

FY 2016 Bureau Notes –8/12/2016

CACFP Center Application Renewal

We are still completing enhancements to IowaCNP so the timeline for application renewal has not yet been established. An email will be sent to CACFP contacts and authorized representatives providing instructions when FY 2017 is open and ready for application renewal activities. We also plan to offer a webinar that will be announced when time application renewal instructions are emailed.

2016-2017 Reimbursement Rates

The new 2016-2017 reimbursement rates were published on Friday, August 5 in the Federal Register. The commodity rates were not published until Tuesday, August 9. We updated the new rates on IowaCNP when they became available. The new rates take effect 7/1/2016. To view the rates, click on Claims, then Claim Rates – Centers.

Because FY 2017 is open now in claims, the year will automatically be set to 2016-2017. To submit your July claim, change the year to 2015-2016 in the upper right hand corner. After selecting the year, stay on the same screen and click on Claims.

New Meal Pattern Implementation

The initial plan for early implementation of the new CACFP meal pattern described in the 7/15/2016 Bureau Notes was initially approved by USDA and later denied. Organizations may not select certain provisions of the new meal pattern for early implementation. Therefore, Iowa will implement Statewide the provisions of the new meal pattern listed in the revised, “Iowa New CACFP Meal Pattern Implementation Plan” (to be posted on DE website) under Option 1 effective 10/1/2016. New meal pattern charts, menu forms, review forms, and the Handy Guide to Creditable Foods list have been updated and are posted in Download Forms (IowaCNP [website](#) under Applications).

During FY 2017 application renewal, organizations will indicate if they wish to implement additional provisions of the new meal pattern provisions listed in Option 2 of the revised “Iowa New CACFP Meal Pattern Implementation Plan”. If Option 2 is checked all applicable provisions of the new meal pattern must be implemented and State agency approval is required.

If Option 2 is selected, upload the “Iowa New CACFP Meal Pattern Implementation Plan” form to the IowaCNP application packet Attachment List as part of FY 2017 application renewal. The State agency will email notice of approval and upload the approved form to the “Attachment List.” You will not be able to upload this document until after IowaCNP is open to accept FY 2017 applications.

Live training on the new meal patterns was held in May at CACFP Short Course followed by a [USDA/FRAC webinar](#) (posted for subsequent viewing). Written guidance on optional best practices, and milk and milk substitutions was provided in July and is available on the Department of Education (DE) [website](#).

The Iowa State agency will provide a webinar on statewide implementation of the new meal pattern (tentative timeframe is late August, 2016). The date and registration information will be emailed separately. If you need to provide staff training before the webinar, use the information from the FRAC/USDA webinar, information posted on the DE website mentioned above, and new meal pattern forms available in Download Forms (Form ID CACFPMP).

USDA will publish additional guidance on the new meal pattern throughout the next year. We will share the information as we receive it. We believe the benefits of early implementation outweigh the drawbacks of making minor adjustments as new guidance becomes available.

State agency consultants will evaluate compliance with the new meal pattern starting with FY 2017 reviews. Consultants will provide technical assistance when non-compliance is identified but no meals will be deducted.