

FY 2016 Bureau Notes – 3/23/2016

Farm to CACFP Webinar

Do you want to include more locally grown foods and/or gardening activities into your CACFP childcare or Head Start this spring and summer? A Farm to CACFP Webinar is scheduled for **April 26th from 12:30-1:30 p.m.** The agenda includes What is Farm to CACFP; Why is it Important; How to Buy Local Foods in CACFP; Overview of NE Iowa's *We Grow Healthy Kids* Curriculum; Master Gardener Success Stories; and available gardening and menu resources for young children. Click [here](#) to register. All those that participate in the webinar will have the opportunity to apply for a \$500 Farm to CACFP Sub-Grant, funded by Iowa Team Nutrition. The webinar is not required but can be used to fulfill the annual CACFP training requirement.

CACFP Short Course Reminder

The deadline for Short Course registration is April 22, 2016. Remember to [register](#) for each day separately if you plan to attend (click on CACFP Short Course listed on the calendar). We still need volunteers to share a favorite snack item on May 3. We know you have lots of good ideas to share! The deadline to submit the recipe is April 1 (send to robin.holz@iowa.gov.) The deadline to reserve a hotel room at the conference rate of \$55 is April 4, 2016. Attendance is not required but can be used to fulfill the annual CACFP training requirement and may count for up to two year's CACFP training.

CACFP Mini Grants

T&L Foundation for Child Care Information is accepting proposals for their first round of mini-grants. If you are a CACFP organization and have a small project regarding health and wellness that you would like funded, click [here](#) to see the objectives, eligibility guidelines and application. The due date is April 13, 2016.

Smoothie Update

USDA published a third [memo](#) updating the crediting of smoothies, now posted on the Department of Education (DE) website. The changes are summarized below:

- Vegetables and yogurt used in smoothies may credit towards meeting the snack meal pattern requirements.
 - A smoothie containing milk and yogurt can be a reimbursable snack.
 - A smoothie containing yogurt and juice or pureed fruits/vegetables can be a reimbursable snack.
- Another component must be served at snack if the smoothie contains milk and juice or milk and pureed fruits/vegetables.
- Commercially prepared smoothies (those not prepared at the center) may only credit toward the fruit or vegetable components (the milk and yogurt do not credit). Purchase products with the percent juice content clearly labeled. Only the 100-percent juice portion credits.
- Concentrated fruit puree and juice must be reconstituted to full-strength to credit. Otherwise they are considered added sugar.

At-Risk Program

CACFP organizations located in low income areas may be eligible to participate in the CACFP At-Risk Program. Low income is defined as location in the attendance area of a public school with 50% or more of its enrollment eligible for free and reduced-price meals. A current list of eligible schools is available in

Download Forms (Form CACFP036) on the [IowaCNP website](#). Refer to the list to determine if your site is eligible. Advantages and limitations are listed below. Contact robin.holz@iowa.gov if you would like to explore adding an At-Risk site or changing an existing site status to At-Risk.

- Advantages of the At-Risk program:
 - All children may be claimed at the free rate of reimbursement
 - Income applications are not required
 - Food production records are not required
 - CACFP enrollment forms are not required
 - Meals do not have to be recorded at the point of service
- Restrictions of the At-Risk Program:
 - The site must be located in an eligible area
 - Meals may be claimed during the school year only, when school is not in session
 - Only one meal and one snack may be claimed per child per day
 - Enrichment activities must be offered

Physical Activity/Limiting Screen Time are Allowable CACFP Costs

CACFP organizations may use CACFP reimbursement for wellness efforts, including the promotion of physical activity and limiting use of electronic media. However, use of funds for these purposes may not jeopardize the quality of meals served or compliance with any other Program requirements. A new line will be added to the CACFP budget in fiscal year (FY) 2017 for these costs.

CACFP participants are encouraged to use USDA Team Nutrition materials that are already developed. CACFP reimbursements may be used to print, distribute, and utilize these and other free materials that support physical activity and limiting electronic media use. Please see the [CACFP Wellness Resources for Child Care](#) and [Let's Move! Child Care's](#) websites for free resources.

Prior State agency approval is required to use CACFP reimbursement to develop and distribute new materials.

- Requests for approval must clearly demonstrate how and why existing resources are not adequate
- The materials must emphasize the link between nutritious meals and physical activity and/or limiting the use of electronic media; and
- The cost is reasonable, necessary, and allowable with regard to their content in relationship to CACFP requirements

A worksheet to complete will be added to the Application Checklist and Download Forms if your organization plans to use CACFP reimbursement for materials to promote physical activity or limiting screen time. Costs incurred related to training on promotion of physical activity or limiting electronic media should be treated as training costs.

The [USDA memo](#) is posted in on the Department of Education website.

Permission to Operate Letter

We are now able to accept permission to operate letters from the Department of Human Services (DHS) for up to 120 days of issue, in lieu of a full license, when we approve new site applications for CACFP participation.