



Celebrating
40
years

Look Inside!

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Register online at
cacfp.org/conference

April 13-17, 2026 | *Las Vegas*

CHILD NUTRITION CONFERENCE

CACFP • AFTERSCHOOL MEALS • SUMMER FOOD

Schedule of Events



Days of Education



150 Hours of Workshops



Over 200 Presenters



36+ CEUs

Check cacfp.org/conference for schedule updates.

Thank you to our Sponsors!

Lunch Sponsor & Tote Bag Sponsor



40th Anniversary Celebration Reception Sponsor



Self-Kare Lounge Sponsor



Afterschool Meals Track Sponsor & Summer Food Track Sponsor



Nutrition Education Track Sponsor



Monday, April 13, 2026		Virtual Sessions
8:00 am - 7:00 pm	Registration & Info Desk Open	
10:00 am - 1:00 pm	Preconference Academy *Pre-registration required	
1:15 pm - 1:45 pm	Navigating the Conference Q&A	
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Afterschool Meals Overview	
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Leadership Labs	
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	State Agency Listening Session*By invitation only	
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Professional Headshots	
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Preconference Academy *Pre-registration required	
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	SFSP Overview	SFSP Overview On Demand
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	Leadership Labs	
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Professional Networking Strategies & Tips	
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Regional Networking	
Tuesday, April 14, 2026		Virtual Sessions
7:15 am - 7:45 am	CACFP Creditable Tools & Resources	CACFP Creditable Tools & Resources
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Group Meetups	
9:15 am - 10:15 am	CACFP Overview	CACFP Overview
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Preconference Academy *Pre-registration required	
9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open	
9:15 am - 10:15 am	State Agency Collaboration *By invitation only	
10:30 am - 11:00 am	CACFP Certification Overview	CACFP Certification Overview On Demand
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Mid-Morning Coffee Break in Exhibit Hall	
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	State Agency Office Hours	
1:15 pm - 2:45 pm	National Conference General Session	National Conference General Session
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Featured Speakers	Coming Soon
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open	
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	40th Anniversary Celebration Reception	
Wednesday, April 15, 2026		Virtual Sessions
7:00 am - 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast, Coffee & Conversation	
7:15 am - 7:45 am	Shop Talks	
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Workshops Session One	Coming Soon
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Workshops Session Two	Coming Soon
9:30 am - 12:30 pm	Exhibit Hall Open	
10:30 am - 11:00 am	NCA Annual Meeting *By invitation only	NCA Annual Meeting
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:45 pm - 2:45 pm	Workshops Session Three	Coming Soon
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Workshops Session Four	Coming Soon
4:15 pm - 5:15 pm	Workshops Session Five	Coming Soon
5:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Shop Talks	
Thursday, April 16, 2026		Virtual Sessions
7:00 am - 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast, Coffee & Conversation	
7:15 am - 7:45 am	Shop Talks	
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Workshops Session Six	Coming Soon
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Workshops Session Seven	Coming Soon
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Workshops Session Eight	Coming Soon
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Lunch	
12:45 pm - 1:15 pm	Workshops Session Nine - Speed Sessions	Coming Soon
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Workshops Session Ten	Coming Soon
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm	Workshops Session Eleven	Coming Soon
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Featured Speakers	Coming Soon
5:15 pm - 5:45 pm	Shop Talks	
Friday, April 17, 2026		
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Postconference Academy *Pre-registration required	
8:15 am - 8:45 am	Spotlight Session - Coming Soon	
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Spotlight Session - Coming Soon	
10:15 am - 11:15 am	Spotlight Session - Coming Soon	
10:30 am - 12:30 pm	Postconference Academy *Pre-registration required	
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Spotlight Session - Coming Soon	



Discover the Power of Networking!

“The conference is an **amazing networking tool**. It's so nice to have one place to go and get the knowledge to help in your job.”



Visit cacfp.org/conference/networking to learn more about all of the events we have planned for you.



