



Child and Adult Care Food Program February 2019

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) welcomes you to February!

New Operational Memoranda

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidance is posted on the MDE CACFP website with previously released MDE Operational Memoranda. The complete list of operational memoranda can be accessed at the [MDE CACFP website](http://www.michigan.gov/cacfp) (www.michigan.gov/cacfp) under Operational Memoranda.

Admin 1-2019 – Child Nutrition Programs – 60-Day Claim Submission Deadline Requirements

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has issued updated guidance on the 60-Day Claim Submission Deadline for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) effective October 1, 2018.

Partial Government Shutdown Information

The partial federal government shutdown has many of us going down paths that we never dreamed we would and for which there is no precedence set. **The most important thing for all of us to do today is to remain calm and to keep our focus on the children we serve.** As of today, here is what we know:

- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) **is** one of the federal agencies affected by the partial shutdown. Other agencies affected include the Departments of Interior, Transportation, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, and the Environmental Protection Agency. This means that agencies such as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Education are **not** affected, and all those programs/funds are continuing without interruption.
- Since the USDA is one of the agencies on shutdown status, that means that **additional** funding cannot be provided to states until an appropriation bill passes both the House and Senate and is signed by the President. As of today, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has received both first and second quarter funds for this fiscal year which began on October 1. That means that we have received:
 - 100% of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant funds.
 - Administrative funding for the USDA household commodity programs—Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) **through January**.

- Enough funding to cover reimbursements for the following programs **through February**:
 - Cash in Lieu (for the Child Adult and Care Food Program {CACFP}).
 - The “reimbursement block” which includes monthly reimbursements for breakfast, lunch, snacks, and CACFP. This means MDE can reimburse for meals served **through** February.
- Enough funds to keep our MDE staff going without interruption at least through May. This means reviews, trainings, and all other MDE assistance will not change.
- While there are no national office staff to process orders for additional commodities, we do know the following:
 - All orders placed prior to the shutdown will still be delivered.
 - The Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) is functional, therefore consortia should continue to place orders so that federal staff can process them ASAP after the shutdown ends.
 - The Department of Defense (DOD) **changes** cannot be made at this time but there is no reason not to draw on the current DOD allocation.
- In addition, there are no national office staff to publish the rates for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) until staff return from furlough status. Therefore, MDE will continue to make plans to run the SFSP based on previously published rates until new rates are published.

Many are asking what you all can/should be doing to plan for the potential that this shutdown goes into March or beyond. Here is our best advice for you:

- **#1: Don't panic at this time.** Both the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) also have funding through February, but they will stop before our child nutrition programs will. Therefore, currently, we are really in a “wait and see” mode with what happens to WIC and SNAP. Once we start seeing how those are handled, we will have a **much** better idea as to how the child nutrition programs will likely be handled.
- **Do not make drastic or unnecessary changes to your programs at this time.** There is no need to delete offer versus serve, cut staff, cut a la carte sales, or do anything else that could put your program in jeopardy for being out of compliance. Truly, with the best interest of the kids at the front of your mind, your best chance at remaining in compliance (without adverse fiscal action later) is to **not** make drastic changes to your program until we know more about what the future of our programs will look like.
 - While it is important to note that we do have state law stating districts **shall** provide lunch to all students and breakfast (in the case of being >20% free/reduced), there is **no current precedent nor decision** as to how our state government will handle this **if** we got to that point. We are in constant communication, monitoring the situation daily, and the minute we believe we need to get a decision from our executive branch, MDE is prepared to seek it. Once we know what will happen at the state government level, we promise to get another special bulletin out to all of you. But like we said, as of today, there is not a need to worry about this part as there are just too many unknowns but please be assured our team is working on it.

- o One **optional** recommendation: if you are a district that is working on a spend down plan, one option may be to build in some carry-over plans just as a safe guard. We recognize not all districts are in this position, but for those of you that are, it is just a thought of one action that is reasonable given the unknown nature of the situation.

