# Updating the Sponsor Application for School Nutrition Programs School Year 2025-26



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

August 2025

#### **Updating the Sponsor Application for School Nutrition Programs**

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/cnpsystem/update\_sponsor\_application\_snp.pdf

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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 guide applies only to sponsors of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), including the Afterschool Snack Program (ASP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and 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 school year. The CSDE strongly encourages all sponsors to complete their online agreement by **September 12**, **2025**, to ensure timely approval and claims submission.

# **CSDE Contact Information for School Nutrition Programs Staff**

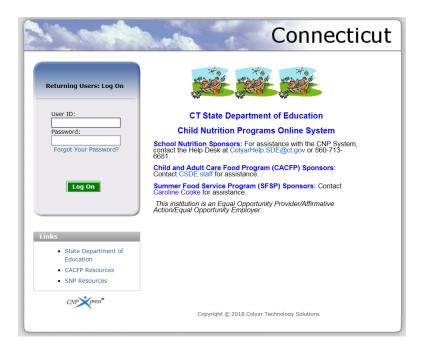
For questions regarding this information, please contact the school nutrition programs staff in the CSDE's Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs.

County	CSDE staff
Middlesex County (includes Regions 4, 13, and 17) Tolland County (includes Regions 8 and 19)  RCCIs: Adelbrook, Inc. – The Children's Home	Jennifer Bove 860-807-2044 jennifer.bove@ct.gov
Fairfield County (includes Region 9) Litchfield County (includes Regions 1, 7, 12, 14, and 20)	Fionnuala Brown 860-807-2129 fionnuala.brown@ct.gov
Hartford County (includes Region 10 and the Connecticut Technical Education & Career System [CTECS])	Teri Dandeneau 860-807-2079 teri.dandeneau@ct.gov
New Haven County (includes Regions 5, 15, and 16)  RCCIs: Children's Center, Boys & Girls Village, Inc.	Greg King 860-713-6804 greg.king@ct.gov
New London County Windham County (includes Region 11)  RCCIs: Waterford Country School	Susan Alston 860-807-2081 susan.alston@ct.gov

For more information, visit the CSDE's School Nutrition Programs webpage.

# 1 — Updating Sponsor Agreement

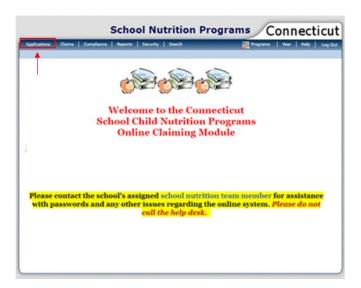
 Access the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System) at https://ct.cnpus.com/prod/Splash.aspx.



- 2. Log in with your User ID and Password.
- 3. Click on **School Nutrition Programs**.



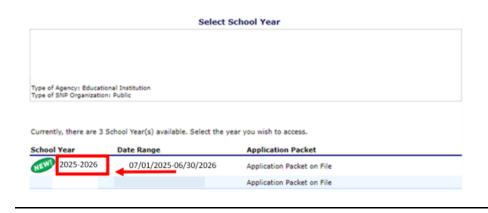
4. Click on Applications.



5. Click on Application Packet.



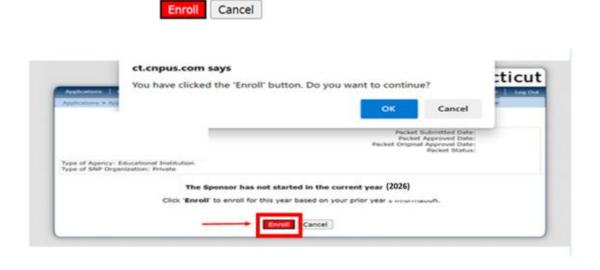
6. Click on school year 2025-26



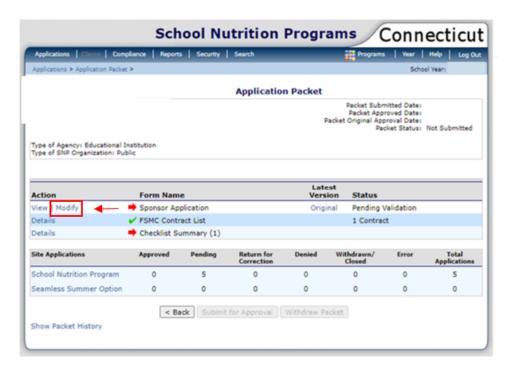
7. Click on **Enroll**, then **OK**. (This step may have already been completed as part of the completion of the Healthy Food Certification process).

