School Nutrition Update
December 21, 2020

In this Issue:

Program Operations Information
- Don’t Miss Your Opportunity to Comment on the Flexibilities Proposed Rule
- Prepare for Holidays and Winter Weather
- Complete Meal Counts Survey Daily
- Submit SFSP Applications After the Holidays

School Nutrition Spotlight
- Count Our Blessings
- Watch North Carolina School Nutrition Advocates on Education Matters
- Submit a School Nutrition Spotlight

Grants
- Check out the FY 2021 USDA Farm to School Grants RFA - Due 1/8
- Apply for the 2020 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants - Due 1/8
- Apply for the 2021 SNF Equipment Grants - Due 1/31
- Learn More about the Gro More Good Grassroots Grant

Continuing Education
- Plan to Join the SNA School Nutrition Industry Conference - 1/12-14/21
- Register for the Place It! for Safe Routes to School Workshop - 1/19
- Recap Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) Requirements
- Access Virtual Training Resources
Program Operations Information

**Don’t Miss Your Opportunity to Comment on the Flexibilities Proposed Rule**

Don’t miss the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Rule - Restoration of Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Flexibilities the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) published in the Federal Register on November 25. The Proposed Rule seeks to reinstate vacated milk, whole grains, and sodium flexibilities and make them available once again to schools and institutions participating in Child Nutrition Programs. Please review the Proposed Rule and submit comments on how it impacts your program by December 28 via regulations.gov. Guidance on how to submit comments is included in the Proposed Rule.

**Prepare for Holidays and Winter Weather**

With more winter weather and holidays approaching, now is the time to plan and work with families and partners to ensure that kids have the food they need. Please coordinate with your local Emergency Operations Center and ensure that you communicate any changes in meal service to families.

**Complete Meal Counts Survey Daily**

North Carolina remains in a state of emergency related to COVID-19. As such, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) must report daily meal counts to the N.C. Emergency Operations Center. Please use the survey link to submit meal count data daily by 6 pm. If you have questions or issues submitting the data, please reach out to Janet Johnson.

**Submit SFSP Applications After the Holidays**

If you have not submitted your Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) application, please take a break and submit after the holidays. In order to file the January claim, applications must be approved by January 31.

**School Nutrition Spotlight**

**Count our Blessings**

We count our students, School Nutrition teams, educators and all school staff across North Carolina among our blessings this year. Thank you #NCSchoolNutritionHeroes for all you do every day to nourish children’s bodies, minds and souls!

**Watch North Carolina School Nutrition Advocates on Education Matters**

Schools do a lot more than providing education. They are pillars in communities that also provide students and families with supports for social, emotional, and physical needs. On episode 162 of Education Matters, Reggie Ross, NCDPI School Nutrition Operations Consultant and School Nutrition Association President, Julie Paige Pittman, No Kid Hungry North Carolina Education Outreach Manager, Kisha Clemons, 2020 Wells Fargo Principal
of the Year, and Austin Morris, Pinecrest High School Teacher, share how schools are making sure the whole child and the community are taken care of, especially during COVID-19. Watch now.

Submit a School Nutrition Spotlight
We love lifting up our #NCSchoolNutritionHeroes! If you know of a North Carolina School Nutrition professional that has received an award, honor or other recognition or should be spotlighted, please share for an upcoming School Nutrition Spotlight. Please send details to Tracey Bates, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov.

Grants

Check out the FY 2021 USDA Farm to School Grants RFA - Due 1/8
The fiscal year (FY) 2021 USDA Farm to School Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA) is now available through grants.gov. Be sure to visit the Grant Applicant Resources page to access other helpful resources, including links to webinars that provide specific assistance on applying for a Farm to School Grant. Submit a Farm to School Grant application at grants.gov.

