

Virtual CACFP SUMMIT

Aug. 14–15

Aug. 21–22

11:00 am - 3:00 pm ET

**Looking for food program training?
Earn up to 16.5 hours of CEUs.**



PERFECT FOR:

- ✓ Child Care Centers
- ✓ Home Providers
- ✓ Sponsoring Organizations
- ✓ Head Start
- ✓ Schools
- ✓ Emergency Shelters
- ✓ Tribal Nations
- ✓ Food Banks
- ✓ Anti-Hunger Advocates

The Power of the Food Program

Motivating Children to Eat Healthy Food, Family Style Meal Service, Menu Planning, Head Start CACFP and more.

Federal Updates and Resources

USDA Program Updates, CACFP Newsroom: Advocacy, Stories, the Hill and more.

Personal & Professional Development

Finding the Leader in You, Communicating with Impact and more.

\$149

Lowest rate available through July 31.
Additional deadlines and registration
information available online.

cacfp.org/summit

Agenda

11:00 am – 11:30 am Exploring the Power of the Food Program

It's no secret that learning the ins and outs of the CACFP can be a journey that spans years. Learn about the history of the CACFP, discover where to find training opportunities, share your motivation, celebrate the important work you do every day, and embrace the Power of the Food Program.

Presented by: Lisa Mack

11:40 am – 12:40 pm USDA Program Updates & Resources

Hear from USDA as they present an in-depth overview of policy guidance and provide a state-of-the-program update for the CACFP. Learn what valuable resources are available to help you enhance the quality and efficiency of your CACFP operations.

Presented by: USDA Food & Nutrition Services

12:50 pm – 1:50 pm Menu Essentials: Planning for Success

Receive insight in the menu planning process, from brainstorming creative dishes to ensuring CACFP creditable food components and practical execution. Discover how to infuse your menus with excitement and flavor while meeting the needs of diverse palates and dietary preferences. Get essential skills to plan menus that can be used time and time again.

Presented by: Isabel Ramos-Lebron

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Finding the Leader In You

Are you ready to become a successful leader? Explore key concepts and strategies to develop leadership skills and qualities within yourself. Identify and recognize your personal leadership strengths and areas for growth to unlock your full potential.

Presented by: Kim Johnson

Speakers



Lisa Mack, President & CEO, National CACFP Sponsors Association

Lisa works with the Board of Directors to develop and implement the long-term operating plan to ensure the growth and success of the National CACFP Sponsors Association. Central to that plan is managing member relationships, resource and product development, training and conference programming, and partnership development. She has a BBA from Pace University.



USDA Food & Nutrition Services

The mission of the USDA Food & Nutrition Services is to increase food security and reduce hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthy diet and nutrition education in a manner that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence.



Isabel Ramos-Lebron MS, RDN, LDN, Nutrition Education Specialist, National CACFP Sponsors Association

Isabel develops nutrition education materials and provides informational webinars on nutrition to support stronger program operations. She has a strong background and passion in working with low-income communities of various cultural backgrounds, while working on graduate research projects and working in the nonprofit, food banking environment for eight years. Isabel has an MS in Nutritional Sciences and is a registered dietitian and nutritionist.



Kim Johnson, MSW, President & CEO, Florida Impact

Kim has spent the last 33 years working on the front lines of underserved communities in Central Florida helping to improve the lives of children, youth, and families. Her experience includes years of management, program development, training, teaching, grant writing and community engagement in social service, schools, university and nonprofit settings. She is currently board chair of UCF United Methodist Church Wesley Ministry and board member of National Education & Empowerment Coalition. She is a graduate of Adelphi University.



Rhonda Kobylecky, CMP, CCNP, Director of Food Services, Acelero Learning

In addition to her role with a multi-state Head Start organization that serves over 5,000 children, Rhonda consults for Acelero's sister program, Shine Implement. Rhonda enjoys training and sharing her CACFP, SERV Safe and Head Start knowledge with others. She currently serves as the chair for the NCA Board of Directors. Rhonda received her degree from the College of Southern Nevada.



Shauna Payne, Nutrition Manager, Tallatoona Community Action Partnership, Inc.

Shauna operates and maintains compliance in the CACFP to ensure the nutritional needs of each child in the Head Start program are met. Tallatoona serves 611 children ages 3-5 with seven HS centers in Northwest Georgia. Shauna has an Associates of Applied Science degree in culinary arts, has been in the food-service industry for over 20 years, and has cooked professionally and managed departments in a variety of food-service sectors.