► Monday, April 13 *New this year!*

Leadership Labs

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm & 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm

Professional Networking Strategies and Tips

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Regional Networking

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

► Tuesday, April 14 *Back by popular demand!*

Group Meetups

8:00 am - 9:00 am

Mid-Morning Coffee Break

10:30 am - 11:30 am

State Agency Office Hours

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

40th Anniversary Celebration Reception

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

► Wednesday, April 15

Continental Breakfast, Coffee & Conversation

7:00 am - 8:00 am

CACFP Professionals Networking Lunch

12:15 pm - 1:30 pm

► Thursday, April 16

Continental Breakfast, Coffee & Conversation

7:00 am - 8:00 am

► Friday, April 17

Rising Leaders Coffee & Connections

8:15 am - 8:45 am



Group Meetups

- » Centers - Adult Care
- » Centers - Afterschool
- » CACFP Sponsor ED/CEO
- » CACFP Sponsor of Afterschool Meals
- » CACFP Sponsor of Centers
- » CACFP Sponsor of Family Child Care Homes
- » Claims Administrators
- » Cooks
- » Child Care Center Directors
- » Family Home Providers
- » Field Monitors
- » Food Banks
- » Head Start Managers
- » Schools - Afterschool
- » Schools - Summer Food
- » State Agency ARAS
- » State Agency CACFP
- » State Agency Directors
- » State Agency Nutritionists
- » State Agency - SUN Meals
- » Emergency Shelters
- » Nutritionists
- » Summer Food
- » Tribal Nations





Celebrating
40
years

General Session

We're kicking off our 40th anniversary in one room with one focus! You can be sure you'll leave knowing that your role is as important as any other in ensuring that all children and adults will have access to healthy foods.



Food & Beverage

Mid-Morning Coffee Break

Tuesday, April 14
10:30 am - 11:30 am

40th Anniversary Celebration Reception

Tuesday, April 14
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Continental Breakfast, Coffee & Conversation

Wednesday, April 15
7:00 am - 8:00 am

Thursday, April 16
7:00 am - 8:00 am

Buffet Lunches

Wednesday, April 15
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Thursday, April 16
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Rising Leaders Coffee & Connections

Friday, April 17
8:15 am - 8:45 am



Meals and coffee breaks are a great time to mix and mingle!

He's back!

Elmo will be traveling to Las Vegas
all the way from Sesame Street!



in Communities





Scholarships Available!

We are thrilled to offer 7 scholarships for the 2026 National Child Nutrition Conference onsite in Las Vegas. We will also be awarding 8 additional scholarships to attend virtually.

An onsite scholarship includes conference registration fees, four (4) nights lodging and up to \$450.00 towards transportation costs, valued at over \$1,900 per scholarship.

Applications are due by January 12, 2026. Recipients will be announced in early February.



Visit cacfp.org/scholarships to submit your application.

Apply online if you work at a:

- ▶ Sponsoring Organization
- ▶ Family Home Provider
- ▶ Child Care Center
- ▶ Adult Day Care Center
- ▶ Head Start
- ▶ School District
- ▶ Afterschool Site
- ▶ Emergency Shelter
- ▶ Summer Food Site
- ▶ Food Bank
- ▶ Tribal Nation



Discover new resources and products...



Exhibit Hall Hours

Tuesday, April 14

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Wednesday, April 16

9:30 am - 12:30 pm



Workshops & Speed Sessions

Workshops and speed sessions do not require pre-registration, and you are welcome to attend any session you desire.

This is not a definitive list! Sessions may change or be added, so check the website for up-to-date information.



Visit cacfp.org/conference/2026-workshops for descriptions, learning goals, speakers and CEU specialties.

Nutrition Education

- » All4Kids: Growing Healthy Bodies and Minds in Preschoolers
- » Eat, Think, Create: Exploring Food Through STEAM
- » Food Through Play: Teaching Kids About Nutrition with Storytime
- » Fueling Futures: How Nutrition Shapes Growth, Learning & Behavior
- » The Future of School Meals: Innovation and Student Engagement
- » Healthy Habits Outdoors: Nutrition and Play in Child Care
- » No Pushback, Just Buy-In: Plant-Based Success in the CACFP
- » Planning Menus That Bring Us Together
- » Power Up Your Meal Program: Tools to Boost Nutrition Education

CACFP Meal Patterns

- » Beyond Beginners: Next Level Menu Planning
- » CACFP in Adult Day Care 101
- » CN Labels and PFS Made Simple
- » Crediting Basics and Beyond in the CACFP
- » Crediting Recipes Step-by-Step
- » Grain Ounce Equivalents Made Easy
- » Identifying Whole Grain-Rich
- » Little Plates, Big Impact: Enhance CACFP with Local Produce
- » Making Milk Requirements Easy
- » Navigating Special Diets
- » Quizapalooza: Are You a Meal Pattern Super Star?
- » What About the Babies? Streamline Your Infant Feeding



This is an extremely valuable experience. Not only do we get the benefit of learning **new skills** or brushing up on previous knowledge, but we also get a chance to meet new people and gain **alternative perspectives** from others who are also doing the work.

