

The School Lunch Tray: September 21, 2022

Dear School Sponsors of Child Nutrition Programs:

The School Lunch Tray contains the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) weekly email notifications for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) school nutrition programs. This week's topics are listed below.

Action Items

- USDA Foods Limited Quantity of Frozen Beef Patties Available
- Second Round of the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant is Now Open
- Quick Poll About USDA Foods Offerings
- CSDE Verification Webinar: September 23, 2022
- 2022-23 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant Announcement: Applications due October 3, 2022
- Reminder Regarding NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants Due September 30, 2022

Need to Know

- USDA Team Nutrition Webinar: Become a PSTTT Pro: A Review of the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)
- Reminder: Meal Counting and Claiming for SY 2022-23 for SFAs Utilizing SMART Funds
- Resource Roundup: Professional Standards and Tracking

Good to Know

- None

Please review and share with appropriate staff members. For previous versions of the School Lunch Tray, visit the CSDE's [School Lunch Tray and Table Talk](#) webpage.



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Action Items

USDA Foods Limited Quantity of Frozen Beef Patties Available

[USDA Foods Frozen Beef Patties with Soy Protein Product \(SPP\), 85/15](#), material code 110348, is available for immediate order. A limited quantity of frozen beef patties with SPP is available from last year's inventory for immediate order from the HPC warehouse. The packing date on this product is November 15, 2021. This product is best used within 1 year of packing. Due to the limited quantity of cases, orders will be randomized. School food authorities (SFAs) may receive all, some, or none of their request.

This requires a fast turnaround. Orders may be placed starting immediately until 4:00 p.m., Thursday, September 22, 2022. SFAs receiving orders will be notified by Monday, September 26, 2022. All requested burgers **must be ordered for the next available delivery date**. Therefore, SFAs should only order what they can take delivery of immediately.

To place orders, e-mail Sybil Walton at walton@ctserc.org with the following information:

- Name
- District
- WBSCM #
- Number of cases of burgers requested (these must all be taken on the next available delivery date)

Second Round of the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant is Now Open

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has announced that the second round of the GT Grown for CT Kids Grant is now open. The CT Grown for CT Kids Grant is a statewide grant program to help establish and further farm to school initiatives. To find the complete guidance document, visit www.CTGrown.gov/grants and click on [CT Grown for CT Kids](#). The fiscal year 23 grant deadline is **November 15, 2022, at 4:00 pm**.

There will be a grant workshop to answer questions and to review the grant guidance and application process. The workshop will be held on October 6, 2022, at 11:00 am. This workshop will be recorded and posted after the webinar. Registration is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/ADaRC/ADaRC/Grants/CT-Grown-for-CT-Kids-Grant>.

New this year are four set grant tracks and simplified microgrants. More information is available in the complete [guidance document](#).

- Track 1: Connecticut Farm to School (K-12) Local Procurement Grant
- Track 2: Connecticut Farm to School (K-12) Experiential Learning Grant
- Track 3: Connecticut Producer Capacity Building Grant
- Track 4: Connecticut Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Grant

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Gant coaching will be available through UConn to assist interested SFAs in refining ideas and concepts. SFAs can sign up for group sessions in October depending on the track and eligibility. One-on-one meeting times will be offered starting October 20, 2022. The direct link to sign up is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/2ofob4fabaf28a0fe3-ctgrown>.

Questions may be directed to Cyrena.Thibodeau@ct.gov or 860-895-3094.

Quick Poll About USDA Foods Offerings

Please take a moment to complete this brief [three-question survey](#) regarding items that the USDA is considering adding to the catalog. As always, requests to add new products from the [Foods Available List](#) should be directed to the [Food Distribution Program staff](#).

Reminder: CSDE Verification Webinar: September 23, 2022

The CSDE is offering a Verification Webinar on **September 23, 2022, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm**. As a reminder, all sponsors that process free and reduced-price meal applications must conduct the formal verification process which begins on October 1 of each year.

- *Target audience:* Verifying officials, new directors and other staff who want a refresher on the topic.
- *Overview:* The training will cover the following areas: a brief overview of the Eligibility Manual for School Meals; an overview of the verification process; the FNS 742 Verification Collection Report including Medicaid; ameliorative action; the CSDE's Verification Calendar; and records retention.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 264 416 865 977

Passcode: **daZvwA**

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Or call in (audio only)

[+1 860-840-2075..393361196#](#) United States, Hartford

Phone Conference ID: 393 361 196#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

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Registration is not required. Please email verification questions in advance of the training to Teri Dandeneau at teri.dandeneau@ct.gov. This webinar will be recorded.

