# **Updating the Sponsor Application for the Special Milk Program**

School Year 2024-25 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025)



Connecticut State Department of Education
(July 1, 2024
Bureau of Child Programs
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504
Hartford, CT 06103-1841

**July 2024** 

#### **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 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 or school year. To ensure timely approval and claims submission, SMP must meet the following submission deadlines:

- SMP sponsors that operate in summer 2024: July 15, 2024.
- SMP sponsors that operate during the school year 2024-25: **August 30, 2024**.

For guidance on the schedule for submitting claims, refer to CSDE operational memorandum No. 05-24: Schedule for Submitting Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) Monthly Claims for Reimbursement in Fiscal Year 2024.

## **CSDE Contact Information**

For questions regarding this information, please contact the Special Milk Program staff in the CSDE's Bureau of Child Programs.

#### **Special Milk Program Staff**

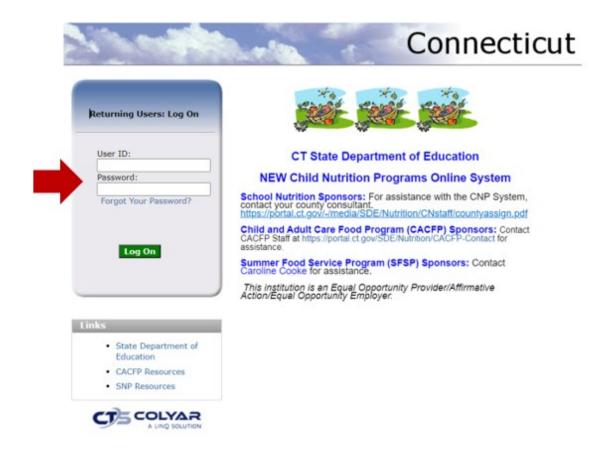
Terese Maineri terese.maineri@ct.gov 860-807-2145

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

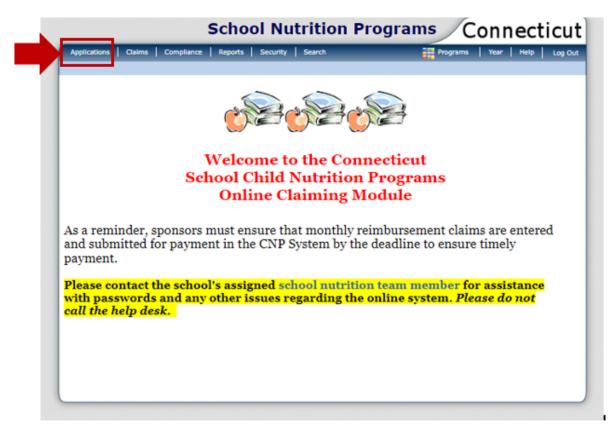
For more information, visit the CSDE's Special Milk Program (SMP) webpage.

## 1 — Updating Sponsor Agreement

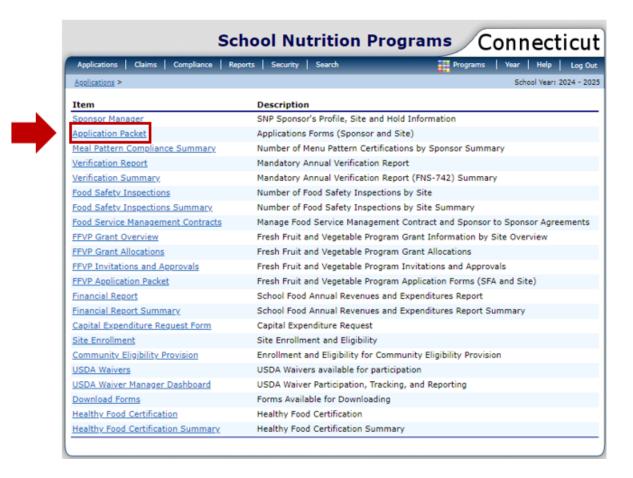
- Access the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System) at https://ct.cnpus.com/prod/Splash.aspx.
- 2. Log in with your **User ID** and **Password**.



