

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# CHILD AND ADULT CARE

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

*Food Program*

## September 2023 Monthly Newsletter

### **NEW! Child Nutrition Program Integrity Final Rule**

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service published a final rule on program integrity to ensure that child nutrition programs are properly operated and managed to protect federal funds and taxpayer dollars. The final rule impacts regulations for the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program. Click the headline for more information.

### **TDA Announces CACFP Input Workgroup Members**

CACFP Input Workgroup Committee Members:

- Leslie Bowerman, KinderCare Education LLC
- Yolanda Keys, President, Texas CACFP Sponsors Association
- Catherine Durham, Texarkana ISD
- Carolyn Miller, ESC 11
- Maria Elena Florez, West Texas Opportunities, INC.
- Michael Rosenberger, Dallas ISD
- Ashley Flowers, Child Care Associates
- Victor Salazar, Hummingbird Child & Adult Nutrition
- Mary Gregory, CitySquare
- Anjelica Terry, ESC 4
- Bana Jazi, Healthy Plate Solutions
- Matthew Winter, Professional Child Care Provider Association

If you have topics for discussion to include on an upcoming agenda or ideas you would like to bring to the attention of one of the subcommittees, please communicate your ideas to a current workgroup member.

Visit [SquareMeals.org](https://SquareMeals.org) for more information.

## CACFP Program Year 2023-2024 (PY24)

The program year for CACFP is now set to default to PY24. Please take note of the program year in which you are updating the application packet to ensure that the correct program year is being updated. When initially enrolling in the PY24 application, all data from the last approved forms in PY23 will roll to the PY24 application. Any subsequent updates made to PY23 once the PY24 application packet has been enrolled will need to be manually copied and entered into the PY24 application. Amendments made to site applications in PY23 will be reflected in PY24. Therefore, please ensure that only one program year application is submitted at a time to avert any confusion as to which program year the sites should be processed.

**Important Reminder:** CEs must be in good standing (and maintain their good standing) with the State of Texas Secretary of State (SOS) and the Office of the Comptroller of the State of Texas (Comptroller) while they're applying to participate/participating in any of the programs administered by the TDA Food and Nutrition Division. Failure to maintain a good standing status with either the SOS or Comptroller will result in denial of the application, and/or the CE being declared seriously deficient (which may lead to the termination of the CEs permanent agreement).

## Important Information about Health Coverage among Child Nutrition Program Participants

USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have provided resources and important reminders for Child Nutrition Program participants with Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage in the wake of the end of the Federal public health emergency (PHE). Click the headline for more information.



## It's Farm Fresh Challenge Time!

Calling all NSLP and CACFP operators! October is coming and so is the Farm Fresh Challenge! Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to showcase your dedication to serving Texas products and engaging your

students in garden-based learning. Pledge now to bring homegrown and healthy foods to your students and earn well-deserved recognition for your efforts. Pledges are open until September 13. [Pledge here!](#)

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# Resources

## Tips to Boost Your Meal Appeal



Boost Meal Appeal resources give menu planners the tools and ideas to create healthy meals that look appealing, taste great, and comply with federal requirements. This site provides tools to move ahead of the curve and offer a variety of foods as well as introduce new foods that children are sure to enjoy. For more information, TDA has collected best practices and planning items on [SquareMeals.org](https://www.squaremeals.org)!

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## Trainings offered by Education Service Centers (ESCs)

Trainings offered by Education Service Centers (ESCs) and CACFP training can be obtained through the following:

- USDA Training - CORE Training provided by USDA. Visit the USDA Website for more information.
  - TDA Conferences - Annual conferences held by TDA are offered at no charge to the CACFP sponsors. The point of contact listed in the TX-UNPS application (the CACFP CE Administrator) will be emailed with conference details.
  - Online Training - Online training is available at [SquareMeals.org/FandNResources](https://www.squaremeals.org/FandNResources) under the Training tab.
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## Serving CACFP Meals

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meals are the foundation for a healthy eating pattern for children and adults. Meals served as part of CACFP must meet federal nutrition standards and include vegetables and fruits, grains, meat and meat alternates, and milk. Meal pattern requirements at-a-glance are available at on [SquareMeals.org](https://www.squaremeals.org) on the CACFP Meal Patterns tab. For additional information, contact the nearest Education Service Center (ESC).