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2022-23 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant Announcement: Applications due October 3, 2022

The CSDE's [FFVP Grant Announcement](#) provides information regarding the 2022-23 FFVP grant opportunity. The FFVP provides funding to serve a variety of free fresh fruit and vegetable snacks to all children in participating schools. **This grant funded program is different from the USDA Foods DOD program.** The goals of the FFVP are to:

- create healthier food choices;
- expand the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience;
- increase children's fruit and vegetable consumption; and
- make a difference in children's diets to impact their present and future health.

The CSDE will accept completed applications online until close of business on **October 3, 2022**. Questions may be directed to Andy Paul, Associate Education Consultant, at andrew.paul@ct.gov or 860-807-2048. Andy will also be available via Teams on the dates and times below to answer any questions SFAs may have regarding the application process or program.

Each Tuesday and Thursday beginning September 13th through September 29th from 9:00 a.m. through 10:00 a.m.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 228 486 706 457

Passcode: PsmXjV

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 860-840-2075..868354196#](#) United States, Hartford

Phone Conference ID: 868 354 196#

The [Instructions for Submitting the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program \(FFVP\) Grant Application](#) describes how to enter and submit the completed application. **Applicants must complete and upload the [Application Certification form](#).**

For information on the FFVP, visit the CSDE's [FFVP](#) webpage. SFAs must review the USDA's [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Handbook](#) prior to completing the online application to ensure the application meets the federal guidelines.

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Reminder Regarding NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants Due September 30, 2022

The CSDE is now accepting proposals for the **USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants Request for Proposals (RFP)**. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Agriculture Appropriations Act provided funds to state agencies to competitively award equipment assistance grants to eligible SFAs participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or the School Breakfast Program (SBP), or the Seamless Summer Option of the NSLP. These funds will allow SFAs to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals that meet the updated meal patterns, improve food safety, and expand access. Total funds available are \$268,183. The CSDE will award grants of up to \$25,000 per SFA.

For this grant, all SFAs participating in the NSLP are eligible to apply. Priority is given to schools that did not receive previous equipment grant funding under earlier USDA NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants.

The RFP is available on the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) 2022 [Request for Proposals](#) webpage.

Proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 30, 2022. Extensions will not be given. Submit the application **by e-mail** to Sean Fogarty at Sean.Fogarty@ct.gov.

For questions about the USDA NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants, please contact Sean Fogarty at Sean.Fogarty@ct.gov or 860-807-2055.

Need to Know

USDA Team Nutrition Webinar: Become a PSTTT Pro: A Review of the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)

Join Team Nutrition for an informational webinar exploring the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT). Whether you are a first-time user or have been using the PSTTT for a while, this webinar is for you. This webinar will review the basic features of the PSTTT including how to manage your employee profiles, log training, and print certificates. Additionally, some of the latest updates to the PSTTT will be highlighted, such as deactivating and reactivating employee profiles, bulk upload of trainings and employee profiles, and the new job title categories. Registration is available at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20fob4fabaf28aofe3-ctgrown>.

Reminder: Meal Counting and Claiming for SY 2022-23 for SFAs Utilizing SMART Funds

SFAs are reminded that while all students will be receiving breakfast and lunch meals at no cost, meals must be claimed based on a student's approved eligibility (free, reduced, or paid). This must be reflected from the first official day of school that meals were served for SY 2022-23. Questions may be directed to your [school nutrition team member](#).

Resource Roundup: Professional Standards and Tracking

SFAs are reminded that they must meet the annual USDA training standards for school nutrition professionals. Trainings must be tracked to ensure that they meet the USDA Professional Standards. USDA has a web-based USDA Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool available at <https://pstrainingtracker.fns.usda.gov/>. For information regarding Professional Standards, refer to the CSDE's [Professional Standards for School Nutrition Professionals](#) webpage.



For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) [School Lunch Tray and Table Talk](#) webpage, or contact the [school nutrition programs staff](#) at the Connecticut State Department of Education, School Health, Nutrition and Family Services, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2022/SLT_09_21_2022.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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