

# HNU NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Health and Nutrition Unit



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## Applications:

### SFSP Reminders/Highlights

We are extremely excited about the new 2023 year! Friendly reminder, all online modules, and program trainings must be completed prior to the application submission, and all required documents must be uploaded into the SNP system. It is best practice to have your training attendance date close to your submission date to avoid a denial of your application. If you plan to utilize the Commodities Program, you must notify your Application Coordinator immediately.

Please log into the SNP system and check the status of your application. If the status states "Approved/Amended", you have completed the SFSP application process and you are ready to begin your 2023 Summer Food Program when school is officially not in session for Summer. If the status states "Pending Approval", you must immediately contact your Application Coordinator to complete your application. If the status states "Pending Submission", this means your application has not been submitted and therefore it has not been reviewed by the Application Coordinator.

### Important Dates:

- Deadline for all applications to be submitted was April 30, 2023, by the end of the business day.
- All SFSP Applications are currently being reviewed for approval/denial.

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Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education  
Health and Nutrition Unit Quarterly Newsletter  
The Health and Nutrition Unit mission is to increase food security and reduce hunger by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthy diet and nutrition education in a way that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence.

**Friendly reminder:** Implementation Timeline for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Final Rule commenced on May 1, 2023. The Health and Nutrition Unit encourages everyone to review all the new changes that will help streamline the Summer Food Service Program.

**Final Rule Link: Federal Register :: [Streamlining Program Requirements and Improving Integrity in the Summer Food Service Program \(SFSP\)](#)**

## Welcome to the Arkansas Special Nutrition Program

### 2023 SFSP REIMBURSEMENT RATES

(Operating and Administrative Combined)

Meal Type	Rural or Self Prep	All Others Types Of Sites
Breakfast	2.8250	2.7725
Lunch or Supper	4.9500	4.8700
Snack	1.1675	1.1400

Summer Food Service Program - 2023 Reimbursement Rates | Food and Nutrition Service  
([usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov))

### Application Updates:

**Helpful Hints:**

1. To get your application approved in a timely manner, start early, attend set appointment times, and complete all required documents within the application once the application has been submitted.
2. Any application with a pending status, please contact your Applications Coordinator.
3. Before making any changes to your applications, get in contact with your Applications Coordinator.



## Recipe of the Month Very Berry Smoothie

To view the full recipe and others, click on the link below.

[Very Berry Smoothie](#)

## Health and Safety Requirements for operating CACFP, NSLP, and SFSP

Per Arkansas Department of Health, all facilities (regardless of date of start), should have their Certified Food Managers certification. The only exception to this requirement is NEW facilities, or those with NEW management (officially changing companies, not a new employee manager). Those NEW facilities have one (1) year from opening inspection/permit to obtain issuance of this certification.

**If you have questions concerning meeting this requirement, please contact Khariana Hobbs at: [Khariana.Hobbs@arkansas.gov](mailto:Khariana.Hobbs@arkansas.gov) or (501) 690-3057.**

### **Licensed and Unlicensed facilities/sites must adhere to the following:**

- All state licensing requirements must be met, and written verification of annual approval shall be maintained on file.
- State Health Department requirements shall be met, and written verification of annual approval shall be maintained on file.
- Fire Department requirements shall be met, and written verification of annual approval shall be maintained on file.
- Current city coding and building safety permits or satisfactory reports of a conducted inspection by local authorities within the past 12 months must be on file.
- Upon discovery of conduct or conditions that pose an imminent threat to the health or safety of children or the public, immediately notify the appropriate State or local licensing or health authorities and take action consistent with the recommendations and requirements of those authorities.



### **Child Nutrition Programs Income Eligibility Guidelines (2022-2023)**

This notice announces the Department's annual adjustments to the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be used in determining eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk for the period from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr-021622>

## TURNIP THE BEET with high quality summer meals!

The Turnip the Beet Award, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors who work hard to offer high quality meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious.

### Who is eligible, and how do they apply?

All Summer Meal Programs sponsors in good standing, including Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors.

### How to apply:

Submit the following to HNU Program Manager/Outreach Coordinator – Ravynn Smith (Ravynn.Smith.dhs@dhs.arkansas.gov):

- Nomination Form - click [here](#)
- Detailed one-month menu
- Pictures of meals and activities
- Invoices indicating whole grain rich and local product



Turnip the Beet! High Quality Summer Meals Award Program | [Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/food-nutrition-service)



## Resources for Serving High Quality Meals

FNS has an abundance of resources available to sponsors to help make summer meals more appetizing, appealing, and nutritious:

[The Nutrition Guide for Sponsors](#) includes best practices and tips for serving high quality meals and incorporating local foods, as well as sample cycle menus.

[The Team Nutrition Resource Library](#) has free nutrition education materials to help reinforce and complement the nutrition messages taught by serving healthful foods.

[The Farm to Summer Factsheet](#) describes how to “bring the farm” to summer sites.

[The Summer Meals Toolkit](#) offers healthy menu planning ideas and tips for serving meals family style.

May is...



### Mental Health Awareness Month

To learn more about strategies of maintaining good mental health, or to download a toolkit click here: <https://mhanational.org/>

### National Women's Health Care Month

**National Women's Health Week is May 14-20, 2023!**

- To spread the word and bring awareness use the [link](#)
- To view the NWHW Fact Sheet for women's wellness click [here](#)

### National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

**#MoveinMay**

Take the month of May to find an activity that you love and start a new habit in your life! To find out more about adding more fitness to your daily routine click [here](#)!

