

March 2022 Monthly Newsletter

Events, Trainings and Resources

<u>Action Required: Important Summer Change (New Texting Number 304-304)</u>

As of February 1, 2022, all summer meal materials (printed and digital) must be recycled. The texting line participants contact has changed. All resources on www.SummerFood.org/OutreachTools have been updated Summer sponsors and sites can now order new materials here.



<u>Summer Materials are on the Way to Assist with School's Meeting the USDA Requirement</u>

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is sending posters and information cards to every school food authority (SFA) in Texas to assist them in fulfilling a National School Lunch Program requirement to notify students and their families about the availability of these summer meals. The posters must be displayed on campus and the information cards must be distributed to each student immediately upon the shipment's arrival.

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!!

<u>March Summer Meals Marketing Checklist - Begin Planning to Promote your</u> Summer Meal Sites

Whether you call it a marketing plan, an action plan, or a to-do list, planning to promote your summer meal sites and setting goals is key to maximizing success. TDA is ready to support you with your monthly to-dos to prepare for summer meals marketing. Click here for your March Marketing Checklist!

Important - Join Us for SFSP Live!

Be ready for summer operations! View the <u>SFSP Statewide virtual training</u> description and registration information. SFSP training is a requirement for new SFSP operators.

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

Separate: Don't cross-contaminate. Prevent bacteria from spreading by following these tips

- Separate raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs away from other foods. This applies when transporting, storing, and cooking food
- Use separate cutting boards, utensils and plates for raw meat, poultry, and seafood
- Download the SEPARATE factsheet and share with staff.

Summer Meals Events Webinar March 11, 2022 1:00-2:00pm!

Register today to attend the Summer Meals Kick Off and Spike Events Planning Webinar on March 11, 2022 1:00-2:00pm. Attendees will have the chance to ask questions and hear from panelists from schools, community organizations, and state partners who have been successful in planning summer kickoff and spike events. Click here to register! We can't wait to see you there!

Deadlines

Review This Month's Program Calendar Due Dates!

For upcoming deadlines, see the Program Year Calendar.

Reminder of the User Access Manager Transition

TDA is transitioning to the User Access Manager for all entities and will no longer be accepting the FND-101 form soon.



<u>Summer Food Service Program Year 2022 Due Dates</u>

TX-UNPS Application Packets, or if applicable the Intake Form, MUST BE submitted by the designated due dates to be eligible for SFSP 2022 approval.

Policy Updates and Compliance Reminders

SFSP Site Application Naming Conventions

The "CV" naming conventions of "CVGG" and "CVHD" are discontinued in site applications.



SFSP/CACFP SALARIES

Combined base salaries for CEs operating both SFSP and CACFP cannot exceed the maximum allowable base salaries are established in TDA's CACFP Compensation Protocol. For more information, click the title above.

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.

<u>Updated Income Eligibility Guidelines for 2022-2023</u>

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.

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





TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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