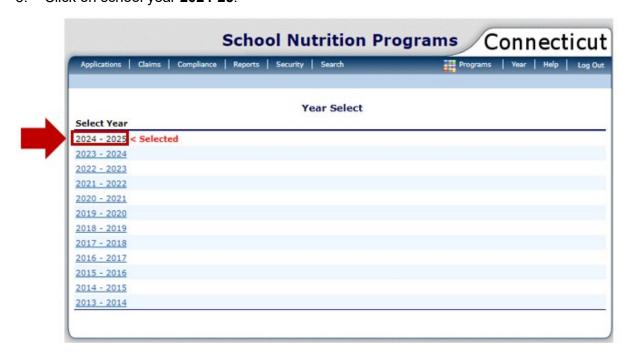
#### 3. Click on Applications.



#### Click on Application Packet.



5. Click on school year 2024-25.



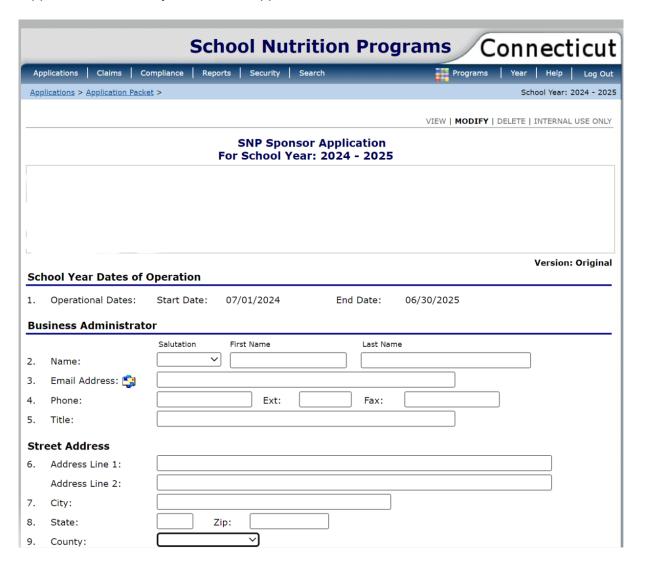
6. Click on Enroll, then OK.



7. The **2024-25 Application Packet** screen will appear. To the left of **Sponsor Application**, click on **Modify**.

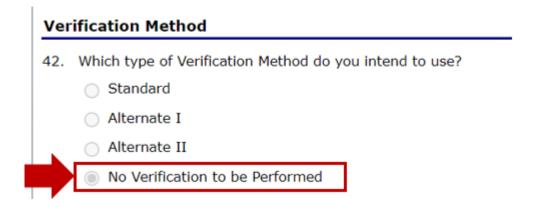


8. The **sponsor application** will open. Most of the information entered in the summer 2023 application or school year 2023-24 application will be transferred.

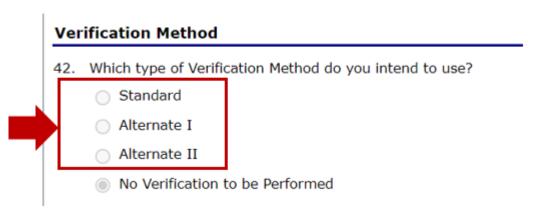


- 9. Check all information for accuracy and make edits and updates as necessary.
  - The Authorized Representative 1 and 2 must be completed.
  - The Hearing Official must be completed.
  - The **Direct Certification Contact** can be left blank if the sponsor is **not** required to use the Direct Certification 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 summer 2024 or school year 2024-25
  - 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*.

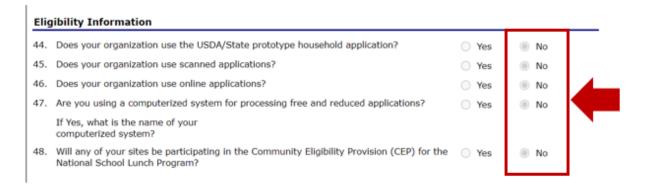


11. For Meal Count and Collection Procedures (question 43), click Yes or No. All SMP sponsors will be submitting documentation for site information on money collection and point of service (milk count) systems. For more information, refer to item 3 (Site Information on Money Collection and Point-of-service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



 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**.



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.

