



Child and Adult Care Food Program April 2022

New Application System Coming Soon!

In May 2022, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will be transitioning to a new application system called NexSys. NexSys will be replacing MEGSplus.

MDE is combining applications for our Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) from three applications with different application timelines and due dates into one application. This will streamline the process for sponsors participating in multiple programs.

To access the new system, you will need to request access to NexSys through your MILogin account. If you do not have a MILogin account, MDE can help you with completing that. The new application will start with the claim month of July 2022.

To continue receiving reimbursements, the application must be submitted by June 17, 2022. Information from MEGSplus will not roll over into NexSys. The application will start out as a blank slate for all sponsors. You will have access to your old application in MEGSplus and can use that information to help you fill out your new application.

This new application will not impact Family Day Care Home (FDCH) sponsors at this time, but the FDCH application will be housed in NexSys as well.

MDE will be providing in-person and virtual training opportunities in the very near future. Trainings will be available throughout the state, so please stay tuned for more information about NexSys!

Thinking Thursdays for April

Thinking Thursdays is a webinar series that is presented once a month on Thursdays. Please join us for our CACFP Thinking Thursdays webinar!

When: April 28, 2022, 1:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Record Keeping Basics

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GF1IQpfSy2t6hJ50oI9pA](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GF1IQpfSy2t6hJ50oI9pA)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Become a Great Start Readiness Program Provider!



Have you considered offering families a free preschool program? By becoming a Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) provider, you can offer current and potential families with eligible 4-year-olds a free, high-quality preschool experience.

GSRP is funded through the State of Michigan. Funding is awarded to intermediate school districts (ISDs). ISDs operate classrooms directly and/or award funds to local partners, including childcare centers, to provide the program. To become a GSRP provider, your program must be licensed and participate in [Great Start to Quality](#) with at least a 3-star rating. Other requirements for GSRPs include qualified staff (teachers with an early childhood education or child development bachelor's degree, associate teachers with a valid preschool Childhood Development Associate, or associate degree) and use of an approved comprehensive curriculum, child assessment tool, and developmental screener. ISDs support training for local programs, provide classroom coaches, and assist with recruitment and enrollment of children.

To learn more about becoming a GSRP provider, contact [your local ISD](#).

Annual CACFP Civil Rights Training Options

Staff training on civil rights is an annual requirement for CACFP Sponsors, and new staff are to be trained on civil rights before assuming their CACFP duties. MDE CACFP has two options available for you to train your staff on civil rights.

Michigan Child Nutrition Training

Bright Track training, found at [Michigan Department of Education | Bright Track](#), has a self-paced Michigan150-Civil Rights course staff can take at any time to meet annual training requirements. A certificate of completion is provided to print. Staff must create a user name and password to enroll in the free course. Information on how to get started is included in [CACFP Quick Start Guide](#).

MDE CACFP Civil Rights Video

The MDE CACFP Civil Rights video is found at [CACFP Civil Rights](#). This less than 8-minute video is a great way to train staff on civil rights during an in person staff meeting or on-boarding a new staff member. However, the video does not have a certificate of completion. For record keeping purposes, screen shot the screen with the date viewed, include the video link in the dated training agenda, and collect a dated attendance sheet.

To review CACFP annual staff training requirements, review the [Annual Staff Training Requirements Checklist](#). This checklist can be copied with the [CACFP Annual Staff Training Sign-in Sheet](#) to document annual and new staff trainings.

Fresh Resource: CACFP Vegetable and Fruit Snack Menu

What's the perfect time to get in your daily fruits and vegetables? SNACK TIME!

Grab a [CACFP Fruit and Vegetable Snack Menu](#) from the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN) website.

ASPHN's National Fruit & Vegetable Nutrition Council has a CACFP Work Group that developed a great resource to help CACFP providers and others (parents, caretakers, nutrition-workers, and students alike) easily plan, prep, and provide fruit and vegetable-filled snacks with a month's worth of recipes!

And the best part... it's FREE!



Grow It, Try It, Like It! Nutrition Education Kit

The first day of spring is right around the corner! Use MyPlate's garden-theme nutrition education kit to teach little ones about gardening and to introduce new fruits and vegetables.

Get to Gardening

Now available! Webinars Captioned in Spanish!

Team Nutrition is pleased to announce the release of the "Master the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)" and "Navigating the Food Buying Guide Calculator" English webinars captioned in Spanish.

- **Master the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)** - This webinar provides a demonstration of the PSTTT, as well as an overview of the professional standards requirements and resources. The webinar can be viewed in English and with Spanish captions at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/professional-standards-resources>.
- **Navigating the Food Buying Guide Calculator** - This webinar provides an interactive demonstration of the Food Buying Guide (FBG) Calculator, a feature included with the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based Tool. Participants learn how to create a shopping list using the FBG Calculator when ordering food for their programs. The webinar can be viewed in English and with Spanish captions at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-training-resources>.

For more information about these tools and related resources visit these Team Nutrition webpages:

[Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#)
[Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool \(PSTTT\)](#)



The United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Health and Human Services have created Spanish-language resources for health professionals and consumers to help promote healthy eating from birth through older adulthood, including people who are pregnant or lactating. Spread the word about the free health professional and patient education resources by sharing this link -- <https://dietaryguidelines.gov/es/recursos> -- through your organization's communication channels. Spanish-language materials include nutrition conversation starters for use with families and a variety of free nutrient education resources for distribution to families.



Inspiring and Informative Video Series on Farm to School Now Available!

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has developed and launched a series of seven videos for all school food service staff, agricultural educators, school food producers, and anyone interested in learning about bringing fresh local foods to schools and early childcare centers. The video series features topics including procurement, sourcing local, school gardens, agricultural education, food safety, and meal quality. These videos are meant to offer a peer-to-peer orientation into the Farm to School programs and give direction for further resources. Financial support came from a two-year United State Department of Agriculture Farm to School grant that was obtained by the MDE Office of Health and Nutrition Services. You may view the seven videos below:

- [Why Farm to School](#)
- [School Gardens](#)
- [Purchasing and Sourcing](#)
- [Meal Quality](#)
- [Local Procurement](#)
- [Food Safety](#)
- [Ag Education](#)

This project is timely as food service staff continue to deal with supply chain disruption and look to local food sources to help keep food prices low. This project also serves as inspiration for child nutrition programs to focus on meal quality by including a variety of fresh, local produce on their menus. Farm to School is more than fresh, nutritious food being served to students; it also means connecting those foods to nutrition, agriculture, and their communities. For more information or questions about Farm to School, please visit [Local Purchasing](#) or [Farm to School planning toolkit](#). You may also email malnarj1@Michigan.gov or crowleyw@michigan.gov.

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