

HNU NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Health and Nutrition Unit



From the HNU Team

Welcome to our 2nd Quarterly Newsletter! September was a busy month; and we would like to thank all of our participants for submitting CACFP and NSLP applications for the 2021-2022 year. Our application specialists are working around the clock to get the applications approved. If you receive any communications from our Applications Team, please respond as quickly as possible to alleviate any delay with the approval of your application. For additional information, please contact [Perry Hunter - Quality Assurance Coordinator](mailto:Perry.Hunter@dhs.arkansas.gov): Perry.Hunter@dhs.arkansas.gov.

What's Inside This Issue:

- FISCAL YEAR AREA DATA
- MEET THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS
- PDR CONTACT
- AND MUCH MORE!



Fiscal Year 2022 CACFP & SFSP Area Eligibility Data Now Available

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is excited to announce that the 2022 Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) participant Area Eligibility data are now available. At the start of every fiscal year, FNS releases a special tabulation of data provided by the Census Bureau for CACFP and SFSP that establishes area eligibility in the CACFP and SFSP. These data are effective as of October 1, 2021. The FNS mapping tools have also been updated to reflect the new data. To see the map, click this [LINK](#). To learn more about using census data for establishing area eligibility for CACFP and SFSP Area Eligibility using Census Data, please see our policy memorandum, located in the Resource Library.



Meet the Program Administrators

Rhonda Betzner



Review Team

Rhonda Betzner serves as a Program Administrator for the AR Department of Human Services Health and Nutrition Unit. In this role, she is responsible for overseeing the activities of the compliance review staff for the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and National School Lunch Program (NSLP). She has previously served the Health and Nutrition Unit as a Quality Assurance Coordinator and Program Coordinator. Before joining DHS, Rhonda served as a Coordinator in a kindergarten readiness program for the Wilbur D. Mills Education Service Cooperative and an elementary school teacher. She holds a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Nora Fawcett



Applications & Regulatory Checks

Nora Fawcett serves as a Program Administrator for the AR Department of Human Services, Health and Nutrition Unit. She is responsible for overseeing the Applications Team, which monitors all applications for food nutrition services. Nora also provides oversight to the regulatory check team, which handles criminal background checks for licensed child and adult facilities around the State of Arkansas. Before joining the State of Arkansas in 2016, she worked for the Arkansas State Police from June 2014 through June 2016 as a Driver's License Examiner.

Jim Ponzini



Commodity Distribution

Jim Ponzini serves as Program Administrator for the AR Department of Human Services Commodity Distribution Unit. The Unit acts as the Distributing Agency for several USDA programs including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP), Summer Feeding Program (SFSP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). His Unit is also responsible for the distribution of food for congregate feeding during disasters and for those in shelters. During State Fiscal Year 2021, the Commodity Distribution Unit distributed over \$43 million in food to serve the children, families, and seniors of the State of Arkansas. Jim has a Bachelor's Degree in Finance from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and has worked for DHS in the Commodity Distribution Unit since October 2007.

Meet the Program Administrators Continued...

Contact Info:

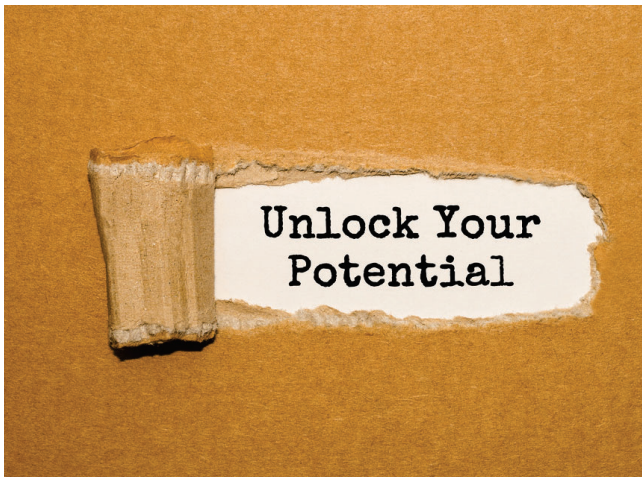
Rhonda Betzner
Rhonda.Betzner@dhs.arkansas.gov

