

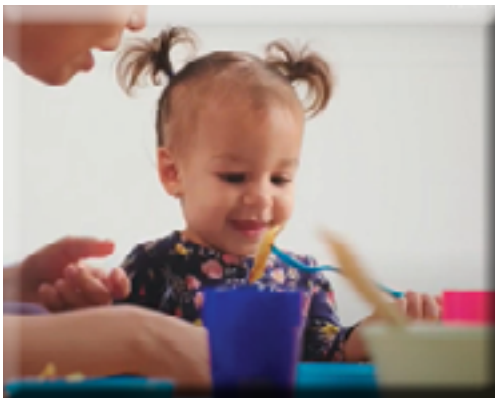


# Child and Adult Care Food Program

## July 2021

### USDA Resources for Shelters Feeding Homeless Youth and Families

#### Encourage Children to Try New Foods



**Get valuable ideas on how you can help toddlers develop self-feeding skills and healthy eating patterns with this short, informative video from USDA Team Nutrition.**

[Watch Video in English](#)   [Watch Video in Spanish](#)



Updated Guidelines for Safe Child Care Operations During COVID-19 are on the child care licensing website [here](#).

The Child Care Guidelines were updated to reflect current MDHHS guidelines, CDC guidelines and MIOSHA guidelines.

Join USDA, FRAC, and School House Connection to hear about the expansion of USDA's food program to allow children and young adults up to 24 years old to receive healthy meals at homeless and youth-serving shelters. USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) can help ensure that children and youth are fed healthy meals and snacks and that shelters remain financially sustainable during this difficult time. Participants will learn details of this new expansion, hear what this provision means for emergency shelter providers and the children and youth they serve, and receive tailored information on opportunities to implement this option and conduct outreach to help maximize the expansion. Participants will receive "hot off the press" outreach materials and will hear examples of innovative implementation and outreach strategies directly from youth serving emergency shelter operators in the field. Here is the link to the webinar registration page at [Webex Events \(classic\)](#)

Day and Time:  
Wednesday, July 7, 2021,  
from 2:00-3:00 EDT

## Brighton CACFP Meal Pattern Trainings

Free on-line trainings  
are now available.

Brighton Training  
Website link:

[www.  
misponsortraining.com](http://www.misponsortraining.com)

### New Sponsor Training 2021

(Course name: Michigan 120)

is now live. This training  
is for new Sponsors and/  
or Sponsors with new staff. It  
includes Civil Rights.

### Annual Sponsor Training

(Course Name: Michigan 110) is  
for returning CACFP sponsors  
and also included Civil Rights.

Both provide key training  
for new and returning staff.

A link to the training site is  
also located on the CACFP  
web page under the  
training button.



## Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver: Effective for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, is now available.

The USDA approved a nationwide waiver for meal pattern flexibility for School Year (SY) 2021-2022 for the CACFP (**Waiver # 91**). This waiver is offered to encourage the safe re-opening of child and adult care facilities throughout the summer and school year of 2021-2022. The USDA expects and strongly encourages Program operators to maintain and meet the nutrition standards for the CACFP to the greatest extent possible to ensure access to safe, nutritious meals.

The CACFP Meal Pattern Flexibility **waiver request form** must be completed to request a waiver. It can be completed at any time during the waiver period.

Complete the waiver form to request any or all of the following items:

- Waive the requirement to serve one whole grain rich (WGR) item per day
- Waive the requirement to begin using ounce equivalents to measure grain servings by October 1, 2021
- Waive the requirement to serve only fat free flavored milk (allows 1% flavored milk for participants ages 6 and up ONLY)

CACFP operators will need to provide targeted, justified reasons for each request(s) to waive the above meal pattern requirements. Reasons given are to demonstrate specific need based on the Sponsor's plans to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to COVID-19. Requests will be approved on a case by case basis for each sponsor. You will be notified via email regarding MDE's decision.

Please keep your participants' health and well-being in mind and seek to meet the meal pattern requirements to the greatest extent possible. All CACFP meal pattern requirements remain in effect.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program form is found on the MDE CACFP webpage under resources and here: **MDE CACFP Meal Pattern Waiver Request Form**

If you have any questions, please contact your program analyst (email is best), Melissa Lonsberry, Program Consultant, at [lonsberrym@michigan.gov](mailto:lonsberrym@michigan.gov) or the CACFP office at [MDE-CNAP-CACFP@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-CNAP-CACFP@michigan.gov).

# Cultivate Michigan Marketplace: Growing Connections in Early Care and Education

Later this summer, we will virtually gather early care and education providers, farmers, food suppliers, and farmers market managers in each region of the state to make connections between local food buyers and sellers.

