

## Check in with CANS

**Dec. 12, 2023, 2:30 p.m. CT/1:30 p.m. MT**

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### All Program Reminders or Updates:

- **Staff Updates:** (Mikayla)
  - Pam McCown is retiring as Food Distribution Program Director at the end of Dec. We thank her for 12 years of service across all of the CANS programs, including a lot of unseen work to keep the iCAN system up and running!
  - Christina Lusk is taking over as the FDP Director. We are working to fill Christina's previous position as Assistant Director for Child Nutrition Programs (CACFP and SFSP).
  - Diana Leiseth began this week as our newest SNP Program Specialist.
    - I have been with the State of South Dakota for about 16 years now working in various positions such as a Training Coordinator and most recently a Compliance Manager. I am so excited to be with the Department of Education, with the CANS team! I am very passionate about the education of healthy habits starting at an early age and ensuring people know about resources available to help combat hunger. I am married, we have twin boys who are almost 8 and I am from the Pierre area.
  - Summer Intern: Each year, CANS hires a college student to be our intern for the summer. If you know of any students who may be interested, the position closes on January 24. Students can apply via the [application direct link](#).
- **Single Sign On Coming Soon to iCAN:** (Cheriee) Your log on ID to iCAN will soon be changing. We are going to a Single Sign On which will use your email address rather than an assigned User ID. For those that have both iCAN and iMatch, you will use your iMatch Single Sign On to also access iCAN. Users that do not have access to iMatch will be provided with their new Single Sign On information in the coming days. More information to follow soon!
- (Janelle) **\*\*Revised USDA memo\*\*** [SP 01-2016, CACFP 01-2016, SFSP 01-2016: Procuring Local Meat, Poultry, Seafood, Game, and Eggs for Child Nutrition Programs](#) – Revised November 20, 2023
  - This memo clarifies regulatory questions related to buying local meat, poultry, seafood, game, and eggs in relation to food safety. USDA updated questions six, seven, and eight on page eight (indicated with asterisks) for opportunities to access domesticated and wild game animals including buffalo.
- (Janelle) **\*\*Revised USDA memo\*\*** [SP 02-2024, CACFP 02-2024, SFSP 02-2024 Revised: Crediting Tofu and Soy Yogurt Products in the School Meals Programs, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program](#) – Revised November 28, 2023
  - This memorandum provides updated guidance on crediting tofu and soy yogurt products in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and extends previous guidance on crediting tofu and soy yogurt products to the Summer Food Service Program, as well as to the infant meal pattern in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. This memorandum explains how to credit tofu and soy yogurt in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program.

- (Diana) **Updated Team Nutrition Resources for the Child Nutrition Programs.** USDA's Team Nutrition initiative is pleased to announce the release of five slightly revised Team Nutrition publications to assist Child Nutrition Program operators with serving meals in their programs. The resources have been updated to remove guidance related to the COVID 19 Pandemic. The titles of the publications for school meals are:
  - [Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast / Ofrecimiento de carnes y sustitutos de carne en el desayuno escolar](#)
  - [Offering Smoothies as Part of Reimbursable School Meals / Ofrecimiento de batidos como parte de las comidas escolares reembolsables](#)
  - [Serving School Meals to Preschoolers / Servir comidas escolares a niños preescolares](#)
 The titles of the publications for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) are:
  - [Methods for Healthy Cooking / Métodos para cocinar sano](#)
  - [Serving Adult Participants in the CACFP / Sirviendo a los participantes adultos en el CACFP](#)
- (Mikayla) **Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative School Food System Transformation Challenge Sub-Grants.** Applications are open!
  - Project SCALES will award up to \$150,000 to 35 rural School Food Authorities (SFA's) across the nation. Project SCALES works with SFA directors over a two-year period to build partnerships for innovative solutions to increase local procurement in school meal programs. **The application closes January 26, 2024.**
  - Project PLANTS will provide \$500-600,000 to eight projects led by groups of local partners who are impacted by school food supply chains and can scale, adopt, and create sustainable approaches and practices for improving K-12 school food systems. **The application closes on January 22, 2024.**
  - More information on these grant opportunities is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/hmi/school-food-system-transformation-challenge>
- **USDA Farm to School Grant Opportunity:** (Janelle) The 2024 USDA Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Request for Applications (RFA) is now available [here](#)! **Applications close on January 12, 2024.**
  - Applicants may apply for grants of up to \$100,000. State agencies, Indian tribal organizations, or other eligible organizations proposing projects that are multi-state or national in scope may apply for up to \$500,000.
  - USDA hosted two webinars that have recordings available [here](#) to help interested applicants learn more about the RFA and how to apply.
  - Please contact [sm.fn.farmentoschool@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fn.farmentoschool@usda.gov) and Grant Officer Anna Arrowsmith at [Anna.Arrowsmith@usda.gov](mailto:Anna.Arrowsmith@usda.gov) with any questions.

## **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Reminders or Updates:** (Jordan)

- **New CACFP Menu Resources From Team Nutrition:**
  - [It's Breakfast Time! Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\) Breakfast Menu Planner for Children 3 Through 18 Years of Age](#)
  - [Let's Make a Snack Child and Adult Care Food Program Snack Menu Planner for Children 3 Through 18 Years of Age](#)
  - These menu planners cover creditable and non-creditable foods at breakfast and snack, interactive meal planning activities, sample menus, and quick and easy recipes. Select recipes have cooking videos that demonstrate the quick-and-easy preparation of the recipe.
- **Healthier Kansas CACFP Menus** are a helpful CACFP resource with menus and production records. They contain lots of breakfast, lunch, and snack ideas with recipes, nutrient analysis, and preparation instructions.

