

Child and Adult Food Care Program



January 2020

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) welcomes you to a new year and a new decade!

Looking to Expand?

Consider At-Risk Afterschool Programs or become a Family Day Care Home Sponsor

The At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the CACFP offers Federal funding to Afterschool Programs that serve a meal or snack to children in low-income areas. Organizations may participate in the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of CACFP either as an independent afterschool program or through a sponsor. To be eligible, you must meet State and/or local licensing or health and safety standards, and meet organizational and area eligibility requirements, and provide educational or enrichment activities that are open to all children in an organized, structured, and supervised environment.

USDA Team Nutrition (TN) Serving School Meals to Preschoolers Worksheet

USDA TN released the “Serving School Meals to Preschoolers” training worksheet last year. Please review it as it contains key information on serving preschoolers in school based programs. School Meals Programs can use this colorful four-page worksheet to plan and prepare menus that meet preschool meal patterns in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs. This resource also includes information regarding co-mingling of preschool students and students from older grade groups, as well as scenario-based questions to test for knowledge and understanding. All materials are currently available in English online at the [USDA FNS Team Nutrition Serving School Meals to Preschoolers](#) webpage.

Utilize the MDE CACFP Training Videos for Annual CACFP Staff Trainings

Use the CACFP videos in your annual and new employee staff trainings! You can access these colorful, fun, and informative videos on the [MDE CACFP YouTube site](#) and on the MDE CACFP webpage under the Training, and Resources headers. Remember to document any CACFP staff training with an agenda and sign in sheet!

FY 2020 MDE CACFP #2 Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors of Centers and Homes

MDE CACFP is reissuing the memo to remind sponsors in the CACFP that they must follow regulatory requirements for monitoring their facilities (centers and family day care homes). This memo updates FY 2015 Operational Memo #31.

The complete list of operational memoranda can be accessed at the MDE CACFP website under Resources, Memos for Independent Centers and Sponsors of Centers, and Family Day Care Home Sponsors.

Resources

USDA CACFP Halftime:

Thirty on Thursdays Training Webinars Series Available!

The USDA CACFP Halftime Webinars are posted for your use in training yourself and staff on topics related to CACFP meal pattern requirements. Visit the USDA CACFP Halftime on Thursdays Training Webinars website to access archived versions of previous webinars in both English and Spanish. You can also view information on upcoming webinars and registration information on new topics for 2020!

USDA Training Tools: Why Recreate the Wheel?

The USDA has colorful and engaging materials to empower your staff with the knowledge, skills, and expertise to successfully maintain the updated CACFP meal pattern requirements. These tools include infographics, posters, training worksheets, slides and the Trainer's Tools: [Feeding Infants trainer's guide](#). Why recreate the wheel when you can use these tools free! Visit [USDA CACFP Training Tools](#) for more information and to download materials.

New Rules Now Effect: LARA Updates Website

The new rules for Family and Group Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers are now in effect. To view the new rules for Family and Group Child Care Homes, please click [here](#). To view the new rules for Child Care Centers, click [here](#). If you have any questions about the new rules, please contact your LARA licensing consultant. LARA will be mailing out the new rule books as soon as they are completed.



Key Information to Know

The Nutrition Gateway Launched

The MDE Nutrition Gateway is live! Child nutrition program staff using MDE child nutrition systems can now log in at a single point of entry to access an MDE system for which they have approved access. Submitting applications, claims for reimbursement, documentation for reviews, or pulling data for meals served can now easily accessed with one log in!

Access **MDE Nutrition Gateway** here. Any user who has access to MEGS+, MiND, or GEMS/MARS automatically has access to the Gateway. Resources for the Gateway include:

- The **MDE Nutrition Gateway User Guide** gives a brief description of the Gateway and what you can do in each section.
- The **MDE Nutrition Gateway Dashboard and Portal Basics** gives specific instructions on how to log in and use the Dashboard.

Parental Notification: Building for the Future Flier

A new Parent/Guardian Handout is now available for sponsored facilities! The Building for the Future with CACFP Flier is now available under Forms and Instructions, Parent Forms! This flier informs parents or guardians about the program and its benefits upon enrollment of their children/youth centers in facilities that participate in CACFP. The center must complete this flier by adding the contact information for the center and sponsoring organization to the right of MDE's contact information prior to printing and distributing/posting. This cute flier is available in English and Spanish. It is attached to this email for your use. This flier takes the place of the prior Parent Information Handout.

Upcoming Conference Information

Maternal Infant Health Summit: March 30-31, 2020 Lansing, Michigan

Working together to improve maternal and infant health in Michigan. Visit MIHEALTHSUMMIT.COM for more information.

Child Nutrition Conference: April 14-16, 2020 Atlanta, Georgia

The National CACFP Sponsors Association's 34th annual conference is a three-day professional education event offering 11 education tracks, 200 presenters and 150 hours of workshops. For more information and to register, visit the [National CACFP Sponsor Association's web page](#).