Agenda

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Coffee & Conversation: Head Start CACFP

Get ready for this attendee-favorite where your questions take center stage. Whether you're curious about best practices, compliance, or anything else related to CACFP for Head Start, we've got you covered. Come prepared to dive deep and have your questions answered in real-time.

Presented by: Rhonda Kobylecky, Shauna Payne, Jami Rokala, Sheila Tompkins-Hess

12:10 pm – 1:10 pm Creating a Community: Family Style Meal Service in Child Care

Transform mealtime into a joyful and shared experience with family style meal service! Discover practical tips and creative strategies for implementing this approach, fostering social skills, independence, and healthy eating habits in children. Gain expert insights on crafting a warm, inclusive mealtime atmosphere that delights both children and caregivers.

Presented by: Isabel Ramos-Lebron

1:20 pm – 2:20 pm Who's At the Door? Field Monitoring & Site Visits

CACFP sponsors, state agencies, and operators alike are all partners in providing healthy foods to children and adults in care. Training and technical assistance, demonstrating compliance with program regulations, and an opportunity for sharing the impact of the food program are all part of a site visit. Learn the requirements, what to expect at a review, and how to handle uncommon situations.

Presented by: Denise Andrews, Deborah Gillison-Wilson, Brittany Uribe

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm Recruitment Outreach: Enrolling Providers, Engaging Families

Looking to promote the CACFP to new providers and centers who aren't on the food program? Trying to figure out how to let parents know how your participation in CACFP means their children are getting a healthy start in life? Learn why it's important to add regular outreach activities to your to-do list and what steps you can take to improve your recruitment efforts.

Presented by: Lisa Mack

Speakers



Jami Rokala, MS, RDN, LD, CLC, CMP, CCNP, Founder & Owner, Headwaters Nutrition Counseling

Jami has worked as a child nutrition professional for the state of ND as a Child Nutrition Specialist and as Child Nutrition Manager for Head Starts/ Early Head Starts and Migrant and Seasonal Head Starts throughout the state of MN and ND. Currently, she contracts with Head Start agencies as the RDN and has a focus on 0-18 year old's struggling with anxious, avoidant, or selective eating and nutrition concerns. She is a graduate of the University of North Dakota.



Sheila Tompkins-Hess, Program Officer, Department of Child and Family Services

Sheila has been a supporter of Head Start for much of her life. She attended Head Start as a child and then worked as a teacher, a director and a supervisor for Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Sheila loves working with children and helping staff to increase their skills with the children they support. Sheila has been a trainer at NAEYC, state conferences and ECE trainings in Las Vegas. She attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



Denise Andrews, CMP, CCNP, CEO & Director, For the Children

Denise helped establish For the Children, a nonprofit CACFP sponsor for licensed child care homes in Oklahoma, in 200. In her position at FTC, Denise strives to develop cooperative working relationships with other sponsors and child care providers and hopes to do the same at a national level.



Deborah Gillison-Wilson, CMP, CCNP, Executive Director, Georgia Nutritional Services, Inc.

Deborah has over 20 years of experience working with CACFP and has been a CACFP sponsor since 1996. She has led over 40 annual CACFP and Civil Rights trainings and has an overwhelming internal library of knowledge of CACFP. Under her directive, GNSI exists to improve and maintain sound nutritional health of children and adults by promoting the development of good eating habits for participants enrolled in their clients' facilities.



Brittany Uribe, Virtual Event Specialist, National CACFP Sponsors Association

Brittany plans and coordinates all webinars and virtual events for NCA, including those during the National Child Nutrition Conference. Brittany graduated from Florida State University with a BS in Family and Child Science. She began working for a CACFP sponsor in South Florida in 2013 and grew passionate about expanding CACFP training opportunities and educational resources.

“I'm new to CACFP and this was my first glimpse into the scope and depth of training available to me. It was very impressive, and I look forward to more.” – 2023 Participant

Agenda

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Coffee & Conversation: CACFP Meal Patterns

Grab your favorite beverage and join us for this must-attend discussion about the CACFP Meal Pattern. You won't want to miss out on the valuable insights and lively interactions during this live Q&A. Connect with the experts and gain a deeper understanding of the CACFP Meal Pattern.

Presented by: Isabel Ramos-Lebron; Lisa Mack; Kate Abernathy

12:10 pm – 1:10 pm The Joys of the Garden Classroom

Learn how to move through the seasons with practical, hands-on learning activities designed to captivate and inspire early learners. Discover creative and innovative ways to transform the garden and outdoors into a living classroom, providing endless opportunities to bridge subjects in a meaningful context. Energize your teaching approach and delight your students with engaging methods to explore and appreciate the beauty of our natural world.