Farm to CACFP

- » Building Your Farm to ECE Program From Seed to Harvest
- » The Children's Farmers Market: Growing Healthy Futures
- » Cultivating Change: The Collaborative Approach to Farm to ECE
- » Farm to ECE Panel: Understanding Successful Local Food Purchasing
- » Fresh Picks: A Deep Dive into Farm to ECE Resources
- » Garden-Based Nutrition for Early Childhood: I Am a Seed
- » Local Food Procurement: Find the Best Fit for Your Site
- » Visualize Your Farm to CACFP Dream

Summer Food

- » Data-Driven Decisions: Expanding Summer Meals in Oklahoma
- » Ensuring Integrity in Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service
- » From Fragile to Resilient: Sustaining Summer Meals in Uncertain Times
- » Home Delivery: Lessons from Serving 7,000 Children Weekly
- » Increasing Summer Meal Impact Through Partnerships
- » Non-Congregate Summer Meals: Learnings and Expansion Opportunities
- » Nourishing Engagement: Marketing Strategies for Summer Meals
- » Rural Non-Congregate in Action: Best Practices for Grab & Go Sites
- » Sunshine on a Plate: Shining a Light on SUN Meals To-Go



Head Start

- » Benefits of Nutrition Education in Early Childhood Settings
- » Bringing Head Start Home: Helping Families Create Healthy Habits
- » CACFP & Head Start Food Service Regulations
- » Family Style Dining in Head Start: Building Healthy Habits
- » Family Style Dining: Basics to Best Practice
- » Nourishing Young Minds Starts with Us
- » On the Hunt for Good Nutrition: Healthy Foundations in Head Start

Afterschool Meals

- » Expanding Afterschool & Summer Meals Through Youth Engagement
- » From Supper to Summer: Maximizing Seasonal Meal Program Impact
- » No Kitchen? No Cook? No Problem! Fresh Afterschool & Summer Meals
- » No Money, No Problem: Turning Scarcity into Innovation

Program Administration & Operations

- » Communicating CACFP Benefits to Families and Stakeholders
- » Completing Claims Like Clockwork
- » The Compliance Trap: Why Good Programs Still Fail
- » Engaging Families in the CACFP: From Menu to Home
- » Errors to Excellence: Practical Ways to Prevent Costly Mistakes
- » Plan It, Shop It, Serve It: Menu Planning in the CACFP
- » To Vend or Not to Vend: Building Your Food Program
- » Turning Chaos into Compliance: Reducing Site Paperwork Errors
- » Turning Compliance Into Cash Flow: A New Way to Talk About CACFP
- » Using the Food Buying Guide: From Recipe to Shopping List

Policy & Advocacy

- » Championing Change with CACFP Advocacy
- » Child Nutrition Reauthorization: Continued Advocacy for the CACFP
- » Compliance and Special Diets in the CACFP
- » Make America's Children Healthy Again
- » State Agency Strategies to Uplift the CACFP
- » Ultra-Processed Foods: Nutrition Quality in Policy and Practice



cacfp.org/conference/2026-workshops

Management & Professional Development

- » Don't Be a Bore: Make Your Trainings ROAR
- » Mindful Communication: Speak Clearly, Listen Compassionately
- » Nourishing the Nourisher: Self-Care for Child Nutrition Professionals
- » The Power of Their Presence: The Untold Secret to Success in CACFP
- » Protecting Your Energy and Purpose in CACFP Work: The Power of No
- » ROAR Encore: Leveling Up Your Trainings
- » Self-Care Strategies to Manage Stress and Burnout
- » Smart Solutions: Free Tech Tools for CACFP Sponsor Success
- » Strengthening Meal Program Staffing in Times of Crisis
- » TIC-TAC: Freshen Up Your Program's Morale
- » Together as One: Strength Through Teamwork

Financial Management

- » Administrative Review Preparedness for Sponsors
- » Administrative Review: Financial Management for Sponsors
- » CACFP Bank Activity Review: A Toolkit & Roadmap for Team Success
- » Compliance to Credibility: Rethinking CACFP for Business Growth
- » Fraud, Facts and the Finding Strength in Legal Partnerships
- » Investigating Fraud, Waste & Abuse in Federally Funded Programs
- » Navigating Specific Prior Written Approvals for Budget Items
- » Sponsor Audits: Avoid Pitfalls, Stay Prepared and Succeed
- » Sponsoring Summer Food: Keys to Financial Management

NCA is doing an exceptional job of keeping the community in the know about new changes, updates and reminders. It is an important asset for new operators of the CACFP, especially those with less than five years of experience.