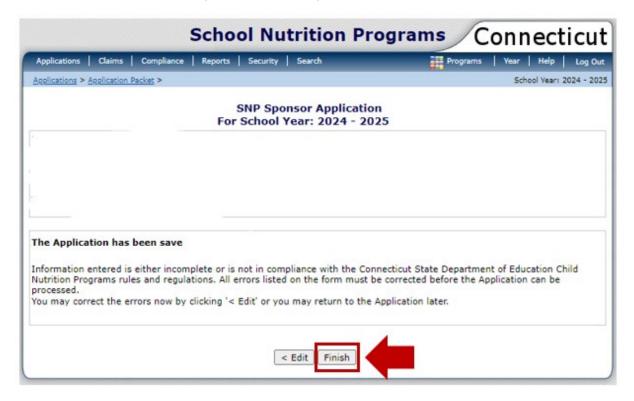
On behalf of the Sponsor, I hereby agree to comply with all state and federal laws and regulations governing the Child Nutrition Programs administered by the State. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this Sponsor does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, 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.

#### 1 Sponsor Agreement

14. Click on Save.



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

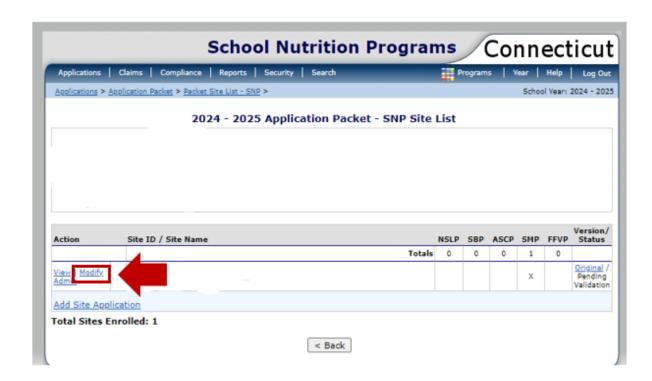


# 2 — Updating Site Agreements

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



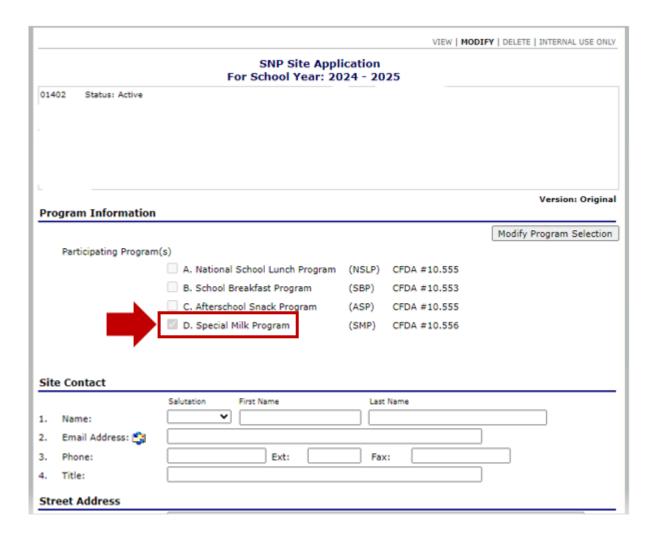
Click on Modify to the left of the Site Name.



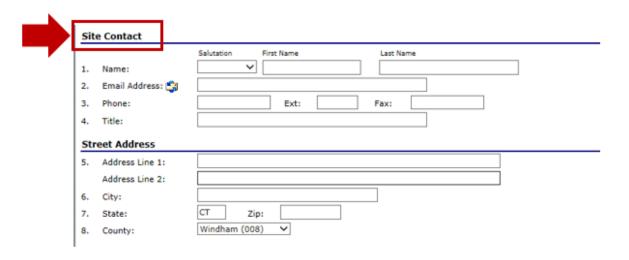
#### 2 | Site Agreements

The SNP Site Application screen will appear for the school that was selected. Most of
the information entered in the summer 2023 application or the school year 2023-24
application will transfer over. Please check all information for accuracy and make
edits and updates as necessary.

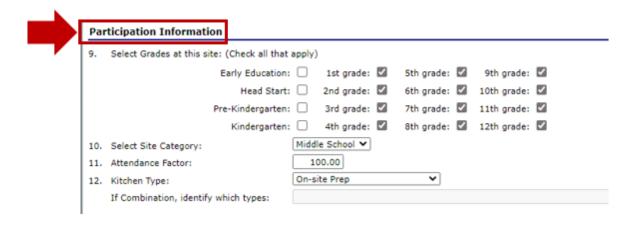
Review the selected **Program Information**. Make updates as necessary. If the SMP sponsor is adding a program, please **consult with the CSDE's SMP staff** as additional information may need to be submitted before the site can be approved.



