

# Child and Adult Food Care Program

## March 2020



### Welcome!

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) wishes you a happy CACFP Week and National Nutrition Month and March Madness! Spring is on its way! Are you ready for Michigan [asparagus](#)? Michigan ranks third in asparagus production nationally. It is typically picked during May through June! Remember to source Michigan when building your spring menus!

### National CACFP Week: March 15-21, 2020

CACFP Week is a national education and information campaign sponsored annually the third week of March by the National CACFP Sponsors Association. The campaign is designed to raise awareness of how the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program works to combat hunger and brings healthy foods to tables across the country for children in childcare centers, homes, and afterschool programs as well as adults in day care. For more information visit, the National CACFP Sponsors Association.

### Proposed Rule: Comment Period Ends March 23, 2020

In January, the USDA announced the proposed rule, "Simplifying Meal Service and Monitoring Requirements in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs". This proposed rule has also includes potential changes that affect the CACFP. Public comment on the proposed rule is open through March 23, 2020. Attached you will find the USDA's Proposed Rule along with slides from the Food Resource Action Committee (FRAC)'s recent webinar on the proposed rule with information pertaining to the CACFP highlighted. Please review the proposed rule and provide your comments. The USDA reads and considers each comment and your viewpoint has weight! You can leave your name or comment anonymously. Use this [Federal Register Link](#) for your comments.

### Operational Memoranda

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.

### Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN)e-Portal: Civil Rights Course Released

The ICN has released a new course on its e-Portal. Completion of Civil Rights training is an annual requirement for all entities reimbursed with federal funding from the USDA to ensure compliance and enforcement of the prohibition against discrimination in all USDA nutrition programs. This e-Portal class is free and is suitable for School Nutrition Managers, School Nutrition Directors, Child and Adult Care Center Employees/Staff, Family Child Care Sponsors and Homes. The course provides one hour of instruction. To enroll visit the [ICN Civil Rights in Child Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. You can contact the ICN directly at their helpdesk at 1-800-321-3054 or by email at [helpdesk@theicn.org](mailto:helpdesk@theicn.org). MDE CACFP will accept completion of this course towards the annual Civil Rights Training. Please retain your ICN training certificate with your CACFP records. ICN has many other courses available through their e-Portal.

## Key Information to Know

### Toddler Milk: Is it creditable in the CACFP?

MDE has received several requests on toddler milk and whether it credits in child nutrition programs. It does not credit towards a reimbursable meal. Per USDA guidance, for infants up to age one, only breastmilk or iron-fortified infant formula is creditable. Toddlers age one to two are to be served whole fluid cow's milk and/or breast milk. Toddler milk, "follow up" formulas and/or "weaning" formulas are not creditable in USDA Child Nutrition Programs. Supplemental formulas may not contain adequate nutrition toddlers need and are not recommended by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#). Reference the [Infant Feeding Guide](#) for additional information on feeding infants, what foods credit, and other key information on infant nutrition and feeding strategies. Use the [USDA Infant Meal Pattern](#) for required food components and serving sizes.

### Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics National Nutritional Month: Eat Right Bite by Bite

National Nutrition Month® is an annual campaign created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND). During the month of March, AND invites everyone to focus on the importance of making informed food choices, developing sound eating and physical activity habits. To access the Nutrition Month Toolkit or to find out more information, check out AND's National Nutrition Month webpage.

## Menus and Nutritional Verification

Do your menus reflect meal pattern requirements? As part of monitoring and oversight, MDE and/or the USDA will ask sponsors and sites for nutrition labels to ensure whole grain rich foods are served at least once per day, that cereals and yogurt meet established sugar limits and the correct milk is being served, and to spot check other menu requirements. A best practice is to have nutrition facts labels, CN Labels and/or product formulations statements on-hand for items you typically serve that support your monthly menus. You can keep them in a binder or folder. Additionally, be specific on your menus. For instance, list specific cereals on your menu such as Cheerios, Kix, oatmeal. Indicate what food item is your whole grain/whole grain rich item by using WG or WGR by the item on the menu and list what type of milk is served. By being specific, MDE or the USDA can determine you are making a good faith effort and provide technical assistance. If you have any questions, email your assigned analyst (best way to contact them) or call 517-241-5353 to speak with a CACFP team member.

## CACFP Training Opportunities and Conferences

### Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) Updated Meal Pattern Trainings

MDE and ICN are teaming up to offer additional CACFP Meal Pattern trainings that began in October. Did you miss one near you last year? Do you want a refresher? Then please sign up to attend one of these upcoming sessions!

The CACFP training instructors request that if you register to attend an in-person recordkeeping training and find you are unable to attend, you should use the cancellation instructions to cancel your ticket. This will allow other participants to attend the in-person regional trainings.

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

Visit the [National CACFP Sponsor Association's webpage](#) for more information and to register for the conference.

## Dairy Food and Plants: A Power Couple:

**Are you looking for a great way to change up your snack menus to include more vegetables, legumes, and fruits? Have you tried pairing them with dairy foods like yogurt, cottage cheese, or cheese? Check out this article from [Milk Means More on plants and dairy](#) for recipe inspiration. Dairy and plants are a superfood power couple!**