Nora Fawcett
Nora.Fawcett@dhs.arkansas.gov

James (Jim) Ponzini
James.Ponzini@dhs.arkansas.gov



Professional Development Registry (PDR) Contact Update



Libby James is currently the point of contact for the PDR questions. Should need any additional information

please contact her at:

Libby James
Arkansas Professional
Development Registry

PO Box 808
State University, AR 72467
Phone: (870) 972-3055



Training Dates

Upcoming New Participant Trainings			
Date	Location	Time	Class
October 28, 2021	Via ZOOM	9:00 am-12:45 pm	At-Risk New Participant ZOOM Training
November 4, 2021	Via ZOOM	9:00 am-12:45 pm	CACFP New Participant ZOOM Training
November 18, 2021	Via ZOOM	9:00 am-12:45 pm	At-Risk New Participant ZOOM Training
December 2, 2021	Via ZOOM	9:00 am-12:45 pm	CACFP New Participant ZOOM Training
December 16, 2021	Via ZOOM	9:00 am-12:45 pm	CACFP At-Risk New Participant ZOOM Training



Waivers

To support a successful school reopening in school year 2021-22, and to promote afterschool and child care, FNS is releasing a new suite of waivers and flexibilities to increase funding, support access, and balance operational needs with the goal of providing nutritious meals:

- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program Reimbursement Rates - FNS is allowing school food authorities to claim NSLP SSO meals and snacks at the SFSP reimbursement rates.
- Nationwide Waiver of Meal Times Requirements - FNS is letting meals be served to kids outside traditional times to maximize flexibility for meal pick-up.
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children - FNS is allowing parents/guardians to pick-up meals and bring them home to their children.
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child and Adult Care Food Program - FNS is giving states the flexibility to serve meals that do not meet specified meal pattern requirements when needed.

Reminder:

In order to be considered for a waiver, send waiver form to Rhonda Betzner and Pamela Burton at:

Rhonda.Betzner@dhs.arkansas.gov
Pamela.Burton@dhs.arkansas.gov

CACFP Reimbursement of Breast Milk or Formula



Did you know that as an early childhood center or home caregiver you may receive reimbursement when serving an infant breast milk, infant formula, or a combination of both?

To receive reimbursement, the center or home caregiver must serve and feed the infant a developmentally appropriate meal. The following are eligible for reimbursement:

- If a parent provides expressed or pumped breast milk, the meal is reimbursable. A baby zero to 5 months of age may be fed solely breast milk as breakfast, lunch, and a snack. As long as the baby is offered the minimum amount of breast milk required by the CACFP, you can claim it as part of a reimbursable meal even if the baby does not drink all of it. The minimum amount of breast milk for babies zero to 5 months at breakfast, lunch, supper, and snack is 4–6 fluid ounces. The minimum amount of breast milk for babies 6 through 11 months is 6–8 fluid ounces at breakfast, lunch, and supper, and 2–4 fluid ounces at snack (along with other required meal components). Some babies may regularly drink less than the minimum amount of breast milk required. In this case, you may offer less than the minimum amount of breast milk at each feeding as long as more breast milk is offered later when the baby is hungry. This should be documented on infant daily sheet and/or production record.
- Giving a baby both breast milk and infant formula in the same meal or snack is creditable in the CACFP. Be sure to feed the baby the breast milk first, and then the infant formula. Babies should be fed the minimum requirement according to the age and meal pattern.
- You may claim reimbursement of meals when a parent breastfeeds at your child care site. This includes meals when the baby is only drinking breast milk. Parents do not need to provide a written request for the meal to be reimbursed. If a parent breastfeeds at your child care site, you may claim that milk as part of a reimbursable meal as long as you provide all other required food components.
- For children age one year and older, breast milk can be used to meet the CACFP fluid milk component of a meal. As a CACFP provider, you will still receive reimbursement for meals and snacks when a child receives breast milk after one year of age. A written request from the parent is not required.
- For more information contact our HNU training team at:

Stephanie.Clowers@dhs.arkansas.gov

Sharon.Hagen@dhs.arkansas.gov



Partner Updates

It's National Farm to School Month!!

