

CACFP

MONTHLY UPDATE

In this issue of the CACFP Monthly Update

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Welcome to this month's edition of the CACFP Monthly Update! The Monthly Update is your one stop to stay informed about all the updates, changes and exciting things happening in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

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Recent Directives at the Federal Level

We are in the process of clarifying the executive orders and will provide information and guidance once we have a clear understanding of the situation. In times of uncertainty, misinformation, disinformation, and confusion tend to give way to fear and despair. We will share accurate information as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and for all you do to nourish the Children and Adults in Maine!

Ramadan Waiver

Attn: CACFP At Risk

On November 27, 2024, USDA- Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) approved the Maine Dept. of Education's waiver request to allow Program operators to serve meals in non-congregate settings and to adjust the time of meal service for participants in attendance and fasting to observe Ramadan in 2025. The waiver is effective from February 24, 2025, through April 4, 2025. For participants in the CACFP, the waiver does not apply to family day care homes (FDHC) or childcare centers.

All CACFP operators that desire to utilize the waiver must submit a CACFP 2025 Waiver Request.. Please use this link to complete the waiver- <https://forms.office.com/g/UuUiPPYfS3>

Please contact any of the CACFP Nutrition Consultants with related questions- [Contact Us - Nutrition | Department of Education](#)

Have You Completed Your Mandatory Civil Rights Training?

At least one staff person from each sponsoring agency must take this training. The CACFP Team has created an easy way to complete this Civil Rights requirement.

Step 1: [Watch the 30-Minute Civil Rights Webinar](#)

Step 2: [Complete the 2025 Civil Rights Quiz](#)

The “2025 Civil Rights Quiz” documents your Sponsoring Agency/Institution's successful completion of the Civil Rights Training. Please complete the Civil Rights Training AND quiz before February 28, 2025. No certificate of completion will be provided. The CACFP Team can see who took the quiz and when, so certificates are unnecessary.

The webinar and presentation slides are available on the Non-Discriminatory & Civil Rights Information webpage:

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/nondiscrimination>. Please use this training/presentation when conducting your In-House Training.

This State Agency training/quiz does not replace your institution's annual “In-House” Civil Rights Training requirement. Feel free to use the webinar and presentation slides when conducting your In-House Civil Rights Training; however, be sure to document any “In-House” training with a dated sign-in sheet and agenda and keep them in your records as you will not have access to the State Agency's quiz results for documentation purposes. CACFP Sponsors In-house training should be completed by September 30, 2025.

Common Review Findings

As CACFP Nutrition Consultants have been completing administrative reviews, there are a few items that are being noted as findings on a more frequent basis, including:

Posting the Nondiscrimination Statement on Websites and Social Media

Per USDA Dept. Regulation 4300-003 dated June 2, 2015, section 7.c., “... The full Nondiscrimination Statement (NDS) must be included on all print and non-print materials (including but not limited to, audio, video, website, brochures, newsletters, by-laws, etc.).”

Per FNS Instruction 113-1, section IX Public Notification, A.3., NDS, “All information materials and sources, including Web sites, used by FNS, State Agencies, local agencies, or other subrecipients to inform the public about FNS programs must contain a NDS. It is not required that the NDS be included on every page of the program information Web site. At the minimum, the NDS, or a link to it, must be included on the home page of the program information.”

As part of a federal review of the Maine Department of Education- Child Nutrition, CACFP, the State Agency (SA) received further guidance and instruction related to subrecipients (includes participating Sponsoring Organizations and centers) having to have the NDS on their websites and other electronic means of distributing information about the CACFP, including social media.

All participating Sponsoring Organizations of centers and/or FDCH homes, and all centers must have the full FNS NDS on their websites and social media pages, or a link to it. The full FNS NDS is available on the SA Child Nutrition’s website here- [Non-Discriminatory & Civil Rights Information | Department of Education](#)

The NDS or a link to it must be on websites and social media sites, even if the sites don't mention the USDA or CACFP. The only exception currently that the SA is allowing is for FDCH providers who advertise their childcare services and who don't mention USDA, CACFP or providing meals/snacks. This group is not required to have the NDS or a link to it on websites or social media used to advertise their childcare services. If a FDCH provider has a website or public social media site that mentions USDA, CACFP or serving meals/snacks, they must include the full NDS or a link to it. Private social media pages (not public and being used to advertise the provider's childcare services) are not subject to having the NDS or a link to it.