#### The Sponsor has not started in the current year (2026)

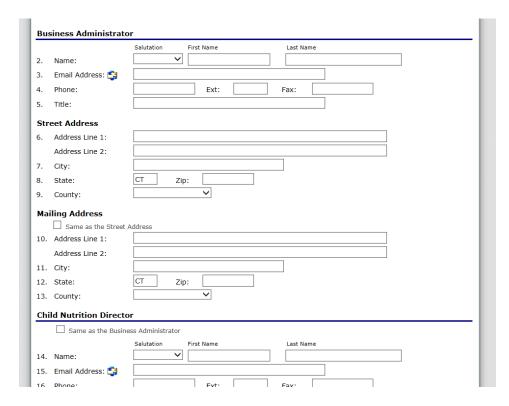
Click 'Enroll' to enroll for this year based on your prior year's information.



8. The **2025-26 Application Packet** screen will appear. To the left of **Sponsor Application**, click on **Modify**.



The **sponsor application** will open. Most of the information entered in the school year 2024-25 application will transfer over.



- 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. (e.g., RCCI's who do not claim day students.)
  - 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.

All sponsors of the NSLP **must** complete the FNS 742 Verification Summary Report even if the process of verification is not required since free and reduced-price applications are not processed 10. For **Verification Method** (question 42), click on the type of verification method that the sponsor intends to use during school year 2025-26. Refer to the sponsor's school year 2024-25 Verification Report to determine what method should be used.

If the sponsor had a nonresponse rate of 20 percent or more for the verification results in school year 2024-25, then Standard Sample Size verification is required based on error-prone applications. If the sponsor does not collect applications and is not required to complete verification, choose **No Verification to be Performed.** 

Ver	Verification Method				
42.	Which type of Verification Method do you intend to use?				
	O Standard				
	O Alternate I				
	O Alternate II				
	O No Verification to be Performed				

- For information on the allowable types of verification methods, refer to page 101 of the USDA's Eligibility Manual for School Meals.
- 11. For Meal Count and Collection Procedures (question 43), click Yes or No. All sponsors will be submitting documentation for site information on money collection and point of service (meal count) systems. For more information, refer to item 3 (Money Collection and POS Meal Count Systems) under "checklist."

Example:



12. For **Eligibility Information** (questions 44-47), if the sponsor does not collect applications, click No for all items. If the sponsor does collect applications, answer questions 44-47 accordingly. For question 48, if any of the sponsor's sites are participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), click Yes. If none of the sponsor's sites participate in CEP, click No.

Example:

200

Elig	ibility Information			
44.	Does your organization use the USDA/Stat	e prototype household application?	○ Yes	○ No
45.	Does your organization use scanned applic	ations?	O Yes	<ul><li>No</li></ul>
46.	Does your organization use online applicat	O Yes	<ul><li>No</li></ul>	
47.	Are you using a computerized system for p	Yes	○ No	
	If Yes, what is the name of your	QSP by Rediker Software		
	computerized system?			
48.	Will any of your sites be participating in th National School Lunch Program?	O Yes	<ul><li>No</li></ul>	

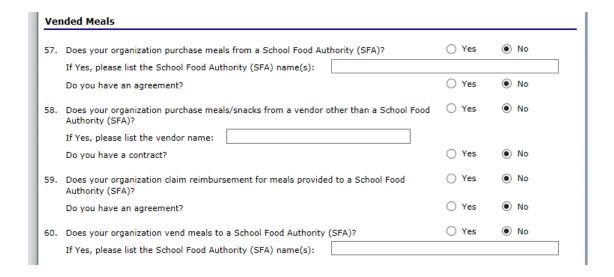
13. Questions 49-51 apply only to residential child care institutions (RCCIs). If the sponsor is not an RCCI, nothing can be clicked. If the sponsor is an RCCI, answer questions 49-51 accordingly.

