CACFP Updates October 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.

- Operational Memorandum No. 1A-27, 1C-27, and 1H-27: Schedule for Submitting CACFP Monthly Claims for Reimbursement in Fiscal Year 2027
- Webinar Recording Now Available for CSDE's CACFP Annual Training on September 24, 2026
- Link to USDA's Current "And Justice for All" (AJFA) Poster (Dated March 2025)
- Updated Monitoring Form for CACFP Child Care Centers and Adult Day Care Centers (Dated October 2026)
- On-Demand CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays Webinar "Using the Nutrition Facts Label in the Child and Adult Care Food Program"
- New Team Nutrition Resources for Promoting Real Food in Child Nutrition Programs

Operational Memorandum No. 1A-27, 1C-27, and 1H-27: Schedule for Submitting CACFP Monthly Claims for Reimbursement in Fiscal Year 2027

Operational Memorandum No. 1A-27, 1C-27, and 1H-27: Schedule for Submitting CACFP Monthly Claims for Reimbursement in Fiscal Year 2027, dated October 1, 2026, outlines important information regarding the monthly claim submission process and claim due dates for fiscal year 2027 (October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027). Please review and share with all staff members involved with preparing and submitting claims, e.g., claim preparers and claim submitters. This memo is available in the "CSDE Memos" section of the CSDE's Operational Memoranda for the CACFP webpage and the "Claims for CACFP" section of the CSDE's Claim Submission Schedule for Child Nutrition Programs webpage.

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Webinar Recording Now Available for CSDE's CACFP Annual Training on September 24, 2026

The CSDE conducted the fiscal year 2026-27 annual training for CACFP sponsors on Thursday, September 24, 2026. The webinar recording and handout of PowerPoint slides are now available in the Annual Training section of the CSDE's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) webpage. Note: The handout contains the PowerPoint slides and includes clickable links for all resources.

Link to USDA's Current "And Justice for All" (AJFA) Poster (Dated March 2025)

During the annual training on September 24, 2026, the CSDE reminded CACFP sponsors that the current version (March 2025) of the USDA's AJFA poster (AD-475-A) must be displayed in all CACFP sites. The March 2025 AJFA poster is available at AJFA poster (AD-475-A).

As a reminder, the CSDE provided guidance on the USDA requirements for displaying the AJFA posted in the September 2026 version of CACFP Updates.

Updated Monitoring Form for CACFP Child Care Centers and Adult Day Care Centers (Dated October 2026)

The CSDE has updated the Monitoring Review Form for Centers in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for CACFP child care centers and adult day care centers. The update includes the new requirements for fluid milk (effective June 8, 2026) as specified in the USDA final rule, Expanding Fluid Milk Options in Child Nutrition Programs. Please discard any previous versions and use the October 2026 version.

As a reminder, in accordance with the USDA regulations for the CACFP [7 CFR 226.16(d)(4), CACFP sponsoring organizations (institutions with more than one site) must review each sponsored facility a minimum of three times each year.

- At least two of the three reviews must be unannounced.
- At least one unannounced review must include observation of a meal service.
- New facilities must be reviewed within the first four weeks of CACFP operations.
- No more than six months may elapse between monitoring reviews.
- The timing of visits must be varied so that they are unpredictable to the facility's staff.

On-Demand CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays Webinar "Using the Nutrition Facts Label in the Child and Adult Care Food Program"

USDA's Team Nutrition recently released a new, on-demand CACFP Halftime Thirty on Thursdays webinar, Using the Nutrition Facts Label in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The on-demand webinar, training slides, and worksheet support CACFP operators in choosing foods that meet current CACFP meal pattern requirements and demonstrate how these standards align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025–2030 and the accompanying Real Food Pyramid. These resources explain how to use the Nutrition Facts label to check serving sizes, added sugars, and sodium, so program operators can select cereals, yogurts, and other foods that meet the CACFP meal pattern requirements. The webinar also includes a frequently asked questions section addressing common questions related to Using the Nutrition Facts label in the CACFP.

New Team Nutrition Resources for Promoting Real Food in Child Nutrition Programs

USDA's Team Nutrition recently announced the release of nutrition education and training resources designed to help Child Nutrition Program operators promote the clear, common-sense message of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030*: Eat real food.

These resources focus on eating whole, nutrient-dense foods. These foods include protein foods, dairy, healthy fats, vegetables, fruits, and whole grains. These resources also highlight the importance of limiting the intake of highly processed foods, added sugars, and refined carbohydrates.

Resources for Schools

- Real Food Guide to School Lunch for Families
- Real Food Guide to School Breakfast for Families
- Stronger With School Meals Activity Booklet

Resources for Child Care Organizations

- Serving Vegetables in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Training Worksheet, Recorded Webinar, and Training Slides
- Nibbles for Health: Nutrition Newsletters for Parents of Young Children
    - Healthy Meals with the Real Food Pyramid
    - Developing a Taste for Less Sodium
    - Limiting Added Sugars for Healthier Habits
    - Prioritize Protein Foods

Knowledge Test

- Eat Real Food Web Quiz!

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_10.pdf.

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