From Team Nutrition

Get the Scoop on Serving Milk in the CACFP

Did you know? National Milk Day is observed on January 11 each year to commemorate the day in 1878 when milk deliveries began in sterilized glass bottles sealed with wax paper, marking a turning point that made milk more accessible and a vital source of nutrition for families across the country. [Learn more.](#)

Milk is an important part of meals served in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Milk provides vitamins, minerals, and protein needed to help children build strong bones and muscles. Check out resources for CACFP providers, operators, and parents/caregivers below to learn more about serving milk in the CACFP.

Enhance Your Trainings

Use these training tools to empower CACFP providers and operators with the knowledge, skills, and expertise to implement the different milk requirements in the CACFP.

- [CACFP Trainer's Tool: Milk Aid](#) – Use this graphic for a quick visual reminder.
- [CACFP Trainer's Tool: Serving Milk](#) – Play this interactive bingo-style game at in-person or virtual trainings.
- [Crediting Fluid Milk in the Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheet](#) – Share this handy reference on how to credit milk. This publication has been updated to align with the final rule.
- [Milk in the CACFP Web Quiz](#) – Test your knowledge!
- [Serving Milk in the CACFP](#) – Get the ready-to-go training worksheet, webinar, and presentation slides.

Public Comments Requested

Grain Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt

Monday, December 23, 2024, *Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs*, was published for public inspection. The request for information aims to obtain input to help inform future policymaking, guidance, and technical assistance related to grain-based desserts and high-protein yogurt crediting in Child Nutrition Programs (CNP).

More information about the request for information can be found on the FNS website: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr-122624>. State agencies are encouraged to share the public inspection link with local Program operators and other partners to learn more. Additional information will be shared about submitting public comments when the request for information publishes in the Federal Register and the comment period opens.

Child Nutrition Programs Tribal Pilot Projects

FNS seeks public comments on Request for Information: Child Nutrition Programs Tribal Pilot Projects, published December 23, 2024, at [Federal Register: Request for Information: Child Nutrition Programs Tribal Pilot Projects](#). The comment period will be open for 91 days.

The public is invited to submit comments to www.regulations.gov through March 24, 2025.

The [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024](#), (P.L. 118-42) provided \$2 million for pilot projects that will allow Tribes to administer Child Nutrition Programs, assuming the roles and responsibilities typically held by State agencies. The Act authorized a maximum of 10 pilot projects, to operate for up to two years, in Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools, schools on or near Indian reservations, or in early child care and education facilities. Grantees may receive \$10,000-\$100,000 per school year.

To obtain additional input from Program partners, FNS requests comments from the public to help inform the application process, and eligibility and selection criteria, for the Child Nutrition Tribal Pilot Projects. FNS invites feedback from Tribes; Tribal organizations, leaders, representatives, and associations; State agencies that administer the Child Nutrition Programs; and others interested in opportunities to promote Tribal sovereignty in the operation of the Child Nutrition Programs.

Comments may be submitted by either of the following methods:

- Online via the Federal eRulemaking Portal (preferred method): Go to www.regulations.gov/docket/FNS-2024-0039 and follow the online instructions for [submitting comments](#).
- Mail: Send comments to School Meals Policy Division, Child Nutrition Programs, USDA Food and Nutrition Service, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314.

For more information on submitting comments, please see Tips for Submitting Effective Comments here: [Tips-For-Submitting-Effective-Comments.pdf](#). (Please note this is a Federal Register resource and not an FNS resource.)

Trainings

National CACFP Sponsors Association Training Opportunities



Soup's On! **A Warm Dive into Comfort Bowls**

Thursday, February 6
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm Eastern

Join us for a cozy, flavorful journey into the world of soups! We'll explore the secrets to crafting delicious and nutritious #CACFPCreditable soups that are perfect for any season. Learn tips and techniques to create soups that are both kid-friendly and packed with nutrients. Whether you're new to soup-making or looking to expand your recipe repertoire, you will leave inspired and ready to serve up bowls full of goodness.

1. Understand the meal pattern requirements for #CACFPCreditable soups.
2. Gain practical tips and techniques for crafting delicious, kid-friendly soups.

Presented by Isabel Ramos-Lebron, MS, RDN, LD; National CACFP Association
Earn 0.5 CEUs for attending this webinar.

[To Register](#)



CACFP RD Meetup

Tuesday, February 11

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm Eastern

Registered Dietitians who work in the CACFP are unique and may often work alone or in a silo at their organization. Let's meet-up!

Share with fellow RDNs and NDTRs how the new regulation regarding how dietitians may begin writing medical statement has impacted you in your state, and explore any other topics on your mind. Bring your expertise, your questions, and your passion for improving child nutrition, and connect with colleagues who are making a difference in CACFP programs nationwide.

