



# HNU NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Health and Nutrition Unit



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## Attention!

There will be a pre-recorded Townhall Meeting  
 Tuesday April 13, 2022 to discuss  
 Applications, Reviews, Claims and Training.

Provider questions that were submitted  
 to HNU will be covered  
 during the Town Hall

## Summer Food Service Program:



### Reminders/Highlights

As of February 15, 2022, applications for the 2022 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) opened to all non-profit institutions. Our Applications Team has been working diligently to assist sponsors and get applications approved. As a reminder, your status must be in an "Approved/Amended" status before you can begin your SFSP application process. The deadline for all applications is April 30, 2022.

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.



## Welcome to the Arkansas Special Nutrition Program

### 2022 SFSP Reimbursement Rates (Operating and Administrative Combined)

Meal Type	Rural or Self Prep	All Other Types of Sites
<b>Breakfast</b>	2.6050	2.5550
<b>Lunch or Supper</b>	4.5625	4.4875
<b>Snack</b>	1.0775	1.0525

Source: [Summer Food Service Program - 2022 Reimbursement Rates](#) | [Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

**APPLICATIONS UPDATES:**  
**All applications for SFSP/Commodities must have a completed application by April 30, 2022.**

### Helpful Hints:

- For a timely application approval, begin the process early, attend SFSP trainings, set appointment with your Application Coordinators, and complete all required documents within the allocated time after your application has been submitted.
- If your application is in "Pending Status" or requires changes, contact your Application Coordinator.

## April Is...



**NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS/ACCEPTANCE MONTH**

**NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**





## Child Nutrition COVID-19 Waiver Updates

For more information [click here](#).



**Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver:** Allows “grab and go” meals in Child and Adult Care Food programs, Extended through June 30, 2022.

**Meal Time Flexibility:** Allows two meals to be served at the same time and multi-day meal distribution. Extended through June 30, 2022.

**Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Up Waiver:** 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. Extended through June 30, 2022.

**Monitoring Requirements:** Sponsor monitoring can be conducted off-site in a desk audit with virtual meal observation. Extended through June 30, 2022.

**Child and Adult Care Food Program 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. This waiver is effective through June 30, 2022.

**National School Lunch Program 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. Extended through June 30, 2022.

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

Per Arkansas Department of Health, all programs who have facilities that receive a health inspection from Arkansas Department of Health are required to have at least one staff member who is a Certified Food Manager by June 30, 2021

If you have questions concerning meeting this requirement, please contact Sherri Woodus at: [sherri.woodus@arkansas.gov](mailto:sherri.woodus@arkansas.gov) or 501-661-2171.

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.

[www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr-021622](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr-021622)



## USDA Foods 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.

## Commodities Unit

**Commodities:** The USDA's Schools/Child Nutrition Food Distribution Site Programs support American agricultural producers by providing cash reimbursements for meals served in schools, but also by providing nutritious, USDA purchased food to the following child nutrition programs: National School Lunch Program; Child and Adult Care Food Program; and the Summer Food Service Program. USDA Foods are of domestic origin.

- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP): FNS distributes commodities to SFSP sites serving needy children during summer vacations from school. These sites include schools, colleges, and universities participating in the National Youth Sports Program, nonprofit summer camps for migrant children, and centers for homeless children. Commodities entitlements are reimbursed at the applicable federal rate. 2020-21 school year The Commodity Distribution Unit continues to utilize USDA pilot programs in providing fresh fruits and vegetables during the summer.

Bonus foods are considered those over and above entitlement foods. They are offered periodically, but only as they become available through agricultural surpluses. They are then offered to States on a fair-share basis, and do not count against a State's regular entitlement dollars. The type and quantity of bonus commodities distributed by USDA, in a given year, is dictated by agricultural surpluses and market conditions.



## Review Team

On February 7, 2022, HNU welcomed Sharon Hagen as the new HNP Program Administrator. Before stepping into her new role, Mrs. Hagen previously served as a Quality Assurance Coordinator, as well as the Quality Assurance Coordinator/Review Manager for CACFP and as Program Coordinator, now oversees the National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Payment and Correspondence. With all her experience, we know that she will thrive in her new position.



