

# 2021 CACFP VIRTUAL SUMMIT



## Looking for food program training? Earn 8 hours of Continuing Education Units.

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### *Save the Dates!*

11:30 am - 3:00 pm ET

Monday, September 13  
Tuesday, September 14  
Wednesday, September 15  
Thursday, September 16

### *Who Should Attend?*

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



## \$49 Registration

Register by September 8  
at [www.cacfp.org/summit](http://www.cacfp.org/summit)

# 2021 CACFP VIRTUAL SUMMIT

## Monday, September 13

11:30 am - 12:00 pm

### CACFP Summit Welcome

We're talking about CACFP, recognizing our presenters, and celebrating you! Be on time, and make time for this session, so you can learn how to get the most from your week with us.

12:10 pm - 2:20 pm

### Ounce Equivalents for Grains: No Weigh!

Team Nutrition has several resources and tools to help CACFP operators transition to grains ounce equivalents - no food scales required! Receive hands-on training and leave with a menu of options for successful implementation. Download the Food Buying Guide mobile app before attending this workshop.



*Mimi Wu, MS, RD*

*Acting Chief, Nutrition Education and Promotion Branch  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Child Nutrition Programs*  
Mimi develops and promotes nutrition education and technical assistance materials to support those participating in child nutrition programs, with an emphasis on projects that support the CACFP.



*Debra Eisenbarth, MS, RD*  
*Nutritionist*

*USDA Food and Nutrition Service*

Debra develops and updates resources and provides technical guidance related to menu planning and food crediting in child nutrition programs. Her projects include the Food Buying Guide, Menu Planner for School Meals, and Smart Snacks in School.



*Anne Garceau, MS, RDN*  
*Nutritionist*

*USDA Food and Nutrition Service*

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.



*Rachel Hayes Polon, MPH, RD*  
*Nutritionist*

*USDA Food and Nutrition Service*

Rachel has seventeen years of experience in federal nutrition policy, including serving as an author on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2010. Currently, Rachel develops and implements nutrition policy for USDA Child Nutrition Programs. Originally from Kansas City, Missouri,



*Kaushalya Heendeniya, MS, RD*

*Lead Program Analyst, Nutrition and Technical Assistance Branch, Child Nutrition Programs  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service*

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. Kaushalya also 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.

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

### All About Policy

Emergency funding, child nutrition reauthorization, policy waivers, and more! Hear what's going on nationally and how it could affect you locally.



*Alexia Thex, MEd*

*Director of Policy & 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.



*Geri Henchy, RDN, MPH*

*Director of Nutrition Policy  
Food Research and Action Center*

Geri's work focuses on nutrition policies, such as increasing the healthfulness of nutrition programs, necessary to reach the goals of eradicating domestic hunger and improving the nutrition and health of low-income individuals and families. She has been honored to receive numerous awards for her work and serves as advisor to the National CACFP Sponsors Association.



*Katherine Jacobs, MPH*

*Early Childhood Nutrition Programs and Food Systems Associate  
Food Research and Action Center*

Katherine joined FRAC in February 2021 as the Early Childhood Nutrition Programs and Food Systems Associate. In this role, she supports FRAC's work to strengthen and expand CACFP and WIC and improve food systems by analyzing program policy, providing training and technical assistance to anti-hunger advocates, and developing resource materials.



*Kati Wagner, CMP, CCNP*

*President  
Wildwood CACFP*

Kati oversees the sponsorship of family child care home providers, unaffiliated centers, Head Start, afterschool and summer food programs. Kati's business background allows her to see unique opportunities for providers. Her expertise in handling the budget, dealing with legislation, and management has allowed her to be successful in the CACFP. Kati has served on the NCA Board of Directors since 2012 and is currently serving a two-year term as its President.



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# 2021 CACFP VIRTUAL SUMMIT

## Tuesday, September 14

11:30 am - 12:00 pm

### Coffee & Conversation: CACFP for Head Start

Bring your questions – you can ask us anything about CACFP for Head Start – and we'll answer as many as we can.



*Shauna Payne  
Nutrition Manager  
Tallatoona CAP*

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 Head Start centers in Northwest Georgia. Shauna has an AAS in Culinary Arts, has been in the food-service industry for 20 years, and has cooked professionally and managed departments in a variety of food-service sectors.



