

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

October 2025 Newsletter

Important Reminders

Here are a few reminders and best practices to get you started on the right foot for this upcoming year. The beginning of the school year is a great time to collect household income eligibility information, if applicable for your institution or school district.

Please carefully read the following:

CACFP participants can only use the [Education and Nutrition Benefits Application](#) OR the [Household Income Eligibility Statements \(HIES\)](#) to determine income eligibility. Please contact your analyst if you have any questions.

Training Requirements

All CACFP staff must be trained annually on several topics. Review [this document](#) for required trainings.

October's Thinking Thursdays

Topic: MIND 2.0

Learn how to navigate our updated claiming system, MIND 2.0.

Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025

Time: 2 – 3 pm

Please click here to register:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87281229250?pwd=t6p9vUoVyTDCkn3TJpUXgwFZTgvbVh.1>

Additional Trainings

Can't make the live Thinking Thursdays? Check out our previously recorded [Thinking Thursdays here](#).

Don't forget that MDE has numerous online modules that you can take, at your own pace, and at a time that's convenient for you! Feel free to use them for your annual staff trainings. Here are just a few to help you get you started with the upcoming school year.

- CACFP Recordkeeping for Sponsoring Organizations
- CACFP Online Recordkeeping for Independent Centers
- CACFP: Creditable Menus
- CNP: Civil Rights

All MDE CACFP training modules can be found here:

www.michigan.gov/mde/services/food/cacfp/topics/trainings/cacfp-trainings.

CACFP Claims in MIND 2.0

MDE is excited to announce that the CACFP claims will be available for the next fiscal year in the new and improved MIND 2.0 system. Prior year claim information can be accessed via MIND Legacy, but all new claims must be entered in the new MIND 2.0 as shown below.

When are changes expected?

Beginning with the October 2025 claim, CACFP claims will be available on this new platform.

Resources and Training

In addition to our Thinking Thursday later this month, our team has created some training materials specific to these programs to assist you through the transition. See the following links for more information. These resources are intended to be used side-by-side as you enter your claim should you need assistance. On any page, clicking the Help button will take you to the resources for that page.

Child and Adult Care Food Program Resources:

- [CACFP Claims Listing](#)
- [CACFP Sponsor Summary](#)
- [CACFP Claim Certification](#)
- [CACFP Site Edit Page](#)
- [CACFP Sponsor Payment Summary Report](#)

If you have any questions about these changes, please let us know. Send an email to MDE-CACFP@Michigan.gov. If you have any trouble accessing this or any other systems, contact us at MDE-ONS-Access@Michigan.gov.

Additional News Inside MDE CACFP

From our Farm to Program Department

Michigan Apple Crunch

Celebrate Farm to School month with apple crunch this October! Noon on Thursday, October 16, is the official Crunch date, but your Crunch is welcome anytime this October.

- [First, register](#) your crunch.
- Then, follow the Michigan Apple Crunch [Facebook page](#).
- Promote, tag [#MIAppleCrunch](#), and share photos from your Apple Crunch!

Last year, more than 340,000 people participated in this statewide event. Be sure to mark the Crunch on your calendars and help Michigan reach the 2025 goal of 400,000 Crunchers in Michigan!

There are so many ways to Crunch!

- Taste test multiple apple varieties and vote on your favorite.
- Feature a recipe with local apples for breakfast or lunch throughout October.
- Invite a local farmer to participate in the event.

If you are looking for places to purchase local food, the Michigan Department of Education's Michigan Farm to Program Directory can help! The [Michigan Farm to Program Directory](#) is a searchable database of both suppliers and buyers of Michigan-grown products. This tool makes it easier for food program operators to purchase and serve Michigan fresh produce and helps Michigan farmers and food suppliers connect with new customers.

Lake Michigan School Food System Spark and Innovation Collaborative Awards Update

The [Lake Michigan School Food System Innovation Hub](#) funds and fosters collaborations that nourish students, connect schools with local farms and businesses, and reflect the region's families and communities.

Spark Awards

Designed for short-term, high-impact projects, Spark Awards provide a vital boost for efforts focused on school food system and marketplace improvements. Projects may include capacity-building, planning, product testing, or other early-phase work.

Award range: \$30,000-\$100,000

Innovation Collaborative Awards

These larger awards support systems-level change through efforts such as scaling programs, developing new regional partnerships, or integrating new products or services into the school food ecosystem.

Award Range: \$250,000-\$500,000

Visit the [Support for Michigan Applicants Page](#) to connect with Michigan's state leads, develop project ideas, form and manage partnerships, connect with resources, answer questions about your application, and strengthen your grant-writing by reviewing and/or editing your application! Applications for the 2025 Spark and Innovation Collaboration Awards are expected to open in late 2025 with additional grant cycles continuing through 2028.

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Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- 1. mail:**
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- 2. fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- 3. email:**
Program.Intake@USDA.gov

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