are used by schools, institutions, and facilities participating in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program.



RELEASE: New School Data Report for 2021-2022

TDA must, on an annual basis, publish a list of schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in which at least one-half of the children enrolled are certified eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Revised Milk Service Policy for Adult Day Care Providers and Multiple Document Upload News

Adult Day Care Providers using the "Offer vs. Serve" meal service, using trending documentation, do not necessarily need to have milk on hand for 100% of the meals being served. Also, the new capability has been added to TX UNPS - CE's can now upload multiple documents at a time, saving time and increasing efficiency as they respond to requests for documentation during an administrative review.

Final Rule Allowing Low-Fat Flavored Milk for CACFP Participants over the Age of 6

Effective July 1, 2022, low-fat flavored milk will once again be allowed for CACFP participants 6 and over (including adult participants at adult day care).

Monthly Highlights

National Child Nutrition Conference 2022

Participate in the social media challenge for National CACFP Week and learn more about the National Child Nutrition Conference.



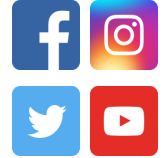
National Nutrition Month

The month of March is recognized as National Nutrition Month®, everyone is invited to learn about making informed food choices and developing healthful eating and physical activity habits.

Webinar: Grains Ounce Equivalents Tools for CACFP Operators

On Monday, March 14, 2022, USDA's Team Nutrition initiative will present a special CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays webinar on "Grains Ounce Equivalents Tools for CACFP Operators."

Make sure you read every monthly newsletter for important information, opportunities and events!



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