Presented by: Andrea Zoppo

1:20 pm – 2:20 pm Motivating Children to Eat Healthy Foods

Getting children to choose healthy food options can be a challenge. Learn imaginative ways to involve them with foods to foster healthy eating habits. Through interactive discussions, tweaking CACFP creditable recipes and encouraging creative food explorations, CACFP operators can help children discover the excitement of making nutritious choices.

Presented by: Isabel Ramos-Lebron

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm CACFP Newsroom: Policy, Advocacy, Stories and the Hill

Get the latest news! We'll discuss policy updates, advocacy efforts, and share the most recent happenings in the CACFP. Whether you're a provider, sponsor, or advocate, we'll equip you with the knowledge and tools to navigate and influence to promote the mission of the CACFP. Stay informed and inspired to make a difference in your community.

Presented by: Alexia Thex

Speakers



Kate Abernathy, MS, RDN, LDN, CMP, CCNP, Chief Executive Officer, Providers Choice

Kate's work focuses on expanding participation of CACFP healthy meals and snacks to children across Minnesota. Providers Choice sponsors over 3,000 homes and 60 centers. Kate is passionate about child nutrition. Kate's in-depth nutrition expertise and leadership supports providers with managing special diets, creating resources to simplify the CACFP and overall program support to child care providers. Kate has a BA from the College of Saint Benedict and her MS from Eastern Michigan University.



Andrea Zoppo, Founder, Follow Ladybug

Andrea Zoppo possesses the gift of teaching and the ability to empower children to confidently care for our world. With nearly 20 years of experience, she has laid a foundation for the Farm-to-Early Care and Education program at Little Ones Early Learning Center. Andrea's passion for nature and her unique talent for making every child feel important set her apart. She excels in teaching, curriculum planning, and fostering lifelong learning among her students and colleagues.



Alexia Thex, MEd, Director of Policy and Partnerships, National CACFP Sponsors Association

Alexia is charged with expanding NCA's advocacy on policy matters and advancing the mission and interests of association members and stakeholders while forming mutually long-term, beneficial partnerships with corporations and organizations fitting the mission of NCA. Through her career in development, Alexia has also raised funds for Downtown Houston YMCA, the Holocaust Museum Houston and schools her children attend. She has a MEd in Exercise Physiology from the University of Texas.



CEUs will be available for the CACFP Virtual Summit and apply towards NCA's CACFP [Professional Certification Program](#). You will receive a certificate of attendance for each session you complete and may submit the certificate to other professional organizations for their review.

Agenda

11:00 am – 12:00 pm CACFP Expense Detective: What's Allowed?

Unsure how to distinguish between allowable and unallowable costs in the CACFP? Join us as we clearly define the differences to help you understand how to use CACFP funds effectively. Learn how to ensure all your purchases support and enhance your CACFP operations. Gain valuable insights to maximize your program's potential while staying compliant with CACFP guidelines.

Presented by: Cherese Myree

12:10 pm – 1:10 pm Great Grains! Taking the Guess Work Out of What's Creditable

Serving whole grain-rich grains once per day, when grains are served, in ounce equivalents is a requirement in the CACFP. Explore various types of whole grains like amaranth, sorghum, and millet to expand your menu planning options. Learn how to determine ounce equivalency, how to identify whole grains, how to modify meals using these great grains, and how to prepare these for CACFP creditable recipes.

Presented by: Isabel Ramos-Lebron

1:20 pm – 2:20 pm Communicating with Impact

Your brain processes nearly 80 GB of data in a single day. That's about as much as watching 16 movies in a row! It's no wonder we often feel overwhelmed by the idea of having to hold difficult conversations with our coworkers. Learn about a series of tools that can help you improve your communication and feedback competency, equipping you with a means for having more impactful conversations.

Presented by: Jordan George

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm Summit Wrap-Up: Ask Us Anything

Didn't get the information you were looking for this week? Now's the time to join us for our speed round of Q&A. We'll get through as many questions as we can, ask for your feedback, and share what's coming up next at NCA.

Presented by: Lisa Mack, Alexia Thex, Isabel Ramos-Lebron

Speakers



Jordan George, SPHR, LDCP, sHRBP, Vice President, Curium Solutions

Jordan is an award-winning culture transformation leader whose ambition is to change the way the world works for the better. He has invested more than 16,000 hours over the last 20 years helping businesses shape their organizational culture, lead through change, and foster a dynamic, high-impact workforce. With his help, teams ranging from regional non-profits to global Fortune 500 companies have transformed the way they work for the better. He is a graduate of Rollins College.