Research & Resources

- » Beyond the Plate: Using the Social-Ecological Model in CNPs
- » Connected and In Community: Digital Well-Being with Sesame Street
- » The Desert, The Swamp or a Mirage: What's Your Food Reality?
- » Expanding CACFP through Partnership and Communication
- » FAMS in Focus: Food Allergy Management for K-12 School
- » Feeding Connection: Centering Student Voice in Meal Programs
- » Feeding Curiosity: Engaging Families in Nutrition
- » More Than the Meal: Trauma-Informed Nutrition Practices
- » Navigating Dairy Recommendations Amid New Dietary Guidance
- » Not on the Menu: Heavy Metals and Harmful Plastics in Kids' Food
- » Supporting Family Child Care: Creating a Statewide Staffed Network
- » Taste Test to Tray: Student-Led Recipe Innovation in School Meals

Commercial

- » Beyond the Menu: Building a Partnership with Your Food Service Vendor
- » Budget to Bite: Nutritious Meals Made Affordable
- » CACFP Training Program & Nutrition Calendar
- » Health-e Pro: Your CACFP Superpower
- » Mastering CREDIBLE: Technical Assistance for Smarter Food Program Management
- » The Most Customizable CACFP Software: Make It Yours!
- » Scenario Planning for Nonprofits: Building Resilience & Sustaining Impact
- » Taking the Paper Out of CACFP Paperwork with KidKare by MinuteMenu

The conference is an amazing experience and I am happy to be a part of a group of people who take so much pride in what we do.

Shop Talks

Small group conversations to share stories, learn from each other and connect with professionals who are facing the same challenges and opportunities that you encounter. Learn more at cacf.org/conference/2026-shoptalk.

- » Advocating for CACFP: Successes and Strategies
- » Ask a Nutritionist: Is it Creditable?
- » CACFP Innovations Mixer
- » Engagement Opportunities for Industry
- » Exciting and Engaging Provider Training
- » Essentials for a Successful Summer Food Service Program
- » Family Day Care Home Monitoring Challenges
- » Financial Backups for Fiscal Audits
- » Onboarding New Centers
- » Unlocking More Resources: the Benefits of NCA Membership
- » What's On Your Plate? Optimizing Food Program Management



But wait, there is more!

Preconference Academy

Three-hour deep dives in a classroom setting. Pre-registration is required. Learn more at cacfp.org/conference/2026-preconference.

Monday, April 13 & Tuesday, April 14

All About Grains

Let's talk about grains! Learn what are creditable and non-creditable grains in the CACFP, how to identify whole grain-rich, and how to calculate grain ounce equivalents in recipes and pre-packaged grain products to meet CACFP grain requirements for the age(s) you are serving. Bring your favorite grains to review!

CACFP Meal Pattern Training

Are you just starting out with the CACFP? Start your week off with a deep dive into the core fundamentals of the food program. Learn about the meal patterns and the five food components served in the CACFP, as well as tips and strategies for implementation in your operations.

Compliance with Confidence: Monitoring and Oversight for Family Day Care Homes

As a sponsor, director, monitor or field staff for family day care homes, you know efficient monitoring and oversight are essential to CACFP success. Learn how to conduct reviews that meet program requirements while also supporting and uplifting providers. Strengthen your oversight approach and build confidence in maintaining compliance.

Creating Equity: Integrating Indigenous Foods

Wishing to enhance your nutritional awareness, promote cultural integration and foster community engagement by integrating Indigenous foods into the child nutrition experience? Learn how to develop strategic approaches to create six-week menus that include Indigenous foods, establish local partnerships, provide family service opportunities for learning about healthy foods and plan activities with Indigenous populations in mind.

Head Start & CACFP: Compliance, Special Diets, and Feeding Solutions

Designed for Head Start leaders, food service managers and early childhood specialists working within CACFP, this academy offers practical guidance, case studies and compliance strategies. Go beyond theory with real-world tools to strengthen food service operations, support diverse nutritional needs and maintain program integrity across Head Start settings.

Menu Planning for the CACFP

Develop meal planning techniques that can be used to serve healthy and appealing meals and snacks that meet CACFP and preschool meal pattern requirements. Learn how to accommodate food allergies, incorporate multi-cultural recipes and locally-sourced foods, develop strategies for creating custom menus, and go home with menus you can use immediately or as inspiration.

Show Me the Money: Getting Through the Budget Approvals Process

Join us for a 101-level overview of the generally accepted source documentation to support allowable costs for CACFP operations. Training will include group activities, discussion on proposed program costs that are often questioned and tools to assist with avoiding common budget submission mistakes.

