Southwest eNews

Click Here for your March Training Module

What is the best way to send your forms to us?

Online Annual Training Module

Dear Providers,

Spring is basically here in Texas and March means St. Patrick's Day and CACFP week! We also have plenty of 2025 Calendars left. Order Yours Today! Just a quick note about your claim and the software you use. Only Kidkare.com qualifies as proof of you having recorded your claim. Brightwheel and other software does not qualify as a legitimate CACFP program or as proof during corrective action or an audit. All meal counts must be entered by midnight of each day. Here are your notes for March:

1) What is National CACFP Week?

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. The CACFP brings healthy foods to tables across the country for children in child care centers, homes, and afterschool programs as well as adults in day care.

You can participate by helping spread the word about the CACFP! Visit our <u>Campaign page</u> to download resources for spreading awareness in your classrooms, your community, and at the state level. We also invite you to be active on social media - participate in our <u>Social Media Challenge</u> for a chance to win \$100 and have your #CACFPCreditable snacks featured on our website or tell us how you're participating in CACFP Week by submitting your story to <u>CACFP Week in Action</u>. Finally, cacfp.org is hosting a webinar for each weekday of CACFP

Week centered around the topics of Community, Awareness, Children, Food Program and Participation.

2) From Southwest - Virtual visits are coming!

This month Southwest Human Development Services applied for and was granted a waiver from Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding remote monitoring.

What this means for you:

Southwest Human Development Services may conduct a visit with you via remote monitoring (on video) between now and September 30, 2025. Most providers will receive one visit remotely but not all. Some may receive two visits depending on the distance from the home and the monitor's headquarters. Providers must be in good standing to participate in remote visits.

What you can expect from a remote visit:

- Your Program Coordinator will check your records in KidKare prior to reaching out to you.
- Visits will be conducted via video through FaceTime, WhatsApp,
 Zoom, Google Duo, Facebook Messenger, Google Meet, etc.
- If your Program Coordinator reaches out, you will have 5 minutes to respond to them or this will be considered a not home visit. If the attempted visit is not completed, one more opportunity for a follow up remote visit will be afforded on another day.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Program Coordinator or the Austin office at (512) 467-7916 or (800) 369-9082 or email info@swhuman.org.

Thank you for all of that you do to support the wonderful children of Texas and their families. We are incredibly lucky to get to work with each and every one of you!

3) How do I access my 2024 Tax Reports?

In KidKare you can download it by Clicking Reports, then Claim Statements and then Tax Report, Select Year then hit Run. If you need a physical copy emailed or mailed to you call the Austin office at 1-800-369-9082 or email info@swhuman.org

Food Program Resources:

Visit our Website at www.swhuman.org

Click Here to connect with us on Facebook!

Online Annual Training Module

Annual Training Packet (Español)

<u>Direct Deposit Form</u>

CACFP Crediting Handbook

CACFP Reimbursement Rates

Income Standards For Determining Program Eligibility

WIC Eligibility Information

<u>Infant Feeding Guide</u>

Ounce Equivalents for Grains

Ounce Equivalents for Grains (Infants)

Provider Handbook (Español)

Getting Started with KidKare

Best way to send Forms to Southwest

Click here for Upcoming Workshop Details

Mar 27th - Mesquite

Latest From Cacfp.org:

Advocacy in Action!

Advocacy comes in many forms, and we're here to help you make an impact! Throughout February and the beginning of March, we will be sharing different

ways you can speak up, support, and take action for CACFP. Whether you are starting small or ready to tackle bigger challenges, every effort counts!

Advocacy Tip #1: One of the most powerful ways to advocate for the #CACFP is by sharing your story. Whether you are serving meals, working with a Sponsoring Organization, or supporting the program in another way - your experience matters!

- Start small Talk to a friend, neighbor or colleague about the work that you do!
- Take it Further Share your story with an elected official to help shape policy and awareness. Your voice can inspire change!

Follow along and stay tuned for more advocacy tips!

Advocacy Tip #2: Educate others about the #CACFP! While many people instantly recognize school meal programs, CACFP isn't often as easily recognizable - but it's just as essential! You can help raise awareness and highlight the impact of this vital program.

- Post on social media to spread the word.
- Share NCA's CACFP Fact Sheet or flyer on the benefits of the CACFP (in the comments below).
- Encourage providers to join the food program.

The more people understand the CACFP, the stronger our advocacy becomes. Follow along and stay tuned for more advocacy tips!

Advocacy Tip #3: Ask Your Officials for Support!

Your elected officials have the power to help bring about the changes you want to see. As community representatives, it's their job to listen and support your needs.

- Start by sending a written message to express your support for the #CACFP.
- Reach out by phone or schedule an in-person meeting to have a direct conversation.
- We've got templates to help get you started! Taking action with you officials can make a big difference!

Follow along and stay tuned for more advocacy tips. Check out tour comments below and find helpful resources for each of these steps!

Last Five Posts from the Tom Copeland Blog:

It's Tax Time! Here's How to Categorize Family Child Care Expenses
Should Family Child Care Providers Give Parents Their Social Security Number

or EIN?

Ask Civitas: December 2024 Reader Questions Answered!

Can I Deduct an Expense from Last Year on This Year's Tax Return?

Don't Get Caught Off Guard: 1099-K Updates You Need to Know for 2024 and 2025

Squaremeals.org:

CACFP News

<u>Click Here</u> for the latest CACFP Insight Newsletter from Squaremeals.org. (Published Periodically)

Team Nutrition:

Family Style Meal Service with Children in the CACFP
Growing a Healthier Future with the CACFP Infographic
Mealtimes With Toddlers in the CACFP

Team Nutrition Resources for Child Care

Team Nutrition is an initiative of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to support the child nutrition programs through training and technical assistance for food service, nutrition education for children and their caregivers, and school and community support for healthy eating and physical activity.

Institute of Child Nutrition:

Virtual Training:

The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) offers free virtual group training on a broad range of topics for child nutrition professionals working in school nutrition and child care settings. In addition to training sessions at the Institute's headquarters at The University of Mississippi, Virtual training may be requested free-of-charge.

<u>Virtual Training Sessions Currently Offered</u>

Child Nutrition Recipe Box:

Your resource for USDA Standardized Recipes for Child Nutrition Programs.

Child Nutrition Recipe Box

Mealtime Memo:

Mealtime Memo for Child Care offers information for child care providers participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, focused on good nutrition for young children. <u>Click here for the latest issue</u>

Our email campaign is designed to help keep our providers up to date with any news, changes or any unforeseen payment delays. If your email changes please send us the update at emailupdate@swhuman.org.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement





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