Cherese Myree, CFE, Vice President, MH Miles Company, CPA, PC

Cherese is a certified fraud examiner who specializes in the USDA Food Programs and governmental compliance. She has over 15 years of experience in the fields of auditing, accounting, and consulting with specialized experience in governmental contract auditing and contract compliance. She testifies as an expert witness for the CACFP and SFSP and manages MHMC's review, consultant and training engagements across the United States. Cherese is a graduate of Clark University.



Certificates will be issued after the on-demand period closes. The processing typically takes about one to two weeks. Once ready, you can find your certificate in your Info Hub.

On Demand

**These sessions were previously recorded.*

CACFP Overview

You're new-ish to the food program and concepts in the CACFP may not be as foreign to you, but you'd love to really explore the important areas in the CACFP. Join us as we review the meal patterns, identify basic program administration requirements, and get a refresher on how reimbursement works in the CACFP.

Presented by: Isabel Ramos-Lebron

LENGTH: 1 hour

CACFP Creditable Tools & Resources

Learn about the nutrition education resources which are available free-of-charge, including the guides for identifying whole-grain-rich, determining sugar content in cereals and yogurt, and which milk to serve in the CACFP.

Presented by: Lisa Mack

LENGTH: 30 min

CN Labels & Product Formulation Statements: Hands-On Practice

When should you request a CN Label or PFS? Is the crediting documentation for your product acceptable? Get clarity on common issues related to inaccurate or misleading product documentation. USDA will provide guidance on accepting documentation for meal pattern requirements and share sample Product Formulation Statements and CN Labels. Learn how to assess crediting documentation using sample CN Labels and Product Formulation Statements.

Presented by: Nutrition and Technical Assistance Branch USDA Food and Nutrition Service: Kaushalya Heendeniya, and Anne Garceau

LENGTH: 1 hour

Speakers



Kaushalya Heendeniya, MS, RD, USDA FNS

Kaushalya serves as the Team Lead for a dynamic group working on CNP projects and initiatives related to the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program. She serves as Project Lead for various technology-based training and technical assistance resources for CNP administrators, operators, and other stakeholders, such as the Food Buying Guide Interactive Web Tool and Mobile App and the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool.



Anne Garceau, MS, RDN, USDA FNS

Anne develops and updates resources and provides technical guidance for Child Nutrition Programs. Her projects include The Food Buying Guide, Crediting Handbook for the CACFP, CN Labeling Verification Reports, and the CN Database for use in USDA-approved software. Anne has a master's in nutrition from Tufts University and a bachelor's in nutrition from the University of New Hampshire.



Sessions will be recorded in case you miss the live scheduled time or would like to revisit the content at your convenience through August 29, 2024. You can find the links to the recordings in the event attendee emails from NCA, or in the registration confirmation emails from Zoom.

Aug. 14–15
Aug. 21–22

Can't miss sessions!

- Exploring the Power of the Food Program
- USDA Program Updates & Resources
- Menu Essentials: Planning for Success
- Finding the Leader In You
- Coffee & Conversation: Head Start CACFP
- Creating a Community: Family Style Meal Service in Child Care
- Who's At the Door? Field Monitoring & Site Visits
- Recruitment Outreach: Enrolling Providers, Engaging Families
- Coffee & Conversation: CACFP Meal Patterns
- The Joys of the Garden Classroom
- Motivating Children to Eat Healthy Foods
- CACFP Newsroom: Policy, Advocacy, Stories and the Hill
- CACFP Expense Detective: What's Allowed?
- Great Grains! Taking the Guess Work Out of What's Creditable
- Communicating with Impact
- Ask Us Anything
- CACFP Overview
- Creditable Tools & Resources
- CN Labels & Product Formulation Statements: Hands-On Practice

**Deadline for Application is
July 24, 2024 at 8:00 PM Eastern.**

[Click here](#) to apply.