Join us to build your network in these virtual meet-the-buyers style events! Food suppliers will make connections and learn how to market and sell to early care and education sites, and child care providers will connect with sellers to purchase local foods for the children they serve

These Cultivate Michigan Marketplace events are for:

- Early Care and Education Providers interested in purchasing local food products from farmers, food suppliers, and farmers markets in their region. Child care centers, family care homes, Head Start and Early Head Start, tribal child care programs, and preschools based in K-12 schools are welcome.
- Food Suppliers interested in selling local foods to early care and education sites in their region. Farmers, farmers market managers, food hubs, processors, and distributors are welcome.

Save the date for your regional event!

Each virtual event will take place from 6:30 – 7:30 pm on the following dates:

- Monday, August 16 – Upper Peninsula
- Tuesday, August 17 - Southwest Michigan
- Wednesday, August 18 – West Michigan
- Thursday, August 19 - Northern Lower Peninsula
- Monday, August 23 - East Michigan
- Tuesday, August 24 - Mid-Michigan
- Wednesday, August 25 - Southeast Michigan
- Thursday, August 26 – Southeast Michigan (Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties)

More details and registration to come soon.

To learn more about farm to early care and education, visit the [Michigan Farm to Early Care and Education Network website](#).

## Register now for the July CIGN Webinar Series

Menu Strategies for Special Diets and Allergens

Designing menus for students with allergies and special diets can be a challenge. This webinar will provide tips and strategies to help you move from menu challenges to customer service opportunities. Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE), USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Food Distribution, and the Laveen School District Menu Planner will provide information on how to enhance your menu offerings for students requiring menus to meet their unique needs.

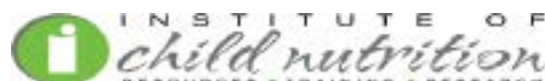
**SNA Key Area(s): 1 - Nutrition**

**USDA Professional Standard Code(s):** 1000 - Nutrition, 1100 - Menu Planning

**Learning Objective(s):** Participants will identify strategies to increase and enhance Special Diet and Allergen Aware menu items in their foodservice program.

Thursday, July 1, 2021 / 3:00-4:00 PM ET (2-3 PM CT, 1-2 PM MT, 12-1 PM PT)

**Register Now**





## Family Day Care Home Sponsor Expansion Opportunities in CACFP!

The MDE CACFP is looking for eligible organizations to provide oversight and guidance to family day care home providers by becoming a Family Day Care Home (FDCH) Sponsor. All family or group day care homes must come into the program under a sponsoring organization.

Financial assistance is available to a sponsoring organization for its administrative expenses associated with developing or expanding a food service program in family day care homes and initiating successful program operations.

Contact the CACFP Office at 517-241-5353 or MDE-CNAP-CACFP@michigan.gov with any questions.



## Team Nutrition is excited to announce the Institute of Child Nutrition's updated eLearning Portal, now with a fresh, new look and a new name: iLearn!

iLearn provides self-paced, free online learning and offers users the flexibility to complete courses in multiple sessions on desktop, laptop, or mobile devices. ICN has added new features that enhance the eLearning experience, including:

**Personalized Profiles:** Users can select English or Spanish and their Child Nutrition Program to complete their personalized profile. Courses are now organized to align with USDA's Professional Standard Codes and SNA Key Areas, allowing users to find what is needed to complete their goals. Users will be required to update their profile, language, and area of emphasis in the new iLearn platform when first logging in.

**Online Courses in Spanish:** iLearn includes ICN's first Spanish online course, *Nutrición 101 4ta Edicion*. Users can also select Español in their profile for a translated online experience.

**iLearn @ ICN Mobile App:** Child Nutrition Professionals can download the app and iLearn @ ICN on the go! The iLearn mobile app is available in Google Play and in the Apple App Store.

**Coming Soon - Live Webinars!** Child Nutrition Professionals can register and attend ICN's scheduled live webinars on iLearn and keep all information and certificates in one location.

## Common Threads

**Common Threads**, will be hosting a virtual two-day Wellness Summit beginning Tuesday, July 13th in partnership with **After-School All-Stars** and **FRESHFARM FoodPrints**. This summit is a free professional development opportunity for educators to learn from experts in different industries on how to prioritize health and wellness both in the classroom and beyond. The goal is to provide attendees training and resources to better implement mindfulness, movement and nutrition education into their curriculum. Learn more about how to register for the **Wellness Summit at [www.commonthreads.org/wellness-summit](http://www.commonthreads.org/wellness-summit)**.

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