Apply for the 2020 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants - Due 1/8
NCDPI is pleased to announce the availability of the 2020 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants, specifically intended to help School Food Authorities (SFAs) purchase commercial equipment for use in preparing and/or serving nutritious meals to students that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The one-time appropriation of $905,285.00 has been made available to NCDPI for sub-grants for equipment purchases in eligible schools and sites in traditional, charter and non-public schools and residential child care institutions operating the NSLP. Applications are due to NCDPI by 5:00 pm, January 8, 2021. All funds must be fully expended by September 30, 2021. Please reference the November 6 email to School Nutrition administrators for more information and related documents. Should you have questions, please contact Jacquelyn McGowan at jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov.

Apply for the 2021 SNF Equipment Grants - Due 1/31
The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) is teaming up with industry partners to provide new kitchen equipment to deserving districts. Apply for the 2021 SNF Equipment Grant Program, featuring applications for four grants (the Winston Equipment Grant, the Vulcan Equipment Grant, the Hobart Equipment Grant, and the Collection Grant). The application period ends January 31, 2021. Learn more and apply.

Learn More about the Gro More Good Grassroots Grant
The 2021 Gro More Good Grassroots Grant presented by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation and KidsGardening is designed to bring the life-enhancing benefits of gardens to communities across the United States. Awards provide funding for the development of new and expansion of existing youth garden programs and greenspaces serving 15 or more youth. Winners will be selected based on their commitment to the maintenance and sustainability of their garden program including plans for growth and future fiscal stability. The Gro More Good Grassroots Grant is open to all nonprofit and tax exempt organizations (including schools). Sign up to be notified when the grant application opens.
Continuing Education

Plan to Join the SNA School Nutrition Industry Conference - 1/12-14
Join the School Nutrition Association for a premier virtual conference for operators and industry partners, reimagined to equip you for the challenges of leading in today's uncertain times. Learn more and register.

Register for the Place It! for Safe Routes to School Workshop - 1/19
Join the Safe Routes Partnership on January 19, 1-2:30 pm ET, for a free virtual workshop on how to creatively engage students, parents, staff, and teachers around Safe Routes to School. Register here.

Recap Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) Requirements
The N.C. Food Code requires food establishments to have a person in charge (PIC), who is a Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) on site at all times the establishment is in operation. To verify the PIC has an approved CFPM certification as specified in Paragraphs 2-102.12(A) and Section 2-102.20 of the NC Food Code Manual, the PIC must have successfully passed an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited CFPM examination. During COVID-19, there will be no points deducted during an inspection for an expired certificate although the expiration will be noted on the inspection form. This will allow additional time for certificate renewal.

The NCDPI Safe Plates for Food Managers course now uses the Prometrics, Inc. exam and the ServSafe© course uses the exam from the National Restaurant Association. Several other organizations offer ANSI accredited exams which will provide the certification required by the Food Code. It is important to remember it is successful passing of the EXAM not participation in a COURSE which provides the certification. Below is a listing of currently approved exams and some of these organizations offer online proctoring and/or online course instruction. It is not a requirement to participate in a course to take an exam although doing so may increase successful exam scores.

- 360training.com, Inc. (Learn2Serve® Food Protection Manager Certification Program)
- AboveTraining/StateFoodSafety.com (Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) Exam)
- National Registry of Food Safety Professionals (Food Protection Manager Certification Program; International Certified Food Safety Manager)
- National Restaurant Association (ServSafe® Food Protection Manager Certification Program)
- Prometric Inc. (Food Protection Manager Certification Program)
- The Always Food Safe Company, LLC (Food Protection Manager Certification)

N.C. State University Extension has plans to convert the Safe Plates for Food Managers course to an online format with remote proctoring for the Prometrics, Inc. exam by early spring 2021. We will provide additional details for this option when the course is launched.
**Access Virtual Training Opportunities**

The Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) has compiled resources to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. Online food safety/HACCP training is available on the NCDPI, School Nutrition website and the ICN website. Additional continuing education resources are available on the School Nutrition website from NCDPI, ICN, the School Nutrition Association and other agencies and organizations. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers COVID-19 professional resources for Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists (RDNs) and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs), and continuing professional education resources.

---

**Questions**

If you have any questions regarding these updates, please reach out to your regional consultants. Contact information for your Zone teams can be found here.

---

**USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at: How to File a Complaint, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter 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;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.