Dear Authorized Representatives and Food Service Directors:
This email notice is sent to the Authorized Representative and the Food Service Director. If you desire additional staff members to receive the monthly emails please send me their contact information and I will add them to the distribution list. The Bureau Notes, USDA memorandums, and related forms or documents listed in this email will be posted on the Bureau’s web page under Monthly Memos and Updates. Please contact me at patti.harding@iowa.gov if you have additional questions or desire assistance.

Sincerely,
Patti Harding, Administrative Consultant, School Nutrition Programs.

Summer Food Service Program

USDA has provided guidance on several topics concerning the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and they are posted here. SFAs that currently participate in the SFSP have already received these USDA memos. We are providing these memos to all SFAs as part of our outreach efforts to increase the number of SFAs operating SFSP. Join us for the upcoming SFSP informational webinar on Thursday, February 18th from 1:30-2:30pm. Summer is an exciting time for children to enjoy moments with friends, a family vacation, or time at the pool; but it can also be a time of hunger when children no longer have access to healthy school breakfast and lunch. This webinar will provide an overview of the SFSP including an introduction to who can sponsor the program, what is considered a site, who is eligible to participate, what meals can be served, how to obtain reimbursement for meals, and allowable expenses. To register for the webinar go to the Department of Education calendar and click on the webinar title on February 18th. A link for the webinar will be sent out the day before the event. Contact Stephanie Dross at stephanie.dross@iowa.gov for information on how to start a Summer Food Service Program in your community.

Webinar - What's New in School Nutrition Monthly Webinar
Monday, January 25th, 2016
2:00 – 3:00PM

Description:
The Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services is planning a series of webinars on "What's New in School Nutrition?" at 2:00 PM on the 4th Monday of each month. In this first webinar, we will review recent memos issued by the Bureau and direct you to resources for training staff and documenting the training to meet the requirements of the new USDA Professional Standards. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and provide input on topics for future webinars. To register for the webinar:
- Go to the Iowa Department of Education web page, https://www.educateiowa.gov
- Click on calendar in the light blue bar at the top of the page.
- Find the date (January 25) and click on the title of the webinar.
- The registration page should appear. Fill in the information and click submit.

Watch your email a day or two before the webinar for the link to participate. If you have any questions please contact me jan.steffen@iowa.gov

Hope you can join us. We do plan to record the webinars if you are not able to attend the live session.

**Webinar - Community Eligibility Provision and Direct Certification:**
Best Practices for Success
Wednesday, January 27, 2016
12:00-1:15PM Central Time (1:00- 2:15 PM EST)

**Description:** USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service would like to announce, “Community Eligibility Provision and Direct Certification: Best Practices for Success.” This webinar will highlight the relationship between direct certification and CEP, including a review of direct certification best practices to help schools electing or considering CEP optimize their identified student percentages and Federal reimbursements.

**Target Audience:** State Agency Staff and School Food Authorities

**To Participate:**
- To watch online, register at: [https://cc.readytalk.com/r/kimz9yng2lh6&eom](https://cc.readytalk.com/r/kimz9yng2lh6&eom).
- To dial in, call:
  - U.S. Toll: 303-248-0285
  - Access Code: 7205000

**Webinar - The Challenges of Unpaid Meals: Proven Strategies from Our Nation’s Schools**
Thursday, February 4, 2016
1:00 to 2:30 Central Time (2:00 to 3:30 PM EST)

**Description:** Many schools across the country are affected by the issue of unpaid meal charges and must strike a balance between the importance of providing children with nutritious food and maintaining the financial viability of their school meal program. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will host an interactive webinar on Thursday, February 4 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM, providing the opportunity for State agency staff, food service directors, principals, and others to participate in an engaging discussion about local-level strategies to address the unpaid meal challenge.

**Target Audience:** State Agency Staff, School Administrators, School Food Service Staff

**To View the Webinar:**
- Please watch online, register at: [https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=8nwyb3wz6isk](https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=8nwyb3wz6isk)
- To dial in, call:
• U.S. Toll: 303-248-0285
• Access Code: 7205000

**Topics Covered:** FNS invites participants to share successful strategies for:
- Ensuring students maintain positive account balances
- Finding alternative funding sources for unpaid meal charges
- Providing alternate meals
- Preventing stigmatization of children with insufficient funds
- Getting buy-in from stakeholders on local policies for addressing unpaid meals

**To Actively Participate:** Participation options include:
- Sharing strategies to address unpaid meal charges by sending them to the email below prior to the webinar or by sending in a comment during the webinar
- Sending a prepared slide to the email below
- Participating as a guest speaker
- Asking questions and offering comments during the webinar
- Listening and gathering new ideas

Please contact Madeline Becker at Madeline.Becker@fns.usda.gov or 703-305-2265 by Wednesday, January 27th if you would like to participate as a guest speaker or have your strategy featured during the presentation.