TANS
Texas Automated Nutrition System

Frequently Asked Questions

On December 31, 2025, we will say goodbye to TX-UNPS. After more than 10 years of supporting our nutrition programs, the system will be retired and replaced by TANS. We know you have many questions about this transition, so we have tried to answer some of the most common ones here.

Have question that isn't answered? Let us know!

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What is TANS?

TANS stands for Texas Automated Nutrition System. It is a web-based system designed to support the administration of federal nutrition programs.

TANS will allow program sponsors, ESC users, and state users to manage their role in program applications, claims, compliance reviews, and other administrative functions in a robust, streamlined system built using current technology and simple navigation.

Why are we moving to TANS?

A new system brings the opportunity to upgrade to modern software and simplify the user experience.

Additionally, TANS will be directly managed by TDA, allowing us the flexibility to adapt to regulatory changes and more easily incorporate user feedback into system enhancements.

How was TANS selected?

After a discovery period of two years, TDA staff determined Washington, DC's custom web-based application - Orchard - provided the best opportunity to start fresh. It was determined to provide the most user-friendly experience and the most coverage of necessary elements.

However, Orchard, as Texas received it, only does about 60% of what we need, so it is being adapted to meet our state's child nutrition program needs. Once complete, the adapted system will be maintained by TDA in-house and will be known as TANS.

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What is changing?

Beginning with program year 2026, program sponsors, state users, and all other users will administer nutrition programs through TANS. Though TANS will have a fresh look, new navigation, and slight process changes, it will serve the same role in program administration as TX-UNPS did.

TANS will be used to manage applications, claims, monitoring and compliance, reporting, and other administrative functions for the following programs:

- School Nutrition Program (NSLP and SBP)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP and DCH)
- Summer Meal Programs (SFSP and SSO)
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (FFVP)
- Special Milk Program (SMP)
- Food Distribution Program (TEFAP, CSFP, and S/FMNP [*applications and claims only*])

One of the first changes you will probably notice is how you navigate through the system. We think this is an improvement! Instead of clicking in and out of programs and program years, you'll manage all programs in a single dashboard and make selections to dynamically show what is needed. This means less clicking around and more checking things off your to-do list.

TANS will still have separate modules for applications, claims, and administrative reviews, but each will follow the same layout as above. All your claims will be consolidated into a single summary dashboard, whether they are CACFP, SNP, or TEFAP.

You may also notice that some TANS terminology will differ from what is currently used in TX-UNPS. This is to support better alignment with USDA regulation, instead of using language specific to Texas. For example, the term Contracting Entity (CE) is specific to TX-UNPS. In TANS, these same entities are referred to as Organizations. We believe this will help connect the dots between policy and your daily work.

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GENERAL

So then, what does TANS look like?

TANS is a modern platform that will be similar to websites and platforms you already use. Though it is new and will take some getting used to, you'll soon see how user-friendly TANS is for your day-to-day work. These are just a couple of the key features we're excited about.

Dynamic Summary Navigation

TANS features applications, claims, and compliance summary dashboards that allow you to see all your programs in once place. Selection options at the top of each dashboard allow you to quickly adjust what is shown based on your needs.

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GENERAL

So then, what does TANS look like?

Transparent and Clickable Menus
In each of the main modules – applications, claims, compliance – the full navigation menu is visible by default, so you don't have to click in an out of each required section. It's all right there in front of you!

