CACFP Updates September 2026

CACFP Updates is the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) electronic newsletter for sponsors of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), including child care centers, family day care homes, emergency shelters, at-risk afterschool care centers, and adult day care centers.

This edition's topics are listed below. Please review and share with appropriate staff members. For previous versions of CACFP Updates, visit the CSDE's CACFP Updates webpage.

- CACFP Centers Application Renewals for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Due September 18, 2026
- CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals (Supper) Program Renewals for FY 2026-27 Due September 26, 2026
- CACFP Annual Training 2026 Questionnaire Responses Due September 11, 2026
- Save the Date for FY 2026-27 CACFP Annual Training
- USDA Requirement for Displaying "And Justice for All" (AJFA) Posters
- CT Grown for CT Kids Week, October 5-9, 2026: Breakfast and Beyond – CT Fresh All Day Long
- New USDA Resource: Farm to School State Formula Grant Dashboard
- September is National Fruits and Veggies Month

CACFP Centers Application Renewals for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Due September 18, 2026

As a reminder, the CACFP application renewals for FY 2026-27 (October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027) are due to the CSDE by **September 18, 2026**. Each sponsor must submit their application in the Connecticut Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System). For detailed information, refer to the CSDE's email dated August 19, 2026, and the CSDE's Instructions for Updating the Sponsor Application for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Centers.

The application materials are available under “Annual Application Renewal for CACFP Centers” in the “CACFP: section of the CSDE’s CNP System webpage.

CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals (Supper) Program Renewals for FY 2026-27 Due September 26, 2026

As a reminder, the CACFP application renewals for At-Risk Afterschool Meals (Supper) Programs for FY 2026-27 (October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027) are due to the CSDE by **September 26, 2026**. Each sponsor must submit their application in the Connecticut Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System). For detailed information, refer to the CSDE’s email dated September 1, 2026, and the CSDE’s Instructions for Updating the Sponsor Application for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Centers.

The application materials are available under “Annual Application Renewal for CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals (Supper) Program” in the “CACFP: section of the CSDE’s CNP System webpage.

CACFP Annual Training 2026 Questionnaire Responses Due September 11, 2026

The CSDE is seeking input from CACFP sponsors to help guide the development of professional development and technical assistance activities for FY 2026-27. Please complete the brief training survey at CACFP Annual Training 2026 Questionnaire by **September 11, 2026**. Sponsor feedback will help ensure that future training opportunities are responsive to the needs of CACFP operators across Connecticut.

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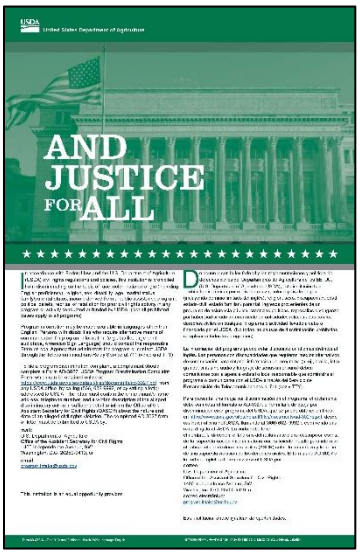
Save the Date for FY 2026-27 CACFP Annual Training

The CSDE's FY 2026-27 annual training for CACFP sponsors will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This training is virtual via Microsoft Teams.

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/246998762765117?p=5GjgPB7GJuCT4Kbbfa
Meeting ID: 246 998 762 765 117
Passcode: La3Y7oa2

Need help? | System reference
Dial in by phone
+1 860-840-2075,,864489640# United States, Hartford
Find a local number
Phone conference ID: 864 489 640#

USDA Requirement for Displaying "And Justice for All" (AJFA) Posters



The USDA requires that CACFP institutions must display the current version of the green AJFA poster (AD-475-A) (11 inches by 17 inches) in a prominent location where program benefits/services are provided and it can be seen by program participants and potential participants.

The current USDA-approved AJFA poster is dated **March 2025** and is indicated as "Form AD-475-A—Title IX Poster/Published: March 2025/Language: English" on the bottom left of the poster. This is the only allowable version that CACFP institutions can display.

The CSDE does not have a supply of the current AJFA posters, and they are not currently available for order.

CACFP sponsors should contact their CSDE CACFP team member with any questions.

CT Grown for CT Kids Week, October 5-9, 2026: Breakfast and Beyond – CT Fresh All Day Long

This year's CT Grown for CT Kids Week theme, *"Breakfast and Beyond – CT Fresh All Day Long,"* highlights the many Connecticut-grown foods that can be incorporated into CACFP meals and snacks. In addition to fresh fruits and vegetables, Connecticut farms offer local dairy and protein foods such as yogurt, cheese, eggs, chicken, pork, and sausage that can be served throughout the day.

To help track participation, the CSDE requests that all participating CACFP organizations complete the CT Grown for CT Kids Week Registration Form. Participation data helps demonstrate the impact of Farm to Early Care and Education efforts across Connecticut.

Join programs across the state in celebrating Connecticut agriculture and serving CT Fresh All Day Long during CT Grown for CT Kids Week. For more information and the new CT Grown for CT Kids Week Logos, visit the CSDE's CT Grown for CT Kids Week webpage.

New USDA Resource: Farm to School State Formula Grant Dashboard

The USDA's Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA) recently announced the launch of the Farm to School State Formula Grant Dashboard, a new tool designed to showcase outcomes from the noncompetitive Farm to School State Formula Grant Program. The program funds state agencies to coordinate farm to school efforts and provide technical assistance to institutions as they build and expand their capacity to procure and use local foods in program meals, as well as offer agricultural education opportunities for participating children.

FNA collected data featured in the dashboard from annual progress reports submitted by state agencies beginning in fall 2023. The dashboard highlights the ongoing development of a wide range of statewide farm to school activities, such as the promotion of local foods and agricultural education, the creation of databases to connect local producers with child nutrition program (CNP) operators, and the replication of Farm to School Institutes, which is a farm to school professional learning program for whole-school and early childhood education teams pioneered by Shelburne Farms. The dashboard elevates innovative projects and best practices that strengthen regional supply chains and inspire the next generation of American producers.

Using this tool, stakeholders can see exactly how state agencies utilized grant funds to connect local producers with CNP meals. This dashboard supports USDA's commitment to encourage healthy choices, healthy outcomes, and healthy families, and it highlights the role of states as innovative collaborators and incubators. The Farm to School State Formula Grant Dashboard is publicly available on the FNA's Data Visualization website.

September is National Fruits and Veggies Month

The Foundation for Fresh Produce's has a toolkit, Every Time You Eat, Have A Plant® Toolkit, with ready-to-use social media content, promotional ideas, and resources to promote National Fruits and Veggies Month this September.

For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education's CACFP Updates webpage or contact the CACFP staff at the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841. This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/cacfpupdates/2026/cacfp_updates_2026_09.pdf.

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1. 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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