Updating the Sponsor Application for the Special Milk Program

School Year 2023-24



Connecticut State Department of Education Bureau of Child Programs 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504 Hartford, CT 06103-1841

August 2023

Updating the Sponsor Application for the Special Milk Program

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SMP/Update_SMP_Agreement.pdf

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Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at:

https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- 2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- 3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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This guide applies only to sponsors of the Special Milk Program (SMP). All sponsors must submit their agreement for Child Nutrition Programs online, using the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System). The sponsor's online application must be approved by the CSDE before sponsors can submit any reimbursement claims for the current summer. The CSDE strongly encourages all sponsors to complete their online agreement by **August 30, 2023**, to ensure timely approval and claims submission.

CSDE Contact Information

For questions regarding this information, please contact the Special Milk Program staff in the CSDE's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education.

Special Milk Program Staff

Terese Maineri terese.maineri@ct.gov 860-807-2145

Connecticut State Department of Education Bureau of Child Programs 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504 Hartford, CT 06103-1841

For more information, visit the CSDE's Special Milk Program (SMP) webpage.

1 — Updating Sponsor Agreement

- 1. Access the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System) at https://ct.cnpus.com/prod/Splash.aspx.
- 2. Log in with your **User ID** and **Password**.





Log On

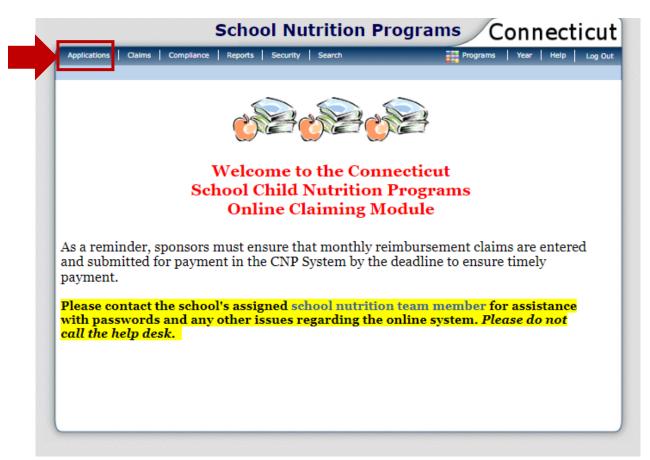
This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider/Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsors: Contact Caroline Cooke for assistance.

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1 | Sponsor Agreement

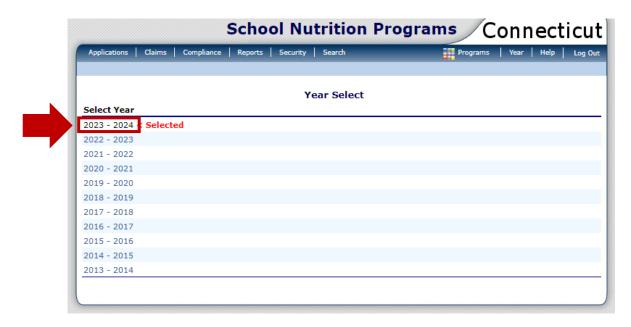
3. Click on **Applications**.



4. Click on **Application Packet**.



5. Click on school year 2023-24.



1 | Sponsor Agreement

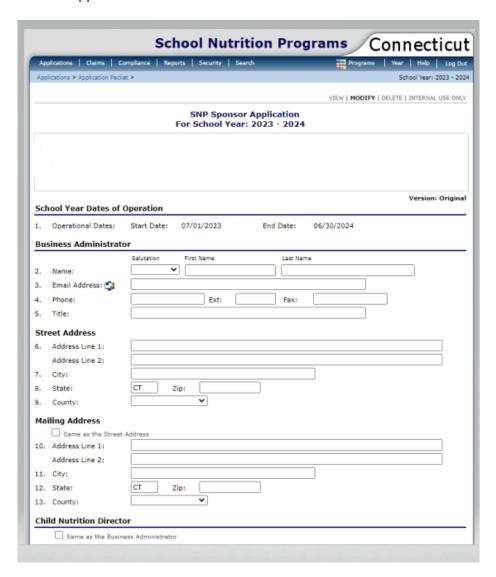
6. Click on **Enroll**, then **OK**.



