

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CHILD AND ADULT CARE

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

Food Program

November 2024 Monthly Newsletter

Farm Fresh Challenge Attestation is open now!

The Challenge has ended and it's time to fill out your attestation form. The [attestation form](#) will remain open until November 30. Remember, if you used the tracking sheet, you can attach that with your contact information and be done with the attestation form

Updates to Federal Financial Regulations (2 CFR 200)

On October 1, 2024, a Final Rule was implemented that made significant updates to 2 CFR 200. While most changes appear to not affect the Nutrition and Household Programs administered by TDA, there are several changes that will impact our operators, including:

- Equipment threshold increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000. This means that as of October 1, 2024, only equipment purchases of \$10,000 or more require a Capital Expenditure request.
- The single audit threshold has increased from \$750,000 to \$1 million. This means that any operator that expends more than \$1 million in Fiscal Year 2025 will need to conduct a single audit. Note that any operator that expended more than \$750,000 in FY 2024 will also need a single audit.
- For the few operators using the de minimis indirect cost rate, the percentage of modified total direct costs used to derive the rate has increased from 10% to 15%, and the threshold of federal reimbursement factored into the modified total direct cost amount has been increased from

\$25,000 to \$50,000.

- The aggregate amount of unused supplies (including computers under \$10,000 each) that an operator can retain or sell at the time of closeout has been increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Note that if the amount is over \$10,000, TDA will be entitled to a percentage of the fair market value of the supplies or the amount received in the sale of those supplies.

NEW! Waiver Allowing Offsite Monitoring for CACFP Sponsors

On October 23, 2024, USDA approved TDA's request to allow offsite monitoring flexibilities for sponsors of day care homes, unaffiliated child care centers, and unaffiliated adult day care centers. Flexibilities would allow sponsors in good standing to conduct one of the three required site visits offsite, with a possible second site visit to also occur offsite for sites over 100 miles or over 2 hours away from the sponsor's headquarters.

New Farm to School Grant Opportunity for NSLP/CACFP/SFSP

Applications are now open for the 2025 Patrick Leahy Farm to School Programs for Child Nutrition Program providers participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and/or Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). This year, the Request For Application (RFA) has been split into three (3) separate solicitations, two (2) of which are applicable to program operators.

RELEASE: Updated Guidance Related to Good Cause Transfers

TDA has released an updated presentation related to the Good Cause Transfer process and request form for sites wanting to move to a different sponsor. The presentation covers:

- Instructions for completing the Good Cause Transfer request form.
- Process flow chart explaining how requests are reviewed and approved/denied by TDA.
- How notices of approval/denial will be distributed to sites and sponsors.
- Observations, best practices, and requirements related to Good Cause Transfers.

Fiscal Year 2025 CACFP & SFSP Area Eligibility Data Now Available!

At the beginning of the fiscal year, USDA releases a special tabulation of data provided by the United States Census Bureau for CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) and SFSP (Summer Food Service Program). This data set can be used to establish area eligibility in both CACFP and SFSP. The USDA mapping tools have been updated to reflect the October 1, 2025 changes.

Click [here](#) to explore the area eligibility map. The data set is also available for download on [FNS' open data site](#).

The Revised Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs

The Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG) has been revised to reflect the final rule, “Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020–2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans”. This important resource assists CNP operators, food manufacturers, and other stakeholders with purchasing the correct amounts of foods for CNP and determining the contribution that each food makes toward meal pattern requirements. The FBG is available as a Web Tool, Mobile App, and downloadable PDF. The FBG can be accessed [here](#).

Revised Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheet Series!

The Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheet series has been revised to reflect the changes with the Final Rule, “Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.” The Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs tip sheet series consists of seven tip sheets covering the five meal components: fruits, vegetables, meats/meat alternates, fluid milk, and grains (three separate tip sheets).

The revised versions introduce the menu-planning flexibilities beginning July 1, 2024, and changes that will be implemented in the coming school years in a quick-reference format.

Access the entire tip sheet series today in [English](#) or in [Spanish](#). The series will be available in print at a later date!

USDA 2023 Farm to School Census Results

In October, USDA published the [2023 Farm to School Census](#) results! Significant findings include: - 74% School Food Authorities (SFAs) did at least one Farm to School activity during school year 2022-2023 (14% increase from the 2019 Farm to School Census) - 81% of SFAs participating in Farm to School served local foods at least weekly

These results show that Farm to School is thriving in Texas schools—and continues to grow stronger with your support! Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey. To view the 2023 Farm to School Census report and learn more about Farm to School in Texas, visit USDA's [Farm to School Census Partner Resources](#) website.

Crosswalk of 2 CFR 200 Updates Posted on SquareMeals

On October 25, TDA posted news on SquareMeals about updates to 2 CFR 200, the regulation that pertains to use of federal awards. While most updates are non-substantive, some operators have requested to see a full list of the 560 changes to the regulation. TDA has posted on the Policy/Handbook pages of each program a USDA-provided [Excel crosswalk](#) of every edit made to the regulation.

RELEASE: Updated Pre-Award Civil Rights Compliance Review Form

The Pre-Award Civil Rights Compliance Review Form must be completed by new Contracting Entities (CEs) in all Child Nutrition and Household Programs prior to being approved for participation. This form has recently been updated to clarify that visual observation to obtain estimated racial/ethnic data is not allowable in CACFP and SFSP. Note that visual observation is not explicitly prohibited in any other program at this time. The form has also been updated with additional sources that a prospective CE may use to obtain the estimated data for the upcoming program year. The updated form is available in TX-UNPS and on each applicable program's Administration/Forms page.

Updated Guidance on Offer Versus

Serve and Family Style Meals in CACFP

USDA has released Policy Memo CACFP 02-2025, Offer Versus Serve and Family Style Meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. This memorandum provides updated guidance on the use of Offer Versus Serve (OVS) in the adult day care and at-risk afterschool settings, as well as the use of family style meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This memorandum contains two attachments that highlight frequently asked questions and answers and OVS examples for breakfast, lunch, and supper meal service. This memorandum supersedes CACFP 05-2017, Offer Versus Serve and Family Style Meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Updated Guidance on Fluid Milk and Fluid Milk Substitutions in the CACFP

USDA has released Policy Memo CACFP 01-2025, Nutrition Requirements for Fluid Milk and Fluid Milk Substitutions in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Questions and Answers. This memorandum updates and clarifies current guidance for fluid milk requirements in CACFP and includes a series of frequently asked questions and answers. This memorandum supersedes CACFP 17-2016, Nutrition Requirements for Fluid Milk and Fluid Milk Substitutions in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Questions and Answers, July 14, 2016.

TANS Update

The Texas Automated Nutrition System (TANS) will replace TX-UNPS for administration and management of all programs beginning with Program Year 2026 applications. Timelines, resources, and updates are available now on the [Systems Hub](#).



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