Res	idential Child Care Institution (RCCI) o	nly	
49.	What is the student population type?	0	Residential only Residential and day students
50.	What documentation is used to qualify residential students for free meals?	0	Individual Determination Form Other
			If Other, please describe:
51.	What documentation is used to qualify day students for free and reduced price meals?	0	Free and Reduced Price Application Other
			If Other, please describe:

14. For **Food Service Management Company (FSMC)** (question 52) click **Yes** or **No.** If **Yes** is clicked, complete the **Sponsor Contact for FSMC Contract**. This person is the Food Service Director's direct company manager (Area Manager or District Manager). For more information, refer to the steps for food service management companies in section 5.



15. For **Vended Meals**, answer questions 57-60 as applicable. **All contracts/interschool agreements will be submitted/uploaded into the CNP System.** For more information, refer to item 13 (Vended Meals Contract) under "checklist."



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

#### Certification

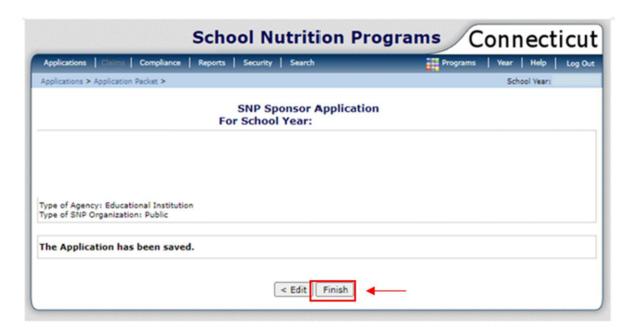
I hereby certify that neither the Sponsor nor its principals/authorized representatives is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, disqualified, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal/State department or agency.

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.



17. Click on **Finish**. The **Sponsor Application** is now complete. The **Site Application** section must now be completed (refer to section 2).



# 2 — Updating Site Agreements

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



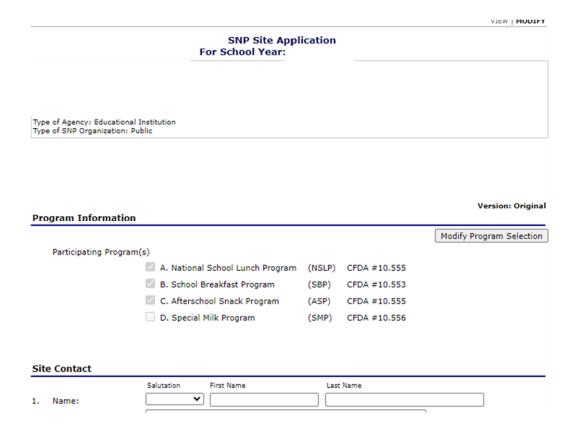
2. Click on Modify to the left of the Site Name.



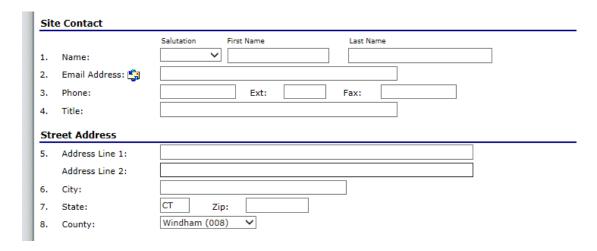
## 2 Updating Site Agreements

The SNP Site Application screen will appear for the school that was selected. Most of the
information entered in the school year 2024-25 application will transfer over. Please check
all information for accuracy and make edits and updates as necessary.