7. The **2023-24 Application Packet** screen will appear. To the left of **Sponsor Application**, click on **Modify**.



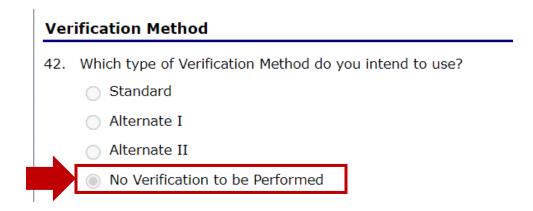
8. The sponsor application will open. Most of the information entered in the school year 2023-24 application will transfer over.



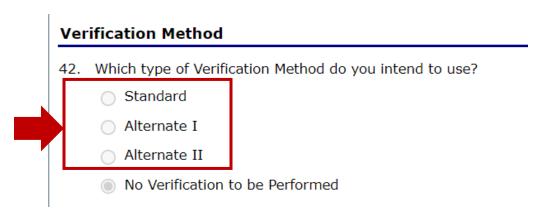
1 | Sponsor Agreement

- 9. Check all information for accuracy and make edits and updates as necessary.
 - The **Authorized Representative 1 and 2 must** be completed.
 - The **Hearing Official must** be completed.
 - The **Direct Certification Contact** can be left blank if the sponsor is **not** required to use the Direct Certification List.
 - The **Determining Official** can be left blank if the sponsor does **not** process free and reduced applications.
 - The **Verifying Official** can be left blank if the sponsor is **not** required to conduct verification.

- 10. For Verification Method (question 42), click on the type of verification method that the SMP sponsor intends to use during school year 2022-23.
 - a. SMP sponsors participating as a **Pricing Program or Non-Pricing Program** do not collect applications and are not required to complete verification. Choose No Verification to be Performed.



b. SMP sponsors that participating as a **Pricing Program with the Free Milk** Option must select the verification method used. For information on the allowable types of verification methods, refer to page 83 of the USDA's *Eligibility* Manual for School Meals.



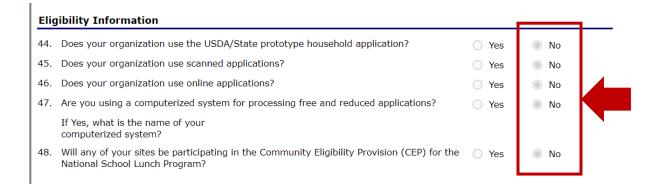
1 Sponsor Agreement

11. For **Meals Count and Collection Procedures** (question 43), click **Yes** or **No**. All SMP sponsors will be submitting documentation for site information on money collection and point of service (milk count) systems. For more information, refer to item 3 (Site Information on Money Collection and Point-of-service Milk Count Systems for Connecticut Special Milk Programs) under "Checklist."

Meal Count and Collection Procedures			
43. Have your meal counting and claiming procedures at any of your sites been revised?	O Yes	No	

12. For **Eligibility Information** (questions 44-47), if the SMP sponsor does **not** collect applications, click **NO** for all items. If the SMP sponsor does collect applications, answer questions 44-47 accordingly.

Example:



13. For **Certification**, click the **check box** and then click on **Save**.

Certification

I hereby certify that neither the Sponsor nor its principals/authorized representatives is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, disqualified, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal/State department or agency.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the information on these application forms is true and correct, and that I will immediately report to the State any changes that occur to the information submitted. I understand that this information is being given in connection with receipt of federal funds. The State may verify information; and the deliberate misrepresentation of information will subject me to prosecution under applicable federal and state criminal statutes.

On behalf of the Sponsor, I hereby agree to comply with all state and federal laws and regulations governing the Child Nutrition Programs administered by the State. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this Sponsor does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. I will ensure that all monthly claims for reimbursement are true and correct and that records are available to support these claims.

13. Click on Save.



14. Click Finish. The sponsor application is now complete. The site application section must now be completed (refer to section 2).