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:

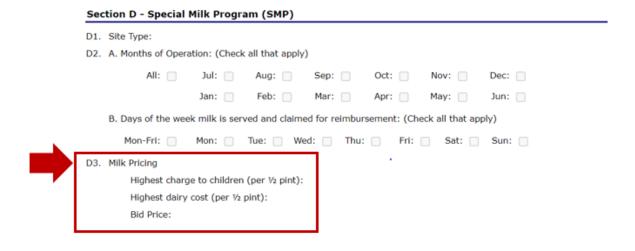


- A = Enrollment x days in the month
- B = Total absences for the month

 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).



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.

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.



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

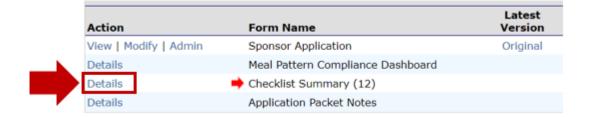
Action	Site ID / Site Name		NSLP	SBP	ASCP	SMP
		Totals	0	0	0	4
View	✓ ABC site					Х
View	✓ EFG site					х
View	✓ LMN site					х
View	✓ XYZ site					х

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.

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



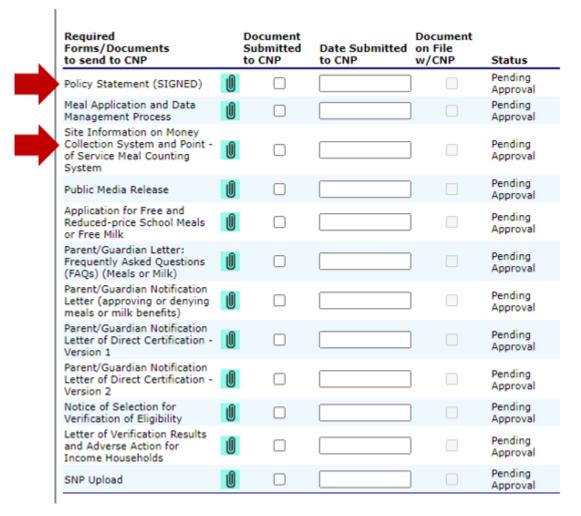
2. Click on **Sponsor** institution name.



- 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 for Free and Reduced-price Meals, Afterschool Snack Programs, and Free Milk: 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:

Note: SMP sponsors that operate in summer 2024 will use the August 2023 Policy Statement to submit with their 2024 Summer SMP online application. SMP sponsors that operate during the school year will submit the 2024-25 Policy Statement, which will be updated by the CSDE in August 2024. The CSDE will notify SMP sponsors when the 2024-25 Policy Statement is available. The Policy Statement is available in the "Policy Statement" section of the CSDE's SMP webpage.

 Site Information on Money Collection and Point-of-service (POS) Milk Count Systems for Connecticut Special Milk Programs (July 2024): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/smp/site\_information\_money\_ collection point of service milk counts.pdf



**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 the **first four documents** above, even though **only two items** are required to be submitted to the CSDE.

- Check the box next to each of the following four documents listed under "Required Forms/Documents to send to CNP" in the Checklist Summary screen:
  - Policy Statement
  - Meal Application and Data Management Process
  - Site Information on Money Collection and Point-of-service Milk Count System
  - Public Media Release

- Upload only the two documents below to the CNP System.
  - Policy Statement
  - Site Information on Money Collection and Point-of-service Milk Count System
- 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 for Free and Reduced-price Meals, Afterschool Snack Programs, and Free Milk: 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.

**Note:** SMP sponsors that operate in summer 2024 will use the August 2023 Policy Statement to submit with their 2024 Summer SMP online application. SMP sponsors that operate during the school year will submit the 2024-25 Policy Statement, which will be updated by the CSDE in August 2024. The CSDE will notify SMP sponsors when the 2024-25 Policy Statement is available. The Policy Statement is available in the "Policy Statement" section of the CSDE's SMP webpage.