- Four days of training
- 16 sessions
- Up to 100 scholarships

cacfp.org/summit



**Scholarships
Available**

**We're giving away \$15,000
in scholarships!**

Virtual CACFP SUMMIT

Schedule at a Glance

Eastern

Wednesday, Aug. 14

11:00 am – 11:30 am
Exploring the Power of the Food Program

11:40 am – 12:40 pm
USDA Program Updates & Resources

12:50 pm – 1:50 pm
Menu Essentials: Planning for Success

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Finding the Leader In You

Thursday, Aug. 15

11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Coffee & Conversation: Head Start CACFP

12:10 pm – 1:10 pm
Creating a Community: Family Style Meal Service in Child Care

1:20 pm – 2:20 pm
Who's At the Door? Field Monitoring & Site Visits

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Recruitment Outreach: Enrolling Providers, Engaging Families

Wednesday, Aug. 21

11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Coffee & Conversation: CACFP Meal Patterns

12:10 pm – 1:10 pm
The Joys of the Garden Classroom

1:20 pm – 2:20 pm
Motivating Children to Eat Healthy Foods

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm
CACFP Newsroom: Policy, Advocacy, Stories and the Hill

Thursday, Aug. 22

11:00 am – 12:00 pm
CACFP Expense Detective: What's Allowed?

12:10 pm – 1:10 pm
Great Grains! Taking the Guess Work Out of What's Creditable

1:20 pm – 2:20 pm
Communicating with Impact

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Summit Wrap-Up: Ask Us Anything

Central

10:00 am – 10:30 am
Exploring the Power of the Food Program

10:40 am – 11:40 am
USDA Program Updates & Resources

11:50 am – 12:50 pm
Menu Essentials: Planning for Success

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Finding the Leader In You

10:00 am – 11:00 am
Coffee & Conversation: Head Start CACFP

11:10 am – 12:10 pm
Creating a Community: Family Style Meal Service in Child Care

12:20 pm – 1:20 pm
Who's At the Door? Field Monitoring & Site Visits

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Recruitment Outreach: Enrolling Providers, Engaging Families

10:00 am – 11:00 am
Coffee & Conversation: CACFP Meal Patterns

11:10 am – 12:10 pm
The Joys of the Garden Classroom

12:20 pm – 1:20 pm
Motivating Children to Eat Healthy Foods

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm
CACFP Newsroom: Policy, Advocacy, Stories and the Hill

10:00 am – 11:00 am
CACFP Expense Detective: What's Allowed?

11:10 am – 12:10 pm
Great Grains! Taking the Guess Work Out of What's Creditable

12:20 pm – 1:20 pm
Communicating with Impact

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Summit Wrap-Up: Ask Us Anything

Mountain

9:00 am – 9:30 am
Exploring the Power of the Food Program

9:40 am – 10:40 am
USDA Program Updates & Resources

10:50 am – 11:50 am
Menu Essentials: Planning for Success

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Finding the Leader In You

9:00 am – 10:00 am
Coffee & Conversation: Head Start CACFP

10:10 am – 11:10 am
Creating a Community: Family Style Meal Service in Child Care

11:20 am – 12:20 pm
Who's At the Door? Field Monitoring & Site Visits

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm
Recruitment Outreach: Enrolling Providers, Engaging Families

9:00 am – 10:00 am
Coffee & Conversation: CACFP Meal Patterns

10:10 am – 11:10 am
The Joys of the Garden Classroom

11:20 am – 12:20 pm
Motivating Children to Eat Healthy Foods

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm
CACFP Newsroom: Policy, Advocacy, Stories and the Hill

9:00 am – 10:00 am
CACFP Expense Detective: What's Allowed?

10:10 am – 11:10 am
Great Grains! Taking the Guess Work Out of What's Creditable

11:20 am – 12:20 pm
Communicating with Impact

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm
Summit Wrap-Up: Ask Us Anything

Pacific

8:00 am – 8:30 am
Exploring the Power of the Food Program

8:40 am – 9:40 am
USDA Program Updates & Resources

9:50 am – 10:50 am
Menu Essentials: Planning for Success

11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Finding the Leader In You

8:00 am – 9:00 am
Coffee & Conversation: Head Start CACFP

9:10 am – 10:10 am
Creating a Community: Family Style Meal Service in Child Care

10:20 am – 11:20 am
Who's At the Door? Field Monitoring & Site Visits

11:30 am – 12:00 pm
Recruitment Outreach: Enrolling Providers, Engaging Families

8:00 am – 9:00 am
Coffee & Conversation: CACFP Meal Patterns

9:10 am – 10:10 am
The Joys of the Garden Classroom

10:20 am – 11:20 am
Motivating Children to Eat Healthy Foods

11:30 am – 12:00 pm
CACFP Newsroom: Policy, Advocacy, Stories and the Hill

8:00 am – 9:00 am
CACFP Expense Detective: What's Allowed?

9:10 am – 10:10 am
Great Grains! Taking the Guess Work Out of What's Creditable

10:20 am – 11:20 am
Communicating with Impact

11:30 am – 12:00 pm
Summit Wrap-Up: Ask Us Anything