## Commodities Team - Grant Information



### Local Foods for Schools Assistance Program (LFSA)

The Commodity Distribution Unit received \$2.2 million in funding for schools participating in the NSLP program to purchase foods from local socially disadvantaged farmers/producers. One hundred (100) schools signed up to receive funds with contracts beginning in February 2023. As of March 14th, \$164,737 has been utilized from this grant with purchases consisting of ground beef and apples.

Producers and schools have appreciated the opportunity to work locally and build new relationships for the future. USDA has recognized the problem in supply chain issues and is utilizing this approach in two (2) grants, this grant and the LFPA grant which purchases local products from socially disadvantaged farmers for distribution to households in underserved areas of the State.

### USDA Food Available List for SY 2022-23

On January 4th, the SY 2022-2023 USDA Foods Available List for Schools and Institutions was published. Check out the [list](#) to see what foods are made available for schools.

### USDA Child Nutrition Programs:

#### Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium

On February 4, USDA announced updates to the school nutrition standards to give schools a path forward as they transition from current pandemic operations toward more nutritious meals. [The Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium](#) final rule included updates for milk, whole grains, and sodium, while keeping other nutrition requirements the same as the 2012 standards. These updated standards will be effect for school year (SY) 2022-2023 and run through SY 2023-2024. USDA is also working to establish long-term nutrition standards.



### Apply Now for a Team Nutrition Grant Opportunity

USDA has released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Fiscal Year 2023 Team Nutrition Grant Supporting Nutrition Education for School-Aged Children. States agencies that administer the National School Lunch Program and/or CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals and Outside School Hours Care Centers, and School Food Authorities (SFA) are eligible to apply for up to \$1 million each in grant funds.

Under this grant, State agency and SFA grantees will facilitate the adoption of healthy eating patterns by school-aged children (grades Pre-K through 12) and their families through the coordination and implementation of MyPlate nutrition education connected to the nutritious meals and snacks offered through USDA Child Nutrition Programs.

#### Don't miss these important dates:

- ◆ April 24, 2023: Letter of Intent Due by 11:59 pm Eastern Time
- ◆ May 22, 2023: Applications Due by 11:59 pm Eastern Time

Learn more about the opportunity [here](#).

## Review Team

**Waiver Updates:** The Federal Department of Health and Human Services has announced that the planned end date for the COVID-19 public health emergency is May 11, 2023.

WAIVER		EXPIRES
<b>Non-congregate Feeding</b>	Allows "grab and go" meals	CACFP and NSLP 6/30/2023
<b>Mealtime Flexibility</b>	Allows two meals to be served at the same time and multi-day meal distribution.	
<b>Parent and Guardian Pick Up</b>	Allows parents to pick up a meal without a child present if they have completed a Parent Attestation Form. Meals can only be eaten by a child.	
<b>Monitoring Requirements</b>	Sponsor monitoring can be conducted off-site in a desk audit with virtual meal observation.	
<b>CACFP Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility</b>	<p>Waives requirements for one whole grain daily, crediting of grains by ounce, and low-fat (1%) unflavored milk.</p> <p>Must be approved by State Agency in advance on a case-by-case basis and justified with a demonstrated need.</p>	CACFP 6/30/2023
<b>NSLP Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility</b>	<p>Waives requirements for sodium, whole-grain, vegetable subgroups, milk variety, low-fat flavored milk, and age/grade groups meal planning.</p> <p>Must be approved by State Agency in advance on a case-by-case basis and justified with a demonstrated need.</p>	NSLP 6/30/2023

**[Child Nutrition COVID-19 Waivers | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#)**

## HNU TRAINING UPDATES

Click the [link](#) to access upcoming HNU training dates.



## Partner News:

**Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance is actively providing tornado relief for Central and Northeast Arkansas.**



### No Kid Hungry Inquiry Form for Grant Opportunities:

No Kid Hungry Arkansas is a nonprofit initiative working to end child hunger in the state. We aim to connect meal providers with the tools they need to ensure every child in their community has access to healthy meals. We offer resources, webinars, one-on-one technical assistance support, and grant funds.

Thank you for your continued commitment to reach children in your community. We understand that service throughout the pandemic has been an immense strain on your program, staff, and budget.

We are here to help you strengthen your program. Please complete this survey if you are interested in grant funds, resources, or other support. We will follow up based on your response. Grant applications will be made available by invitation only.

[No Kid Hungry Arkansas - Inquiry Form \(google.com\)](#)

## Join the Food Program

**Serving meals and snacks in your family home care or child/adult care center?**

Join the food program today to get funds as reimbursement for serving #CACFPCreditable meals and snacks. [Welcome to the Arkansas Special Nutrition Program](#)

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**We're committed to providing customer service. Please let us know how we're doing! Click below for a quick survey!**

Please take our short [survey](#)

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#### NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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#### If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Pamela Burton – Assistant Director (501-320-8978) – [Pamela.burton.dccece@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:Pamela.burton.dccece@dhs.arkansas.gov)

Ravynn Smith – Program Manager (Outreach Coordinator) (501-910-6499) – [Ravynn.Smith.DHS@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:Ravynn.Smith.DHS@dhs.arkansas.gov)