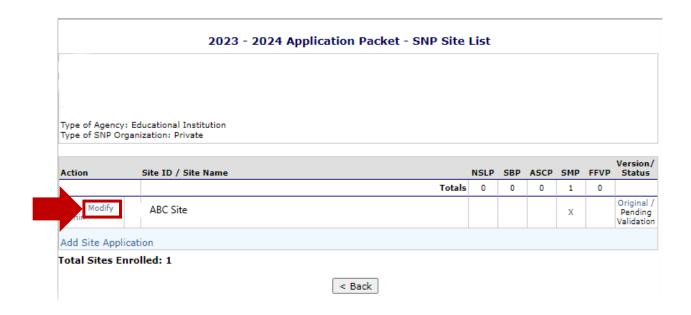
1 | Sponsor Agreement

2 — Updating Site Agreements

1. To start the **Site Application**, click on **School Nutrition Programs**.

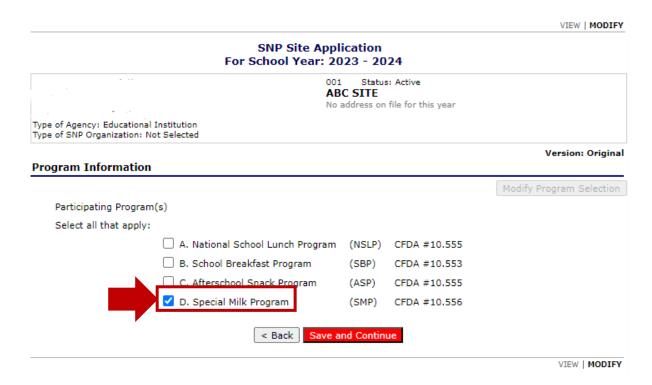


2. Click on **Modify** to the left of the **Site Name**.

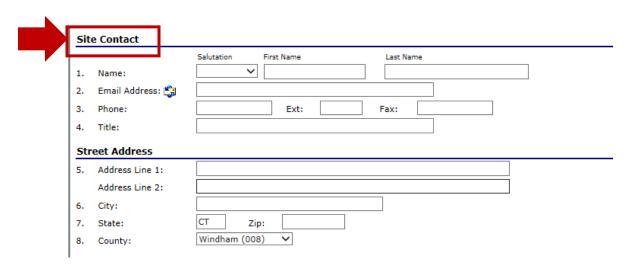


2 | Site Agreements

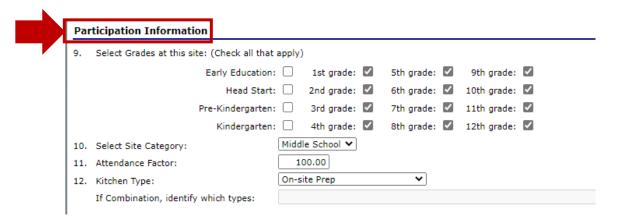
3. The SNP Site Application screen will appear for the school that was selected. Most of the information entered in school year 2021-22 application will transfer over. Please check all information for accuracy and make edits and updates as necessary. Review the selected Program Information. Make updates as necessary. If the SMP sponsor is adding a program, please consult with the CSDE's SMP staff person as additional information may need to be submitted before the site can be approved.



4. Update the **Site Contact** information as applicable. Review the **Street Address** and update as necessary.



5. Review the **Participation Information** and update as necessary.



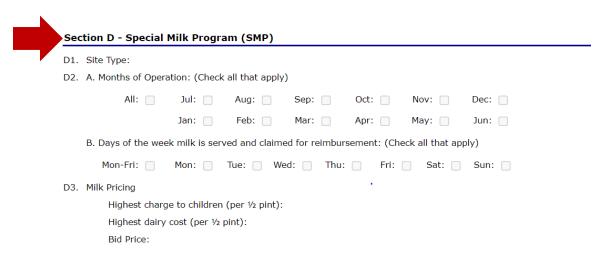
a. Note: The Attendance Factor (AF) is the percentage of students present on any given day, averaged over a month. Calculate the AF using the formula below:



- $A = Enrollment \times days$ in the month
- $\mathbf{B} = \text{Total absences for the month}$

2 | Site Agreements

6. Complete **Section D** – Special Milk Program (if applicable). Review program information and update as necessary.



7. Review the **D3. Milk Pricing** section of the site application. Update the bid price as necessary. SMP sponsors participating as a **Pricing with Free Milk Option** program or **Pricing without Free Milk Option** sponsor will need to update the highest charge to children (per ½ pint) and highest dairy cost (per ½ pint).