In celebration, Arkansas Farm to School has launched a new website! Click on their logo to check it out or [CLICK HERE.](#)



The program is currently seeking a Program Coordinator.

If you know anyone who might be interested, [CLICK HERE](#) to view the announcement.



Arkansas Department of Education

Grant Opportunity

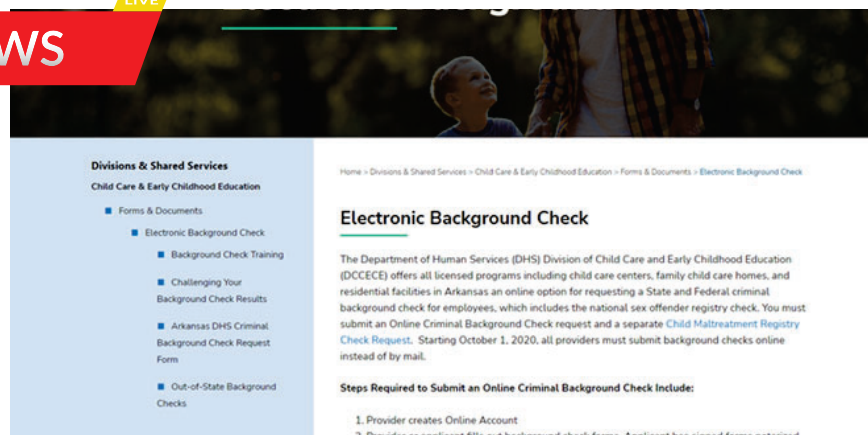
The Arkansas Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) released a grant application on October 6, 2021. The application will allow potential qualifying programs to apply for a 3-year grant opportunity. The application window opened on October 6, 2021, and closes on December 3, 2021. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

Technical Assistance and Support Training for Writing the Grant

October 21, 2021 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
November 10, 2021 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Training will be provided virtually by the SEA 21st CCLC Team. This time has been set aside to provide technical assistance for writing the grant, reviewing Arkansas 21st CCLC Grant Guidance, and answer any questions.

[CLICK HERE](#) to find out more information about this training on the 21st CCLC website. The website also provides additional resources and information about the grant. Please feel free to share this information with anyone who can benefit from it. If you have any questions, please contact me. Have a great day!

BREAKING NEWS


Electronic Background Check New Website!

The new electronic background check website features a Background Check Training section, as well as Out-of-State Background Check information. Providers can now follow the Out-of-State Background Check link for instructions specific to each state. This includes how to complete the request, contact information, as well as links to their website. The Background Check Training portion of the website has been updated to include the link for our monthly provider Zoom call. This will be help the last Thursday of every month, starting October 28th, 2021.

To fill out the Electronic Background Check visit this [LINK](#).

To learn more about using census data for establishing area eligibility for CACFP and SFSP Area Eligibility using Census Data, please see our policy memorandum at this [LINK](#).

Newsletter Contact Information

For additional information regarding the Health and Nutrition Program and all the exciting work we do, please feel free to contact:

Theresa Taylor
 Outreach Coordinator
Theresa.Taylor@dhs.arkansas.gov
 (501)-320-8982

If you have any concerns contact:

Pamela Burton
 Assistant Director
Pamela.Burton.dccece@dhs.arkansas.gov
 (501)-320-8978



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).