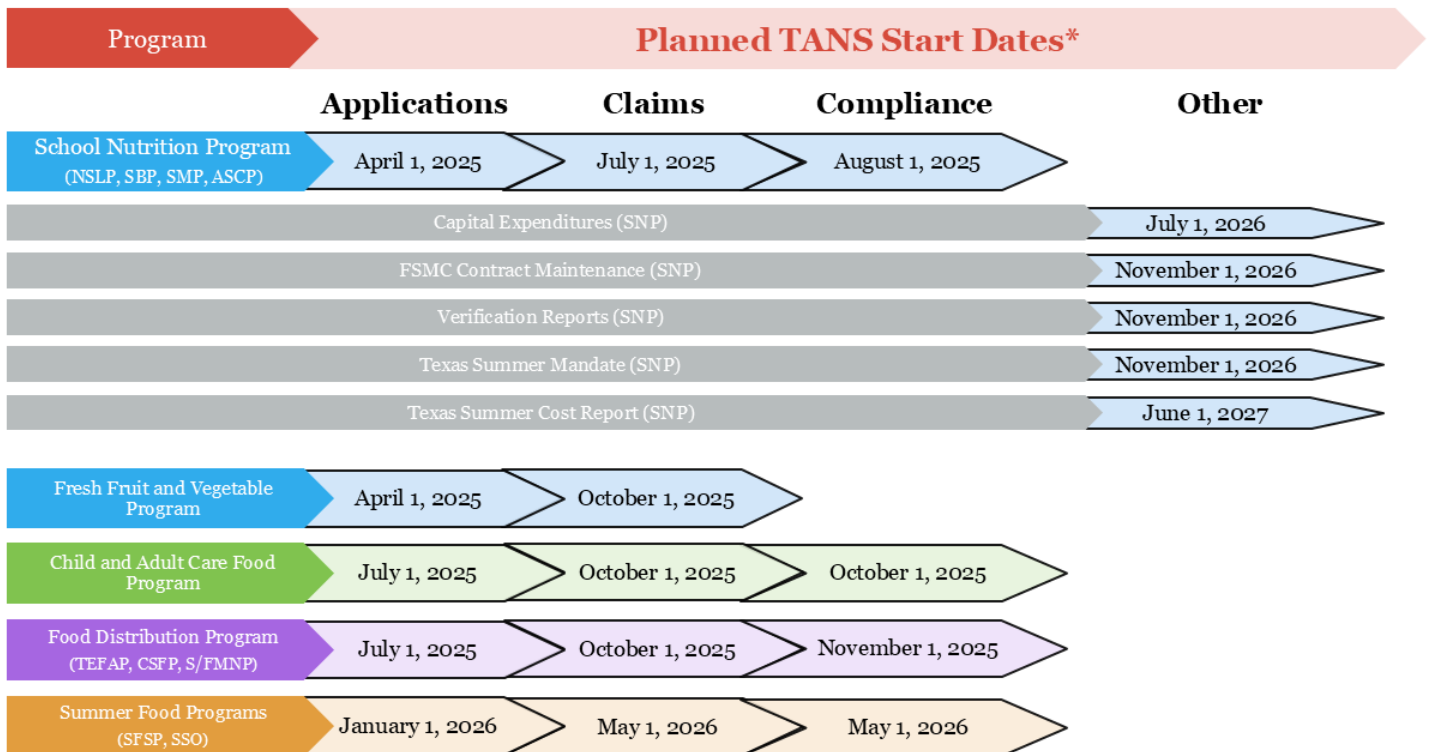**Want to see more?** Check out the TANS Overview shared at MegaCon 2024.

TIMELINE

When will I start using TANS?

All users will transition to TANS beginning with program year 2026 based on the existing program calendar dates. For example, on April 1, 2025, when SNP applications open for program year 2026, instead of completing the application in TX-UNPS, SNP sponsors will complete their SNP application (new or renewal) in TANS.

A very small number of administrative reports (in grey below) will begin in TANS in program year 2027. TDA will provide additional guidance on the process for program year 2026.

Program	Planned TANS Start Dates*			
	Applications	**Claims**	**Compliance**	**Other**
School Nutrition Program (NSLP, SBP, SMP, ASCP)	April 1, 2025	July 1, 2025	August 1, 2025	
Capital Expenditures (SNP)				July 1, 2026
FSMC Contract Maintenance (SNP)				November 1, 2026
Verification Reports (SNP)				November 1, 2026
Texas Summer Mandate (SNP)				November 1, 2026
Texas Summer Cost Report (SNP)				June 1, 2027
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	April 1, 2025	October 1, 2025		
Child and Adult Care Food Program	July 1, 2025	October 1, 2025	October 1, 2025	
Food Distribution Program (TEFAP, CSFP, S/FMNP)	July 1, 2025	October 1, 2025	November 1, 2025	
Summer Food Programs (SFSP, SSO)	January 1, 2026	May 1, 2026	May 1, 2026	

*dates are subject to change

TIMELINE

Will I be using TX-UNPS and TANS at the same time?

Yes. Users working in any or all programs will work in TX-UNPS to finish out program year 2025 and TANS to start program year 2026 simultaneously. Once program year 2025 is complete, users will be able to work solely in TANS. All users will lose access to TX-UNPS when it is retired on December 31, 2025.