## School Nutrition Program (SNP) & Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Reminders or Updates:

- (Diana) **Helpful Menu and Production Record Resources and Ideas:**
  - [Healthier Kansas SNP Menus](#) – Contains complete 6 and 8-week cycle menus for breakfast and lunch with recipes, nutrient analysis, production records, preparation instructions, wall menus, and more.
  - [Iowa Gold Star Cycle Menus](#) – Contains 2 and 5-week cycle menus for breakfast and lunch with recipes, nutrient analysis, and preparation instructions.
  - [Ohio Menus that Move](#) – Fall, winter, spring, and summer lunch 5-week cycle menus, recipes, and nutrient analysis.
- (Melissa) **USDA Supporting Indigenous Foods & Food Sovereignty in Schools.** The USDA [Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative](#) promotes traditional food ways, Indian Country food and agriculture markets, and Indigenous health through foods tailored to American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) dietary needs. USDA is partnering with tribal-serving organizations on projects to reimagine federal food and agriculture programs from an Indigenous perspective and inform future USDA programs and policies. You can find recipes, videos, an animated series about “sovereignty gardens,” and a producer handbook transitioning from cattle to bison, and more! You can sign up for the related newsletter [here](#).
- **Farm to School Census closes December 31:** (Janelle) Emails have gone to the Food Service Director listed in your iCAN SNP application. Please make sure you complete this important survey! Contact Janelle Peterson at [Janelle.Peterson@state.sd.us](mailto:Janelle.Peterson@state.sd.us) for assistance in making sure your districts voice is heard.
- **Net Cash Resources (NCR):** (Stacey) This school year, if your school exceeds a five-month net cash resource limit (based on SY 2022-23 financials), your district will receive a letter this month to create a spend down plan. Attached to that letter will be a financial spend down plan worksheet, NCR calculation, and a list of common allowable and unallowable costs. These documents can assist you with creating a spend down plan that meets your program needs and follows federal program requirements. If your district does not receive a letter, that means your district does not need to submit a spend down plan this school year. As a reminder, DOE will allow schools to use a temporary flexibility for a two-year spend down plan.
- (Mikayla) **\*\*Award Recognition Opportunity\*\* Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals Award Informational Webinar:**
  - Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) is offering national recognition awards to celebrate SFAs that have made significant improvements to the nutritional quality of their school meals. They will spotlight innovative practices, student and community engagement activities, and strategies schools have used to provide meals that are consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. AFHK is hosting this webinar to guide SFA’s through the application process for this award.
  - Eight Recognition Award Categories:
    1. Breakfast Trailblazer Award
    2. Small and/or Rural SFA Breakfast Trailblazer Award
    3. Lunch Trailblazer Award
    4. Small and/or Rural SFA Lunch Trailblazer Award
    5. Innovative School Lunch Makeover Award
    6. Innovation in the Cultural Diversity of School Meals Award
    7. Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals Award

#### 8. Innovation in Nutrition Education Award

- The webinar is scheduled on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 10:00 am CST / 9:00 am MST. Register [Here!](#) A Zoom link provided after registration. The recording will also be available on the [HMI Recognition Awards website](#).

### **USDA Foods in School/Food Distribution Program Reminders or Updates:**

- (Darcy) **Total Lunches Served (TLS) has been reconciled by USDA for this school year:** On December 4, we send an email to all schools that South Dakota's overall TLS decreased by almost \$1.8 million which drastically reduced the state's overall entitlement. This decrease meant that most schools saw a decrease in their entitlement, and some schools have no entitlement remaining for SY2023-24.
  - Total Lunches Served are actual lunch counts from each district from the prior completed 2022-23 SY.
  - USDA normally completes their final reconciliation around this time of year. Previous entitlement calculations used this SY were estimated based on meal counts from SY21-22, which were significantly higher due to COVID-19 related waivers.
  - iCAN entitlement amounts have been adjusted to reflect your actual TLS. DoD Fresh/FFAVORS entitlements were also updated.
- (Pam) **Bonus Foods Available:** We will offer bonus foods on the next iCAN order which opens January 8.
  - We are asking the schools that have a net cash resource exceeding the 5-month limit to please hold off ordering from the bonus foods during the normal January open order period. This will give our smaller schools, and those with tighter operating budgets, an opportunity to order these free bonus foods.
  - Once the order form closes on January 16, we will review the initial bonus orders, and then reopen the January order form giving all schools the opportunity to order from the bonus foods that are still available.

### **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Reminders or Updates:** (Christina)

- **Tentative dates for SFSP training – Save the date!**
  - March 6: Experienced Sponsor Administrative Training
  - March 14: New Sponsor Administrative Training

### **Upcoming Trainings or Calls:** (Christina)

- Check in with CANS occur on the first Thursday of each month at 2:30pm CT/1:30 pm MT.
  - Next Check in: January 4
- Crash Course with CANS December 14 at 2:30pm CT/1:30pm MT
  - 12/14 Planning Your Cycle Menus for Next Year
  - 1/11 Prepare for Annual Survey
  - 1/25 Winter Doldrums and Menus
  - 2/8 Reducing Added Sugars
  - 2/22 Noncongregate Meals in Summer Feeding
  - 3/21 CACFP Recordkeeping Q&A
  - 4/11 Crediting Grains in CACFP
  - 4/25 How to Write a Grant
  - 5/16 CN Final Meal Pattern Rules