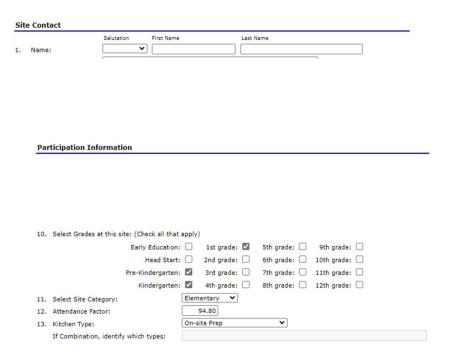
Review the selected **Program Information** and make updates as necessary. If the sponsor is adding a program, please **consult with your school nutrition programs county consultant** as additional information may need to be submitted before the site can be approved (refer to "CSDE Contact Information for School Nutrition Programs Staff" in this document).



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.

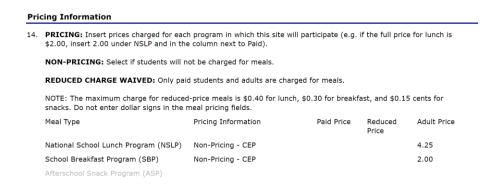


- The **Attendance Factor (AF)** is the percentage of students present on any given day, averaged over a month. Calculate the AF using the formula below:
  - A = Enrollment x days in the month

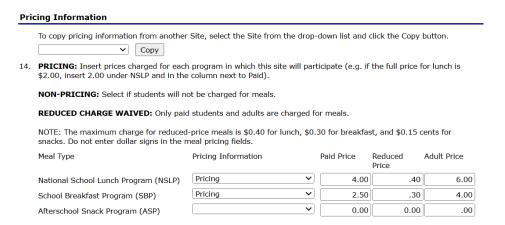


**B** = Total **absences** for the month

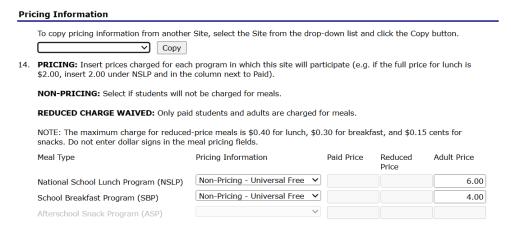
- 6. Review the **Pricing Information** and update the paid, reduced and adult price as necessary.
  - Sites participating in the Community Eligibility Provision must select "Non-Pricing – CEP" for the NSLP and SBP.



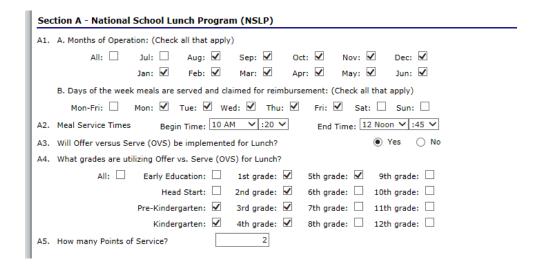
• Sites with a pricing program must select "Pricing" for the NSLP and/or "Pricing" for the SBP".



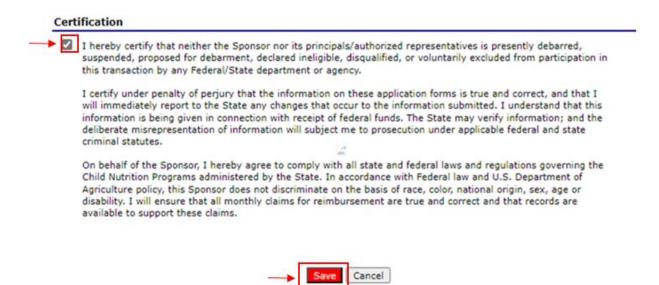
 Sites that are non-pricing programs must select "Non-Pricing – Universal Free" for the NSLP and/or "Non-Pricing – Universal Free" for the SBP. RCCIs or SFAs that Qualify for the SY 2025-2026 PLE Exemption and have submitted a plan to utilize funds to eliminate the cost of meals may select this option.



 Complete Section A – National School Lunch Program, Section B – School Breakfast Program (if applicable), Section C – Afterschool Snack Program (if applicable), and Section D – Special Milk Program (if applicable). Review program information and update as necessary.

