

HNU NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Health and Nutrition Unit



READ ON ABOUT RECENT HAPPENINGS!

Waivers, Training, Commodities and more!

A HUGE THANK YOU FROM OUR DIRECTOR TONYA WILLIAMS



Welcome to HNU's first quarterly newsletter of 2021 ! We want to start off by giving a huge THANK YOU for the commitment and dedication you all are providing to our community during this Pandemic. The sacrifices that you make to ensure our children and adults receive a nutritious meal during these treacherous times and conditions truly shows your commitment. Your bravery, hard work, and devotion does not go unnoticed. During these times food insecurities increased, the USDA understood and provided waivers to assist with serving meals. These waivers allow HNU the ability to offer convenient availability for meals such as Grab and Go, Parent Pick-Up, and Non-Congregate Feeding. Be sure to view the "Waiver Update" section for extended dates.

To our new sponsors who have decided to join our program, we gladly welcome you to HNU! We are excited to have you and know you will do wonderful job!

In closing, the work doesn't end here, so let's continue to grow! Please continue to spread the word about our feeding programs to childcare centers, family day care homes, emergency shelters, after-school care, and adult day care centers to get them involved!

FY2022 CACFP New/Renewal Training

Participating CACFP Sponsors and Institutions are required to meet annual renewal training requirements by **September 30, 2021**. HNU provides monthly New Participant training for new providers, directors, sponsors, and board members. Annual refreshers are available online for all other participants. Remember to train your staff annually on CACFP and Civil Rights at the site level and document. Open enrollment for applications will be available **August 1, 2021**.

DATE	TRAINING
7/15/2021	CACFP NEW PARTICIPANT TRAINING
7/22/2021	CACFP AT- RISK NEW PARTICIPANT TRAINING
7/26/2021	CACFP APPLICATION TRAINING
7/31/2021	CACFP AT-RISK REFRESHER COURSE (ONLINE)
7/31/2021	CACFP REFRESHER COURSE (ONLINE)
8/5/2021	CACFP NEW PARTICIPANT TRAINING
8/9/2021	CACFP APPLICATION TRAINING
8/19/2021	AT RISK NEW PARTICIPANT TRAINING
8/23/2021	CACFP APPLICATION TRAINING
8/31/2021	CACFP AT-RISK REFRESHER COURSE (ONLINE)
9/2/2021	CACFP NEW PARTICIPANT TRAINING
9/7/2021	CACFP APPLICATION TRAINING
9/9/2021	CACFP AT RISK NEW PARTICIPANT TRAINING
9/16/2021	CACFP NEW PARTICIPANT TRAINING
9/21/2021	CACFP APPLICATION TRAINING
9/23/2021	CACFP AT RISK NEW PARTICIPANT TRAINING
9/30/2021	CACFP NEW PARTICIPANT TRAINING

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the training team:

Trainer	Email	Phone Number
Sharon Hagen	Sharon.Hagen@dhs.arkansas.gov	501-396-6132
Stephanie Clowers	Stephanie.Clowers@dhs.arkansas.gov	501-320-6308

Racial and Ethnicity Data

By Rhonda Betzner-Program Administrator (Review Team)

Sites should be collecting beneficiary data by the racial and ethnic category at least once during program operations. USDA has determined the use of visual observation and identification is not an appropriate method for collecting race or ethnicity data. Visual observation and identification of race or ethnicity is NO LONGER AN ALLOWABLE PRACTICE. We are anticipating more guidance from USDA for collecting the required racial and ethnic data.

Reimbursement for Meals and Snacks Served in Emergency Shelters Young Adults in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Young Adults in Emergency Shelters- The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, allows State agencies to provide meals through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to young adults ages 18 through 24 experiencing homelessness. Reimbursement is authorized from the date of enactment on March 11, 2021, until the date the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted. Please contact Theresa Taylor for any questions or concerns.

Theresa Taylor, theresa.taylor@dhs.arkansas.gov, 501-320-8982

WAIVER UPDATES

WAIVER	ALLOW	EXPIRES
Non-Congregate Feeding	Allows "grab and go" meals	CACFP and NSLP 6/30/2022
Meal-Time Flexibility	Allows two meals to be served at the same time and multi-day meal distribution.	
Parent and Guardian Pick Up	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.	
Monitoring Requirements	Sponsor monitoring can be conducted off-site in a desk audit.	CACFP 6/30/2022
CACFP Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility	Waives requirements for one whole grain daily, crediting of grains by ounce, and low-fat (1%) unflavored milk. Must be approved by State Agency in advance on a case-by-case basis and justified with a demonstrated need.	
NSLP Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility	Waives requirements for sodium, whole-grain, vegetable subgroups, milk variety, low-fat flavored milk, and age/grade groups meal planning. Must be approved by State Agency in advance on a case-by-case basis and justified with a demonstrated need.	NSLP 6/30/2022

Application



There are several important deadlines that should be taken into consideration regarding your 2022 CACFP Application. CACFP 2022 Application period will begin on **August 1, 2021**. Your application coordinator will assign a scheduled appointment time to answer any questions or address any concerns you may have before you submit your application for review. So please mark your calendars and be on the lookout for your appointment time.