****This session is exclusively for Registered Dietitians working in the CACFP.**

Registrants must enter their CDR registration ID # to gain access to this meeting.

Moderated by Isabel Ramos-Lebron, MS, RDN, LD; National CACFP Association

[To Register](#)

FREE WEBINAR



**Food Program Fun:
CACFP Week At-a-Glance**

Thursday, February 13 | 2:00 pm Eastern



cacfp.org

Food Program Fun: 2025 CACFP Week At-a-Glance

Thursday, February 13

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm Eastern

The CACFP brings healthy foods to tables across the country for children in child care centers, homes, and afterschool programs as well as adults in day care. Discover how you can celebrate and raise awareness within your network during this week-long campaign. Get excited for CACFP Week with us!

[Visit our CACFP week page](#) to download materials and get involved!

Presented by Lisa Mack, National CACFP Association

[To Register](#)

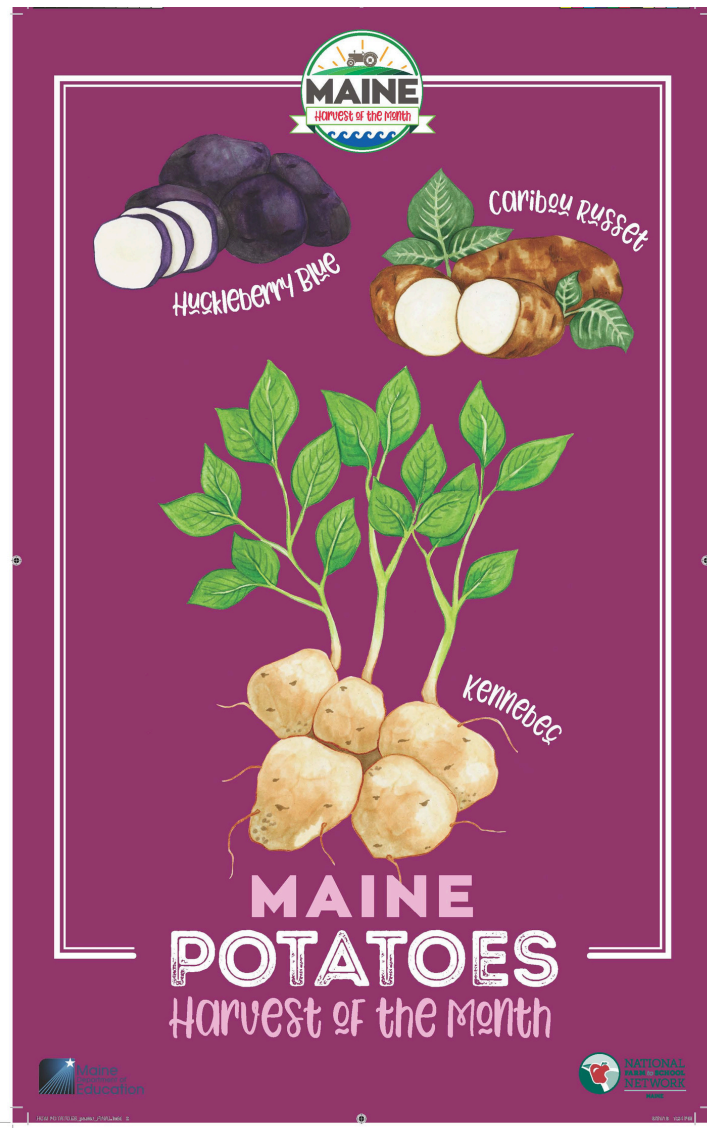
All About February

Did you know that February is National Potato Lovers Month?!

[Maine Harvest of the Month](#) has some great recipes and resources to promote serving Maine potatoes in your programs!

[Maine Potato Recipes](#)

[Maine Potato Fact Sheet](#)



Fun February Resources from the National CACFP Association

[February Fun Handout](#)

[Free Valentine's Day Matching Activity Page](#)

[Free Community Helpers Activity Page - Child Care Providers](#)

USDA Recipe for Child Care Centers

[Potatoes Au Gratin](#)

Potatoes au Gratin have fresh white potatoes cooked with milk, cheddar cheese and spices.



CACFP CREDITING INFORMATION

Age Group: Ages 6-18

Serving Size: 25-50

One piece (about 2³/₈" x 4") provides 0.25 oz equivalent meat alternate and ½ cup vegetable.