D1. Site Type:						
D2. A. Months of Opera	tion: (Check	all that apply)			
All:	Jul:	Aug:	Sep:	Oct:	Nov:	Dec:
	Jan:	Feb:	Mar:	Apr:	May:	Jun:
B. Days of the wee	k milk is serv	ed and claime	ed for reimbur	sement: (Che	eck all that app	oly)
Mon-Fri:	Mon:	Tue: We	ed: Thu:	: Fri:	Sat:	Sun:
D3. Milk Pricing			7	•		
Highest charg Highest dairy						
Bid Price:	cost (per 92 p	onic).				

8. For Certification, click the check box and then click on Save.

Certification



hereby certify that neither the Sponsor nor its principals/authorized representatives is presently debarred, uspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, disqualified, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal/State department or agency.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the information on these application forms is true and correct, and that I will immediately report to the State any changes that occur to the information submitted. I understand that this information is being given in connection with receipt of federal funds. The State may verify information; and the deliberate misrepresentation of information will subject me to prosecution under applicable federal and state

On behalf of the Sponsor, I hereby agree to comply with all state and federal laws and regulations governing the Child Nutrition Programs administered by the State. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this Sponsor does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. I will ensure that all monthly claims for reimbursement are true and correct and that records are available to support these claims.

9. Click **Save**, to save changes to the site application.

Comments

Internal Comments:

Comments to Sponsor:



10. Click **Finish**. The site application is now complete. The CNP System directs back to the **Site** List. Repeat steps 2-9 for each site.



2 | Site Agreements

11. Once each site is updated, a list of entered sites will appear.

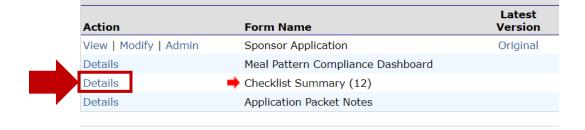
Action		Site ID / Site Name		NSLP	SBP	ASCP	SMP
			Totals	0	0	0	4
View	~	ABC site					Х
View	~	EFG site					X
View	-	LMN site					X
View	1	XYZ site					Х

Total Sites Enrolled: 4

3 — Checklist Summary

After the sponsor application and site applications have been saved, the CNP System will generate a checklist of items that need to be submitted with the application.

1. Click on **Details** next to **Checklist Summary**.



2. Click on **Sponsor** institution name.



3 Checklist Summary

- 3. The SNP Checklist will list the items that must be attached to the application. These items vary based on type of program the SMP sponsor participates in, i.e., pricing with free milk option, pricing without free milk option, or non-pricing.
 - a. **Pricing without free milk option or non-pricing program**: SMP sponsors that operate as a pricing without free milk program, or a non-pricing program must upload and submit the two items below.
 - 1. Policy Statement: The Policy Statement outlines the school food authority's (SFA) responsibilities specific to the agreement to participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or the School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Afterschool Snack Program, or to provide free milk under the Special Milk Program (SMP). The SFA assures the CSDE that the policy with respect to determining the eligibility of children for free milk will be uniformly implemented in all NSLPs and SBPs under its jurisdiction, as well as free milk in the SMP. The policy statement must be signed by one of the SMP sponsor's two authorized signers.
 - Policy Statement for Free and Reduced-price Meals, Afterschool Snack Programs, and Free Milk (August 2023): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Forms/FreeRed/Policy_Statement_Free_Reduced_Meals_ASP_Free_Milk.pdf

2. Site Information on Money Collection and Point-of-service (POS) Milk Count Systems for Connecticut Special Milk Programs (August 2023): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SMP/ Site_Information_Money_Collection_Point_of_Service_Milk_Counts.pdf