Succession Planning & Organizational Viability Roundtable

Are you looking to find a way to share your institutional knowledge and create a pathway for the success of the organization once you retire or move on? If you've been managing operations for a considerable amount of time and want to learn how to exit or grow into a new role while protecting the food program and those you serve, learn about strategies you can use while contributing to the conversation.



Postconference Academy

Two-hour sessions in a classroom setting. Pre-registration required. Learn more at cacfp.org/conference/2026-postconference.

Friday, April 17

Annual CACFP Training FY26

Looking for comprehensive CACFP training for new or seasoned CACFP operators working in child care centers, family homes or adult day care centers? Review annual training topics including meal patterns, meal counts, claims submission, review procedures, recordkeeping requirements, monitoring requirements, reimbursement system, Civil Rights and important updates in the CACFP, as well as learning how to identify breakfast cereals and yogurts that follow the CACFP added sugars limit regulation.

CACFP Recipe Development for Centers

Discover the purpose and requirements of management plans and their link to the CACFP performance standards. Engage in individual and group activities to learn how to evaluate, monitor, revise and submit effective plans. Gain best practices to ensure your management plan supports program success and compliance.

CORE Training: Management Plans

New to grant writing or need a refresher? Learn how to read and respond to a Request for Proposal when applying for a grant. Get tips on how to write a statement of need, outline measurable objectives and evaluation measures and put together budget justifications.

Food Safety in Child Care*

Take a deep dive into the proper safety protocols that allow for peace of mind in your kitchen. Prepare yourself with the skills to become a protective force by exploring the four key concepts of the USDA Fight BAC program: Clean, Separate, Cook, Chill. Developed specifically for childcare providers in the CACFP environment, it provides four hours of face-to-face food safety training.

**This is one four-hour training that will take place over the course of both postconference sessions.*

Tailoring CACFP Meals: The Role of Medical Statements in Special Diets

Medical statements have an important role within the CACFP. Do you know when they are required? Are you confident in your menu planning when you have one on file? Gain a deeper understanding of how medical statements support accommodating special diets, including food allergies and milk substitutions, ensuring that all participants receive appropriate and nutritious meals. Learn how to create an inclusive and supportive meal environment for those in your care.

Find the Leader in You!

Set yourself up for professional success with our Monday programming and resources! Kickstart your conference experience with our new interactive Leadership Labs, and then take advantage of our complimentary professional headshot service. Learn how to make the most of your networking opportunities at the conference, and then put your new skills directly to the test at our Regional Networking event.

Leadership Labs

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm & 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm

Professional Headshots

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Professional Networking Strategies and Tips

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Regional Networking

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Registration Rates & Deadlines



Register online
cacfp.org/conference



Conference Registration

Registration Period	Members	Non-Members
Advance (Through Dec. 2)	\$499	\$619
Early (Dec. 3 - Feb. 2)	\$579	\$699
Standard (Feb. 3 - March 2)	\$669	\$789
Late (March 3 - March 24)	\$739	\$859
Onsite (March 25 - April 17)	\$839	\$959

Pre/Postconference Academies

Registration Period	Preconference	Postconference
Standard (Through March 2)	\$79	\$59
Late (March 3 - March 24)	\$99	\$79
Onsite (March 25 - April 17)	\$149	\$129



VIRTUAL
Option Available

Can't make it to Las Vegas? We certainly wish we could see your smiling face in person, but we do offer a virtual option as well! Earn up to 16.5 hours of continuing education from the comfort of your home, office or home office. Virtual sessions are available to watch through May 15th, 2026.

If you'll be joining us in Las Vegas, your registration fee also includes all virtual sessions, which you can attend onsite or watch on demand through May 15, 2026.

There are **NO REFUNDS** for cancellation. However, agencies may transfer like registrations to another individual within their organization.



Conference Headquarters

Westgate Las Vegas

3000 Paradise Road
Las Vegas, NV 89109

Room Rate: \$149.00 per night plus tax until sold out

Booking link will be shared via email once registration is confirmed.



Flying in?

Plan to arrive on Sunday, April 12 and depart on Friday, April 17.

Get Moving!

Clark County Fire Department and Yoga Haven will be hosting complimentary fitness classes on Wednesday and Thursday.



See you in Las Vegas!



REGISTER
early
& SAVE!

Celebrating
40
years

CHILD NUTRITION CONFERENCE

CACFP • AFTERSCHOOL MEALS • SUMMER FOOD

NATIONAL
CACFP
ASSOCIATION 

Start planning your trip now at cacfp.org/conference