Year	Month	TX-UNPS				TANS			
2024	APR								
	MAY								
	JUN								
	JUL								
	AUG								
	SEP								
	OCT								
	NOV								
	DEC	SNP							
2025	JAN	PY25							
	FEB								
	MAR		CACFP	FDP	SFSP				
	APR		PY 25	PY25	SSO				
	MAY				PY25				
	JUN								
	JUL					SNP			
	AUG					PY26			
	SEPT							FDP	
	OCT						CACFP	PY26	
	NOV						PY26		SFSP
	DEC								SSO
2026	JAN								PY26
	FEB	TX-UNPS ACCESS ENDS							
	MAR	12/31/2025							
	APR								
	MAY								
	JUN								
	JUL								
	AUG								

TRAINING

When will I receive training on TANS?

Training is being developed alongside the system itself, so this mean it will be provided 2-3 months ahead of each of the planned start dates (see "When will I start using TANS?"). Users will be trained in three phases – state users, ESC users, sponsor users. Communication about training dates and updates will be sent via email and newsletters, posted on TANS transition pages, and shared on regular calls.

For example, SNP applications will start in TANS on April 1, so state users can expect to receive training in December or January, ESC users in January or February, and sponsor users in February or March. This is the same cadence expected for each of the planned start dates.

What type of training will be provided?

Based on feedback we've received from a wide range of users and the timelines, training for TANS will lean heavily on on-demand, virtual formats – videos, quick guides, and manuals. On-demand training materials will be accessible via TANS transition page. This style of training is best suited for tech-confident users with a busy schedule.

In-person and virtual instructor-led training will also be available on a more limited basis. This style of training is best suited for users that benefit from additional technical guidance or a focused learning environment. The schedule for instructor-led training sessions will be available on the TANS transition page.

Is TANS training mandatory?

While completion of training will not be tracked, it is _HIGHLY_ recommended that all users complete the trainings relevant to their job duties prior to completing them in TANS for the first time. This allows for time to troubleshoot, ask questions, and understand the system prior to each launch date. Take the opportunity to get comfortable before the first day!

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MISCELLANEOUS

I am a sponsor. Will my applications be moved to TANS?

In TANS, all applications, claims, and other program data begin fresh with program year 2026. Previous years data will not be transferred to or accessible in TANS, and sponsors will not be required to enter data from previous years. This is to support a clean delineation and higher quality data in our new system.

To provide a starting foundation, TDA will populate key data including organization name (formerly CE name), organization ID (formerly CE ID), site names, and site IDs. Additionally, TDA will move select pieces of data for the system to reference when completing certain calculations on program year 2026 applications. However, these pieces will only be system reference and will not be visible to users. An example of this is in SNP the number of lunches served *two years prior* necessary to calculate Severe Need Breakfast rate determinations.

How will claims be entered into TANS?

Organizations will continue to have the option of manually entering or uploading claims data for more streamlined reporting in TANS. Organizations will be able to keep the same POS export format to upload claims across multiple sites as they do today.

MISCELLANEOUS

Will I still have access to reports?
Yes and no, depending on the point of access and the program year data needed.

TX-UNPS Data - Reports for Program Years 2025 and Earlier
- *Reports accessible in TX-UNPS* will continue to be accessible until December 31, 2025. Following this date, users will not have access to TX-UNPS or the reports it contains. Users should take proactive action to ensure they have independent copies of necessary data for program years 2025 and earlier.

- *Reports accessible to all users on the Open Data Portal (ODP)* will continue to be accessible beyond December 31, 2025. However, ODP reports will not be updated beyond December 31, 2025.

- *Reports accessible to internal users through Pentaho* will continue to be accessible beyond December 31, 2025. However, Pentaho reports for all programs will not contain data beyond program year 2025 and will not be updated beyond December 31, 2025. Additional internal ad-hoc reports for program years 2025 and earlier will be available on request on a limited basis.

TANS Data – Reports for Program Years 2026 and Beyond
- *Reports accessible in TANS* will be limited to start. Any available reports will only contain data for program year 2026 and beyond. Additional reports will be made accessible on a rolling basis.

- *Reports currently accessible on ODP* will continue to be provided for program year 2026 and beyond. Format and terminology may change depending on TANS data availability.

- *Reports accessible to internal users* will be developed on a rolling basis with federal and high-use reports as priority. These will be available on request only at first. Later, select reports will be made available in Pentaho.