# Training

## Important Notice!!

As of April 12th, 2022, all New Participant Trainings and Application Trainings will resume as in person classes. Limited zoom classes will be offered in the future and will be sent via mass alert, as available. See below for a list of upcoming classes. Please login to the SNP site to register for trainings on the Training Calendar page. All online refresher courses will still be available to take on demand in the Resource Library.

### In Person Classroom Trainings FY 2021-2022

Date	Location	Time	Course
April 28	618 Main Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 Donaghey West Building (Conference Room #6)	9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	NSLP New Participant Training
May 2	618 Main Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 Donaghey West Building (Conference Room #6)	9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	SFSP New Participant Training
May 5	618 Main Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 Donaghey West Building (Conference Room #6)	9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	Annual FDCH Only Training
May 10	618 Main Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 Donaghey West Building (Conference Room #6)	9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	At-Risk New Participant Training
May 19	618 Main Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 Donaghey West Building (Conference Room #6)	9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	NSLP New Participant Training
June 7	618 Main Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 Donaghey West Building (Conference Room #6)	9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	CACFP Head Start Only Training
June 16	618 Main Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 Donaghey West Building (Conference Room #6)	9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	CACFP New Participant Training
June 30	618 Main Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 Donaghey West Building (Conference Room #6)	9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	At-Risk New Participant Training

## Turnip the Beet Award



The Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding summer meal program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months.

Who is eligible, and how do they apply? All Summer Meal Programs sponsors in good standing are eligible, including Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors.

How to apply:

Submit the following to HNU Outreach Coordinator – Theresa Taylor (Theresa.taylor@dhs.arkansas.gov):

- Nomination Form
- 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))**



# USDA Now Accepting Applications for the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program, Providing Up To \$200 Million to Purchase Local Food for Schools

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service is now accepting applications for the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS). The LFS program is authorized by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act. The program provides up to \$200 million for non-competitive cooperative agreements with state governments through the purchase of domestic local foods for distribution to schools. The program will help increase local food consumption and build and expand economic opportunity for local and regional, small, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. State governments can now apply for LFS Program at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).



### Learn More

Additionally, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will host an informational webinar for state governments interested in applying for LFS Program on Thursday, March 24, at 1 p.m. ET. (link button below to webinar registration).

Register for the [Webinar](#)

## Looking for a creditable meal using lentils?

Lentils are an excellent source of protein. The lentil mixture can credit as a meat alternate OR a vegetable. One mounded 1/4 cup, provides 1 oz eq. meat alternate and 1/8 cup red/orange vegetables OR 1/4 cup vegetables.

## Lentil Tacos

Lentils and raisins are an surprising and delicious duo in these sweet and savory tacos. Green peppers add extra flavor and texture. Enjoy with a tossed salad on the side.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cups dry lentils (sorted and rinsed)
- 4 cups water
- 1/2 green pepper (chopped)
- 4 cloves garlic (minced)
- Hot pepper flakes (1/2 teaspoon, optional)
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon basil
- 2/3 cup tomato paste
- 1/4 cup raisins (optional)

### DIRECTIONS

1. Cook lentils in 3 cups water for 10 minutes.
2. Add remaining ingredients and simmer for 30 minutes (Add more water if necessary).
3. Serve with corn tortillas. Can also be served over rice or noodles.

Alternate seasoning: 2 Tablespoons taco seasoning instead of the other spices.



Lentil Taco | MyPlate

Source: Washington State WIC Program



## Partner News:

### 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 \(google.com\)](#)

## National CACFP Conference

On April 18-22, 2022, The National Child Nutrition Conference, held by the National CACFP Sponsors Association, will be in New Orleans, Louisiana. The purpose of the conference is to bring together professionals from childcare centers, home providers, sponsoring organizations, school districts, afterschool programs, Head Start programs, Food Banks, tribal nations, and State Agencies.

A few members of our team are scheduled to attend. We look forward to the knowledge and fresh ideas that the team will bring back! For more information, [click here](#).

## 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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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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Click on the word (survey) below for a quick survey!

Please take our short [survey](#)

### 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)

Theresa Taylor-Quality Assurance Coordinator (Outreach Coordinator) (501-320-8982)

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