Please note the Q & A that went out in the most recent version of the School Nutrition News about what to do for children of furloughed federal employees. Certainly, we want to help take care of these children. You have various methods already at your disposal to handle children whose family has experienced an unforeseen loss of income mid-year. Please continue to follow all the same procedures you would for any child whose family experiences this situation.

Your MDE team is here for you. We will continue to communicate with you when we know something more. Until that time, please help us all keep calm and serve the children. Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Grain-based Desserts Reminder: Not Creditable

Under the current USDA Preschool and CACFP Meal Patterns, grain-based desserts are not creditable towards the Grain component for reimbursable meals and snacks, even if made with whole grain ingredients. While there is no set amount of sugar, fat or other nutrient limit set by the USDA to define a grain-based dessert, how a food is perceived plays a role in defining a grain-based dessert. If an item is commonly thought of as a dessert or sweet-treat, it is a grain-based dessert. Choose a healthier grain option instead. [MDE CACFP and Preschool Meal Patterns: Grain-based Desserts](#) provides insight into questions to consider when building your menus. If you have any questions on any menu item, contact your program analyst or call the CACFP office at 517-241-5353.

Veggies for Your Valentine: Recent Research finds Vegetable consumption Low for Children in Care

Recent research (attached for your reference) published in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* was conducted to examine the nutritional quality of food served to children in family day care homes and assess the amount of food children consumed. The research found that, while family day care homes are serving healthy food, there is room for improvement, especially in vegetable consumption and utilizing whole grains over refined grains. While children consumed between 61 and 80% of foods served across all food groups, vegetables were consumed slightly lower than other food groups. Providers fell short on offering whole grains, green leafy vegetables, and beans. The study noted 91% of the providers participated in the CACFP and stated the updated meal pattern was a step in the right direction to improve the quality of foods served to children in care. Researchers suggested repeated exposure to vegetables, serving meals family style, including children in meal preparation, and positive adult role modeling were methods for improving child consumption and promoting healthy eating habits for a lifetime. What are ways you can increase children's love of vegetables and whole grains? Artichokes hearts for Valentine's Day? Why not? Sometimes a veggie needs a little love!

Local Food for Little Eaters: Telamon Head Start Recognized

The recently released *Farm to Migrant and Seasonal Head Start in Action* highlights Telamon Corporation Migrant Head Start, a Michigan CACFP sponsor of centers located primarily on the west side of the state. Several Telamon sites began purchasing local food to provide healthy food in their meals and snacks and for use in hands-on learning about fruits and vegetables. With help from the USDA MI Farm to School Grant Program, several centers purchased local food from nearby farmers and grocery stores. In addition to local food purchasing, these centers have incorporated local food and farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) into other aspects of programming such as on-site herb gardens, child field trips to local farms, dairies and orchards, local foods served at family meetings, and child taste tests and food experiences. Telamon's farm to ECE program has helped connect children to healthy, local food. In addition, the children, program staff, and families also benefit from the stronger community connections the program has fostered. Explore these great tools and share.

[Local Food for Little Eaters: A Migrant & Seasonal Head Start Guide to Local Food Purchasing](#)
[Farm to Migrant and Seasonal Head Start in Action](#)

Civil Rights Training: Annual Requirement

February is the month that MDE staff complete their annual Civil Rights training. Have you completed your annual Civil Rights training yet? If not, schedule it for the month of February! The Civil Rights Handout is attached for your reference. You can also access the [Civil Rights e-learning course](#) or watch the [Civil Rights Training Video](#). Documentation of who conducted the training, who took the training, the date, and the location all should be kept your annual CACFP records for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019.

Resources

USDA Child Care Standardized Recipe

February may be cold outside, but warm roasted seasonal vegetables are ripe for eating! Check out this great recipe from the USDA to increase vegetable consumption for children in your care! [This Local Harvest Bake recipe](#) includes winter staples such as butternut squash, sweet potatoes, and beets. Simply seasoned with garlic and tossed in olive oil, it is a healthy, hearty addition to your menus. You could also change it up by adding balsamic vinegar and/or rosemary sprigs.

Cultivate Michigan: Beets – Unbeatable Nutrients!