Required Forms/Documents to send to CNP		Document Submitted to CNP	Date Submitted to CNP	Document on File w/CNP	Status
Policy Statement (SIGNED)	0				Pending Approva
Meal Application and Data Management Process	0				Pending Approva
Site Information on Money Collection System and Point - of Service Meal Counting System	0				Pending Approva
Public Media Release	0				Pending Approval
Application for Free and Reduced-price School Meals or Free Milk	U				Pending Approva
Parent/Guardian Letter: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) (Meals or Milk)	U				Pending Approva
Parent/Guardian Notification Letter (approving or denying meals or milk benefits)	U				Pending Approva
Parent/Guardian Notification Letter of Direct Certification - Version 1	U				Pending Approva
Parent/Guardian Notification Letter of Direct Certification - Version 2	U				Pending Approval
Notice of Selection for Verification of Eligibility	0				Pending Approva
Letter of Verification Results and Adverse Action for Income Households	U				Pending Approva
SNP Upload	0				Pending Approva

Note: Due to a glitch in the SMP Checklist Item platform, sponsors participating in the pricing without free milk option or a non-pricing program must check the box for all four documents above, even though only two items are required to be submitted to the CSDE.

3 Checklist Summary

- b. **Pricing with Free Milk Option**: SMP sponsors participating as a Pricing with Free Milk Option program **must submit the nine items** below. **Note:** Spanish versions of these documents that can be sent to households are available in the "Documents/Forms" section of the CSDE's SMP webpage.
 - 1. **Policy Statement:** The Policy Statement outlines the school food authority's (SFA) responsibilities specific to the agreement to participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or the School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Afterschool Snack Program, or to provide free milk under the Special Milk Program (SMP). The SFA assures the CSDE that the policy with respect to determining the eligibility of children for free milk will be uniformly implemented in all NSLPs and SBPs under its jurisdiction, as well as free milk in the SMP.
 - Policy Statement for Free and Reduced-price Meals, Afterschool Snack Programs, and Free Milk (August 2023): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Forms/FreeRed/ Policy_Statement_Free_Reduced_Meals_ASP_Free_Milk.pdf
 - Application and Data Management Process for Connecticut Special Milk Programs (August 2023): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SMP/SMP_Milk_Application_Data_ Management_Process.docx
 - Site Information on Money Collection and Point-of-service Milk Count Systems for Connecticut Special Milk Programs (August 2023): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SMP/Site_Information_Money_ Collection_Point_of_Service_Milk_Counts.pdf
 - Sample Public Media Release for Connecticut Special Milk Programs (August 2023): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SMP/SMP_Public_Media_ Release.docx
 - Attach the SFA's free milk application: 2023-24 Application for Free Milk (June 2023): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SMP/Family_Application_Free_Milk.doc
 - Parent/Guardian Letter: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Free School Milk (August 2023): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SMP/Parent_Letter_FAQs_ Milk.docx

- 7. Attach the SFA's parent/guardian notification letter for approving or denying milk benefits): Parent/Guardian Notification Letter for Free Milk Eligibility in the Special Milk Program (SMP) (August 2023): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SMP/SMP_Parent_Notification_ Letter_Free_Milk_Eligibility.docx
- 8. Special Milk Program (SMP) Parent/Guardian Notification Letter Version 1: Eligibility Established through Direct Certification Based on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Family Assistance (TFA), or Medicaid Benefits (August 2023): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SMP/SMP_Direct_Certification_ Parent_Notification_Letter1_SNAP_TFA_Medicaid.docx
- 9. Special Milk Program (SMP) Parent/Guardian Notification Letter Version 2: Eligibility Established through Direct Certification Based on Foster Child, Homeless, Runaway, or Head Start Program Status (August 2023): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SMP/SMP_Direct_Certification_ Parent_Notification_Letter2_Foster_Child_Homeless_Runaway_HS.docx

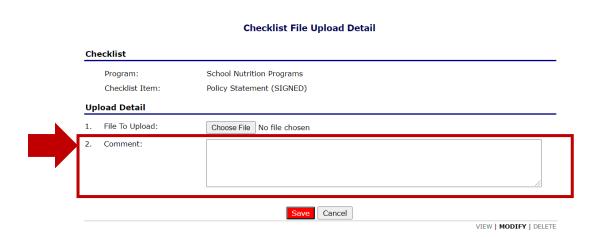
All sample forms are available in the "Documents/Forms" section of the CSDE's Special Milk Program (SMP) webpage.