 Application and Data Management Process for Connecticut Special Milk Programs (July 2024):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/smp/smp\_milk\_application\_data\_management\_process.docx

3. Site Information on Money Collection and Point-of-service Milk Count Systems for Connecticut Special Milk Programs (July 2024):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/smp/site\_information\_money\_collection\_point\_of\_service\_milk\_counts.pdf

4. Sample Public Media Release for Connecticut Special Milk Programs (July 2024):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/smp/smp public media release.docx

5. Attach the SFA's free milk application: **Application for Free Milk** https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/special-milk-program/documents #FamilyApplication

Note: SMP sponsors that operate a Pricing Program with the Free Milk Option in summer 2024 will use the 2023-24 Application for Free Milk (dated June 2023). SMP sponsors that operate during the school year will use the 2024-25 Application for Free Milk, which will be updated by the CSDE in August 2024. The CSDE will notify SMP sponsors when the 2024-25 Application for Free Milk is available.

6. Parent/Guardian Letter: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Free School Milk (July 2024):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/smp/parent letter fags 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) (July 2024):

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 (July 2024):

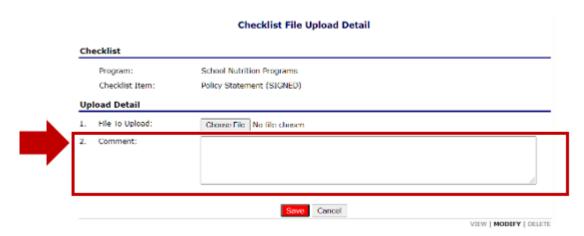
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/smp/smp direct certification parent notification letter1 snap tfa medicaid.docx

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 (July 2024): https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/smp/smp direct certification parent notification letter2 foster child homeless runaway hs.docx

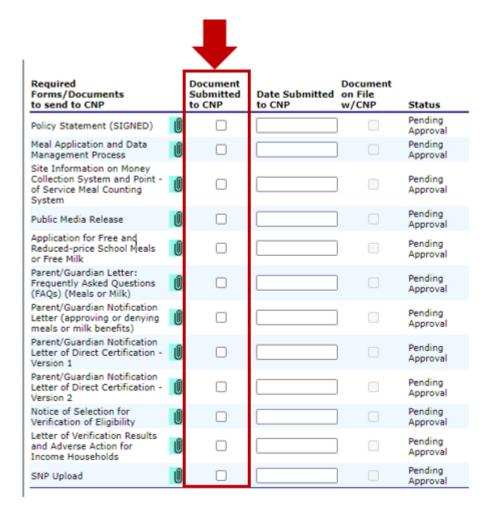
All sample forms are available in the "Documents/Forms" section of the CSDE's Special Milk Program (SMP) webpage.

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

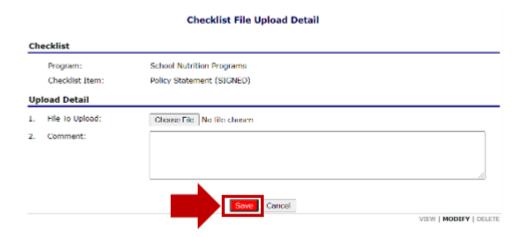
4. Click on the **blue paper clip** to attach the requested items. In the comment section, write the name of the attached document.



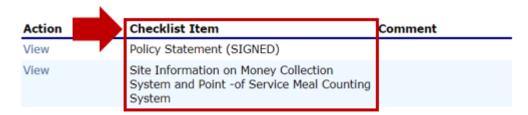
5. After the items are attached, click the check box under the heading **Document Submitted to CNP** (the **Date** will generate).



#### 6. Click Save.

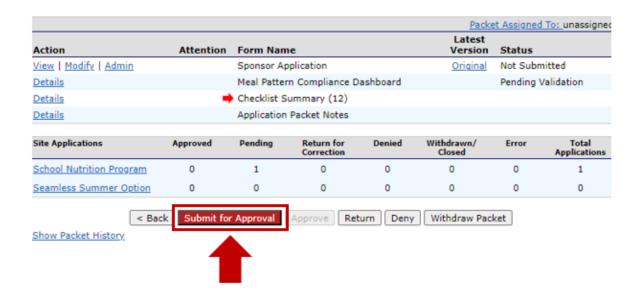


7. Once the items are saved, a list of checklist items will populate.



# 4 — Submitting the Application **Packet for Approval**

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**.



#### 4 Submitting Application Packet

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.