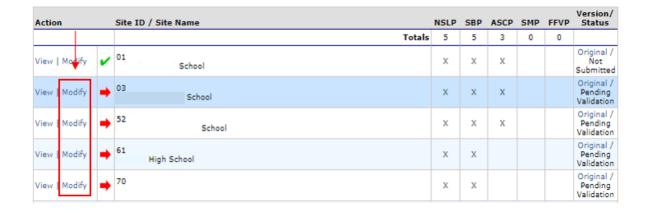


8. For Certification, click the check box and then click Save.



9. Click on **Finish**. The site application is now complete. The CNP System directs back to the **Site List**. Repeat steps 2-8 for each site.

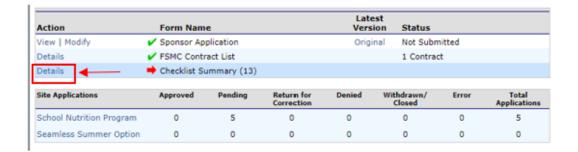




# 3 — Checklist Summary

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

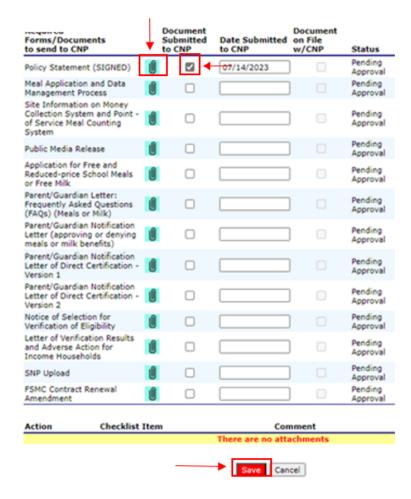
#### 1. Click on Details.



# 2. Click on Sponsor Information.



3. The SNP Checklist will list the items that need to be attached to the application. Click on the blue paper clip to attach the requested items. In the comment section, write the name of the document being attached. After the items are attached, click the check box under the heading Document Submitted to CNP (the Date will generate). Click Save.



4. If a required checklist item is not listed under the heading Required Forms/Documents to send to CNP, use SNP Upload and repeat step 4.



#### **Checklist Items**

All sample forms listed below are available on the CSDE's Forms for School Nutrition Programs webpage. For additional guidance, refer to the CSDE's Required Items for the Online Sponsor Application "Checklist Summary."

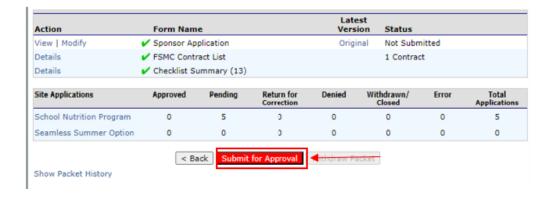
Specific forms for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) are available in the "Documents/Forms" section of the CSDE's CEP webpage. Specific forms for the Special Milk Program (SMP) are available in the "Documents/Forms" section of the CSDE's SMP webpage.

- 1. Policy Statement: The Policy Statement outlines the school food authority's () 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 and reduced-price school meals will be uniformly implemented in all NSLPs and SBPs under its jurisdiction, as well as free milk in the SMP. Attach the school food authority's (SFA) completed and signed policy statement.
- 2. **Meal Application and Data Management Process:** Attach the SFA's completed *Meal Application and Data Management Process* form.
- 3. **Money Collection and Point-of-Service (POS) Meal Count Systems:** Attach the SFA's completed *Site Information on Money Collection and POS Meal Count Systems form.*
- 4. **Public Media Release:** Attach the SFA's public media release for school year 2025-26.
  - Non CEP schools: Sample Public Media Release for Public School Sponsors of the Connecticut School Nutrition Programs
  - CEP schools only: Sample Press Release for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
- Application for Free and Reduced-price School Meals or Free Milk: If applicable, attach the SFA's Application for Free and Reduced-price School Meals or Free Milk distributed to households.
- 6. Parent/Guardian Letter: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Free and Reduced-price School Meals, and/or Parent/Guardian Letter: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Free School Milk: Attach the SFA's parent letters distributed to households.