All applications should be completed and submitted prior to close of business on **September 30th, 2021**. Be mindful that a completed application will include all online modules, uploaded documents, and required trainings for your application to be approved. The CACFP checklist can be found in our Resource Library. When you submit your completed application, it will be approved / denied within 30 days. If you have not completed the application requirements within that 30-day time frame, your application will be denied which could result in an interruption with your billing. We look forward to working with you, and do not hesitate to reach out for any type of assistance you need. Thank you so much for all that you do to feed the children of Arkansas.

If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact your Application Coordinator at the following:

Perry Hunter, perry.hunter@dhs.arkansas.gov, 501-320-8967

Linda Pippins, linda.f.pippins@dhs.arkansas.gov, 501-320-8971

Sandra West, sandra.west@dhs.arkansas.gov, 501-320-8969

Chelsey Mitchell, chelsey.mitchell@dhs.arkansas.gov, 501-320-8974

Commodity Distribution Unit

by: James Ponzini, Program Administrator

The Commodity Distribution Unit is a logistical Unit ordering and distributing USDA foods for all of their Food Distribution programs in Arkansas. We are currently wrapping up the 2021 State Fiscal Year for all programs. These programs include:

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
 - Processing for NSLP
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
 - The Farm to Food Bank Program
- The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Here is a summary of foods distributed throughout the State for SFY 2021:

- 2,912 orders for USDA foods were placed by our office
 - 865 of those orders were cancelled by USDA due to vendor constraints (supply and demand)
 - 126 of those orders remain undelivered as of 6/24/2021
- Of the 2,029 orders received, they consisted of the following:
 - 1,310,017 cases of food
 - 29,373,993 pounds of food
 - \$32,306,478 value of food

The Commodity Distribution Unit works with USDA to order the most nutritious foods that meet the demand of our agencies and citizens. For a complete list of USDA foods available to schools, please visit USDA's website at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-fis/usda-foods-available>



New Assistant Director of HNU



PAMELA BURTON

Pamela Burton serves as the Assistant Director for the Department of Human Services Health and Nutrition Unit. In this role, she is responsible for the management of the Health and Nutrition Unit, Commodities, Regulatory Checks, and Quality Assurance. She monitors and oversees over thousands of sponsors and sites. Additionally, she ensures compliance with federal and state regulations throughout these programs. In her previous role as the Program Administrator for the Health and Nutrition Unit, she managed Claims, Appeals, Administrative and the Quality Assurance Units. Also, she consulted with division staff and facilities regarding information and/or provided assistance with policies, procedures, and guidelines. These responsibilities combined with being innovative, implementing procedures and working closely with the previous Asst. Director Thomas Sheppard, prepared her for the current role as Assistant Director. Before joining DHS, Pamela served as the Program Manager for Arkansas' Department of Emergency Management's Individual Assistance Program, where she ensured the administration of assistance to those individuals and businesses affected by major disasters in the state. Earlier, she served in a similar capacity in Georgia, planning and executing their state's disaster response and crisis management activities. Pamela has earned a Master's Degree in Psychology from the University of Phoenix, Doctorate in Organization and Management with a Specialization in Project Management from Capella University and currently pursuing a Doctorate in Business Administration from William Howard Taft University.

- Thomas Sheppard is currently the Asst. Director for the Family Support Unit and Better Beginnings

USDA Nondiscrimination 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, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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 Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may 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 complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a 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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

PARTNERS NEWS

Farm to School enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers. Get involved by promoting F2S core components!

- **Procurement:** Local foods are purchased, promoted, and served in the school cafeteria or as a snack or taste test.
- **Education:** Students participate in educational activities related to agriculture, food, health, and/or nutrition.
- **School Gardens:** Students engage in hands-on learning through gardening.



Contact Program Coordinator: Sarah Lane, Sarah.Lane@agriculture.arkansas.gov, 501-251-3019



Health and Nutrition Unit
Theresa Taylor, Outreach Coordinator