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## What Programs Am I Eligible For?

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Food and Nutrition Division administers 12 federal nutrition programs that share one mission for Texas. TDA Food and Nutrition partners use the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Meal Programs, and more to ensure all Texans can build a bridge to a healthy future. Click the headline for more information.

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## Nutrition Resources - Now Available in Spanish!

Check out these resources from the USDA and the National CACFP Sponsors Association (NCA). Team Nutrition now offers the [Crediting Tips Sheets](#) for Fruit, Milk, and Meat/Meat Alternatives in Spanish.

The [CACFP Crediting Handbook](#) is now available in Spanish.

The NCA has free [nutrition education](#) and [activity pages](#) available in Spanish.

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# Now available: Crediting Handbook for Child and Adult Care Food Program in Spanish!

The Spanish translation of the **Crediting Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)** is now available online. The Crediting Handbook plays an important role in helping CACFP operators to plan nutritious, age-appropriate meals with diverse options. The Crediting Handbook is a supplementary resource to the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs and contains additional information on creditable foods served in child and adult care centers including crediting grains in ounce equivalents. You can check out Team Nutrition's other resources for CACFP [here](#).

Ya está disponible en línea el Manual de Acreditación para el Programa de Alimentos para el Cuidado de Niños y Adultos (CACFP, por sus siglas en inglés) traducido al español (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/es/tn/crediting-handbook-child-and-adult-care-food-program>). El manual tiene como objetivo principal ayudar a los operadores del CACFP a planificar comidas nutritivas, con opciones diversas y apropiadas según la edad. Este manual es un recurso complementario a la Guía de compra de alimentos para los Programas de Nutrición Infantil titulada, Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs y contiene información adicional sobre los alimentos acreditables que se sirven en los hogares y centros de cuidado para niños y adultos, incluyendo la acreditación de granos en onzas equivalentes. Consulte otros recursos para el CACFP de Team Nutrition en <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/child-care-organization>

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## Healthy Eating Tips

Check out these resources that feature healthy eating tips for **infants** and **toddlers**. You can share the importance of offering a variety of nutritious food groups and tips for trying new, safe foods! Available in English and Spanish.



## Farm Fresh Challenge!

Pledge now to participate in the **Farm Fresh Challenge** in October. The Challenge is open to NSLP and CACFP operators and all are encouraged to Eat Local, Teach Local, and Be Social throughout the month of October

and beyond! Pledge by September 13 to receive a pledge toolkit with items such as buttons, stickers, or static clings.

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## Policy and News

### TX-UNPS Claim Processing Fiscal Year-End Close

Due to State Fiscal Year-End Close, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts did not process claims for payment after 3 p.m. on August 22, 2023, through September 4, 2023. Claim processing resumed Tuesday, September 5, 2023. Please note that the deadline to submit your June 2023 claims was Tuesday, August 29, 2023.

#### **Claim Processing Days - Tuesday and Thursday.**

The internal cut-off time for claim submission on processing days is noon. Our team will process all claims submitted before the noon deadline on the processing day. This deadline will ensure staff have adequate time to review your submission before sending

your payment to the Comptroller. Claim submissions received after the deadline will be processed on the next processing day.

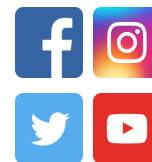
## Pre-Award Civil Rights Compliance Review Form Revised

A revised Pre-Award Civil Rights Compliance Review Form has been posted and released. This was a minor update to reflect language in FNS Instruction 113-1 about Civil Rights compliance reviews within the two years prior to program application. The revised form can be accessed from the TDA website as follows:

- School Nutrition Programs in the [School Nutrition Programs Forms table](#)
- Summer Meal Programs in the [SFSP Forms table](#)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program in the [CACFP Forms table](#)



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