- 7. Parent/Guardian Notification Letter (Approval/Denial of Free and Reduced Meals or Free Milk): If applicable, attach the SFA's parent/guardian notification letter for approving or denying meals or milk benefits).
- 8. Parent/Guardian Notification Letter for Direct Certification based on SNAP, TFA or Medicaid Benefits (Version 1): Attach the SFA's parent/guardian notification letter for **Direct Certification Version 1.**
- 9. Parent/Guardian Notification letter for Direct Certification based on Foster Child. Homeless, Runaway or Head Start (Version 2): Attach the SFA's parent/guardian notification letter for Direct Certification Version 2.
- 10. Parent/Guardian Notification letter for Direct Certification based on Medicaid Benefits – Reduced-Price Meals (Version 3): Attach the SFA's parent/guardian notification letter for Direct Certification Version 3.
- 11. Household Letter to Verify Eligibility: If applicable, attach the SFA's Household Letter to Verify Eligibility.
- 12. Letter of Verification Results and Adverse Action for Income Households: If applicable, attach the SFA's notice of selection for verification of eligibility, Letter of Verification Results and Adverse Action for Income Households.
- 13. Interschool Agreement: If applicable, attach all Interschool Agreement Forms. For more information, refer to the "Interschool Agreements" section of the CSDE's Forms for School Nutrition Programs webpage.
- 14. **Vended Meals Contract:** If applicable, attach all vended meals contracts.

# 4 — Submitting the Application Packet for Approval

1. When the 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.



# 4 | Submitting the Application Packet 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.

The Application Packet is currently under review by the State and is unavailable for changes.

Action	Form Nam	ie		Late Vers			
View	Sponsor Ap	plication		Origi	inal Submitte	d	
Details	✓ FSMC Cont.	ract List		1 Contract			
Details	✓ Checklist Summary (13)						
Site Applications	Approved	Pending	Return for Correction	Denied	Withdrawn/ Closed	Error	Total Applications
School Nutrition Program	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Seamless Summer Option	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

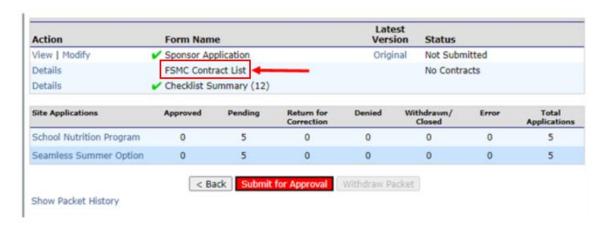
# 5 — Food Service Management Company

 If the school nutrition program is being managed by a food service management company (FSMC) (question 52) click Yes and complete the Sponsor Contact for FSMC Contract information as part of the Sponsor Agreement.

This section must be updated with the food service director's direct company manager. This would be an area manager or district manager. For information on the steps for the sponsor agreement, refer to section 1.



After the Sponsor Application has been saved, the FSMC Contract List will open.
 Note: With the addition of the FSMC module, this section will populate from the information entered and approval given in the FSMC Module. No additional information is required, or updates needed for this section of the Sponsor Application.



3. The Checklist Summary must still be completed. Click on Details.



4. Click on **Sponsor** name.



5. Click on the check box next to the Food Service Management Company Contract and then click on the blue paper clip. Note: DO NOT upload any documents. Required documents are included as part of the FSMC module or have been submitted to CSDE via email.



6. Click on Save and Finish.



# 6 — Food Safety Inspection Report

Enter the number of food safety inspections at each site for school year 2024-25.

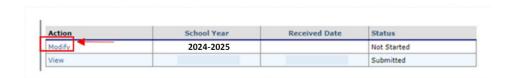
- 1. **Log in** to the CNP System at https://ct.cnpus.com/prod/Splash.aspx.
- 2. Click on Applications.



3. Click on Food Safety Inspections.



## 4. Click on Modify for School Year 2024-25.



For each site, enter in the number of **Food Safety Inspections** for school year 2024-25. If you select **None** or **One**, you must also indicate **why** from the drop-down box. If your reason **why** is not listed, you may select **Other** and then you will be able to enter the reason in the **Reason** box.



5. After all the information has been entered, click on **Save**.



6. Click on Finish.