3 Checklist Summary

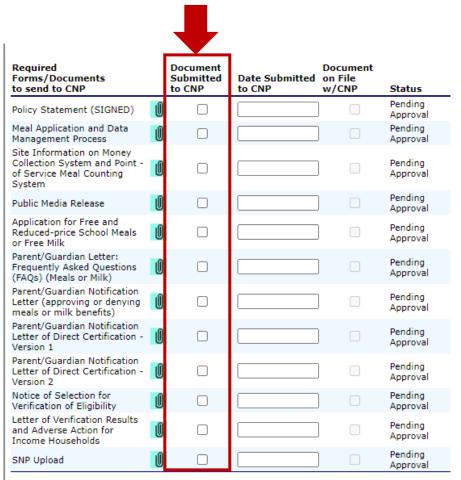


Required Forms/Documents to send to CNP		Document Submitted to CNP	Date Submitted to CNP	Document on File w/CNP	Status
Policy Statement (SIGNED)	0				Pending Approval
Meal Application and Data Management Process	0				Pending Approval
Site Information on Money Collection System and Point - of Service Meal Counting System	U				Pending Approval
Public Media Release	0				Pending Approval
Application for Free and Reduced-price School Meals or Free Milk	Û				Pending Approval
Parent/Guardian Letter: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) (Meals or Milk)	U				Pending Approval
Parent/Guardian Notification Letter (approving or denying meals or milk benefits)	0				Pending Approval
Parent/Guardian Notification Letter of Direct Certification - Version 1	U				Pending Approval
Parent/Guardian Notification Letter of Direct Certification - Version 2	Ű				Pending Approval
Notice of Selection for Verification of Eligibility	0				Pending Approval
Letter of Verification Results and Adverse Action for Income Households	Ű				Pending Approval
SNP Upload	0				Pending Approval

4. Click on the blue paperclip to attach the requested items. In the comment section, write the name of the document being attached.

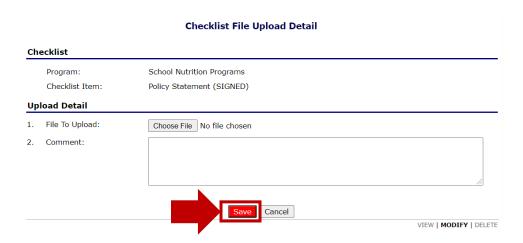


5. After the items are attached, click the check box under the heading **Document Submitted** to CNP (the Date will generate).



3 Checklist Summary

6. Click Save.

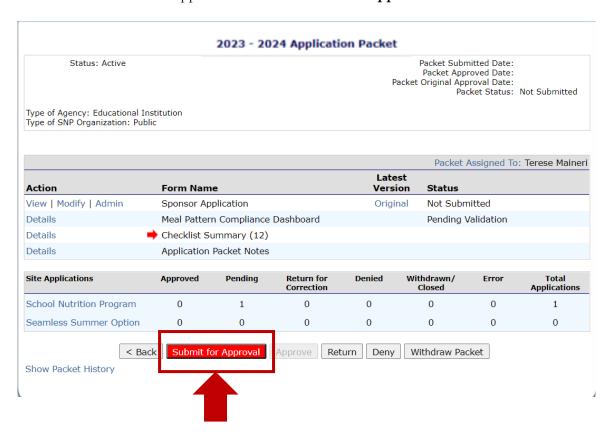


7. Once the items are saved, a list of checklist items will populate.



4 — Submitting the Application Packet for Approval

1. When the SMP sponsor has completed and saved the **sponsor application** and all **site applications** without errors and attached all required Checklist Items, the Application Packet can be submitted for approval. Click on **Submit for Approval**.



2. The Application Packet has now been **submitted** and is ready for approval by the CSDE. The application can no longer be modified and will be in View Only mode.