Speaking of beets, did you know that beet roots are a good source of vitamin C and their greens are an excellent source of vitamin A? To learn more about beets, check out [Cultivate Michigan's new featured food webpage: Beets](#).

CACFP Training Opportunities and Conferences

Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) Updated Meal Pattern Trainings

MDE and ICN are teaming up to offer additional CACFP Meal Pattern trainings that began in October. Did you miss one near you last year? Do you want a refresher? Then please sign up to attend one of the upcoming sessions!

The CACFP training instructors request that if you register to attend an in-person recordkeeping training and find you are unable to attend, you should use the cancellation instructions to cancel your ticket. This will allow other participants to attend the in-person regional trainings.

Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at the Holiday Inn Jackson NW-Airport Road, 2696 Bob McClain Drive, Jackson, Michigan 49202

Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/child-and-adult-care-food-program-refresher-meal-pattern-training-tickets-49742720817>

Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at the Lake Michigan College, 2755 East Napier Avenue, Benton Harbor, Michigan 49022

Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/child-and-adult-care-food-program-refresher-meal-pattern-training-tickets-50412664637>

Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at Lake Superior State University, 650 West Easterday Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/child-and-adult-care-food-program-refresher-meal-pattern-training-tickets-50448540944>

Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at the Marquette-Alger RESA, 321 East Ohio Street, Marquette, Michigan 49855

Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/child-and-adult-care-food-program-refresher-meal-pattern-training-tickets-50914333141>

Tuesday, August 13, 2019, Haworth Inn and Convention Center, 225 College Avenue, Holland, Michigan 49423

Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/child-and-adult-care-food-program-refresher-meal-pattern-training-tickets-50483802412>

Tuesday, September 24, 2019, Blue Water Convention Center, 800 Harker Street, Port Huron, Michigan 48060

Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/child-and-adult-care-food-program-refresher-meal-pattern-training-tickets-50485881631>

Utilize the NEW MDE CACFP Training Videos for Annual CACFP Staff Trainings

MDE announced the release of our first set of training videos in August. Please utilize them in your annual and new employee staff trainings! You can access these colorful, fun, and informative videos on the [MDE CACFP YouTube site](#) and on the [MDE CACFP webpage](#) under the ***What's New, Training***, and ***Resources*** headers. Remember to document any CACFP staff training with an agenda and sign-in sheet!

Child Nutrition Conference: April 23-25, 2019, Chicago, Illinois

The National CACFP Sponsors Association's 33rd annual conference is a three-day professional education event offering over 130 hours of presentations featuring topics including nutrition, program operations, administration, and financial management of CACFP and SFSP food programs, resources and technology, case studies, train the trainer sessions, and management solutions. For more information and to register, visit the conference [National CACFP Sponsor Association's web page](#).

Program Expansion Opportunities

Looking to Expand? Consider At-risk Afterschool Programs! Feed the Whole Child the Whole Year!

The At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the CACFP offers Federal funding to Afterschool Programs that serve a meal or snack to children in low-income areas. Organizations may participate in the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of CACFP either as an independent afterschool program or through a sponsor. To be eligible, you must meet State and/or local licensing or health and safety standards, and meet organizational and area eligibility requirements, and provide educational or enrichment activities that are open to all children in an organized, structured, and supervised environment. Think you qualify? Call us and find out! 517-241-5353!

Family Day Care Home Sponsor Expansion Opportunities in CACFP!

The MDE CACFP is looking for eligible organizations to provide oversight and guidance to family day care home providers by becoming a Family Day Care Home (FDCH) Sponsor. All family or group day care homes must come into the program under a sponsoring organization.

Financial assistance is available to a sponsoring organization for its administrative expenses associated with developing or expanding a food service program in family day care homes and initiating successful program operations. Contact the CACFP Office at 517-241-5353 with any questions.

Goal number 4 of Michigan's Top 10 in 10 is to reduce the effect of high-risk factors, provide useful/valuable tools to meet the needs of all students and to ensure that they have access to quality education. The goal of the CACFP is to improve and maintain the health and nutritional status of children in care while promoting the development of good eating habits. CACFP supports the whole-child approach to learning.

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