*Robert Fillmore  
CACFP Coordinator and Family Engagement Manager  
Inter Tribal Council of Michigan Head Start and Early Head Start*

Robert has worked with the Head Start and Early Head Start programs for over 20 years. He provides technical assistance, training and ongoing monitoring to ensure compliance with all state and federal rules and regulations.



*Jami Lee-Rokala, LN, CCNP, CLC  
Child Nutrition Services Manager  
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.*

Jami is a Licensed Nutritionist in the state of North Dakota, with her MS in Nutrition and has been practicing in the field for eight years. For the past five years as the Child Nutrition Manager, Farm to Early Care has been Jami's passion. She has presented at national conferences on Farm to Early Care for the last three years and is a lead Farm to Early Care Advocate in the state of Minnesota.



*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 on NCA's Board of Directors as its Secretary.

12:10 pm - 1:10 pm

### US Poverty & Its Impact on Children

Across the country, Americans are struggling to secure jobs that offer the prospect of long-term financial security and the promise of a real future for themselves and their families. Learn about the root causes of poverty, understand how poverty impacts families and children, and explore policy ideas and strategies for reducing poverty and mitigating its negative effects.



*Cara Brumfield, MA  
Senior Policy Analyst  
Georgetown Center on Poverty & Inequality*

Cara leads research and policy development projects on issues related to jobs, education, and democracy. She is co-authoring a report on postsecondary education in prison and is conducting research and technical assistance to ensure an accurate count of marginalized communities in the decennial census.

1:20 pm - 2:20 pm

### Reduce Findings: Make Paperwork a Priority

Get step-by-step guidance on how to maximize policies, procedures and training to counteract the most common findings. Take home handouts on how to strengthen your business by targeting the inefficiencies in your workflow.



*Carolyn Miller, CMP, CCNP  
Child Nutrition Consultant  
Texas Education Service Center Region 11*

A consultant for CACFP and SFSP, Carolyn works closely with sponsors to assist in the application process, troubleshooting claims, and any request that Texas Department of Agriculture requires. She is passionate about feeding the children of Texas. Carolyn has presented several years at the NCA Conference focusing on policy and business development. She holds a BS from Tarleton State with emphasis in Business Leadership, Psychology, and Social Work.

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

### CACFP Professional Certification Program Overview

Join us to learn how to earn your certification, what the qualifications are, and to hear how it has impacted CACFP professionals who value these credentials.



*Jennifer Basey, MEd  
Certification Program Associate  
National CACFP Sponsors Association*

Jennifer has served in many roles for the association including membership, website, conference, sales, and education. She's currently responsible for the development of education materials and the certification program. Jennifer spent ten years in education as an elementary teacher and as an instructional coach working directly with teachers.



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# 2021 CACFP VIRTUAL SUMMIT

## Wednesday, September 15

11:30 am - 12:00 pm

### Coffee & Conversation: Afterschool Meals

Bring your questions – you can ask us anything about At-Risk Afterschool Meals (ARAS) – and we'll answer as many as we can.



**Brian Wieher, CMP, CCNP, SNS**  
*Director of Child & Family Nutrition  
Operation Food Search*

Brian is an entrepreneur with a degree in hospitality and restaurant administration from Missouri State University. He is an award-winning School Nutrition Specialist with 20+ years of experience in developing, implementing, and managing nutritional and other public health related programs. As a child nutrition advocate, he enjoys working collaboratively with organizations to develop relationships that will have the greatest impact on ending childhood hunger.



**Lynne Kunins**  
*President  
FLIPANY*

Lynne has successfully brought health and wellness programs to underserved neighborhoods in Florida. Since starting with two locations and serving 18,000 meals through the CACFP in the first year, operations have expanded to serving nearly one hundred sites and a million meals in 2019. Lynne's goal is to create health equity by promoting a healthy life through nutrition, physical activity, and wellness initiatives in low- and middle- income communities.



**Jane Pagan**  
*Special Programs Manager  
Chicago Public Schools*

Jane oversees all local, state, and federal reviews for school nutrition programs with CPS. She is the lead for NSLP, CACFP and SFSP audits. Jane serves the liaison for CPS' Nutrition Support Services and the Illinois State Board of Education, Nutrition Programs department. She has been with CPS for 11 years and has a background in compliance.



**Vicki Lipscomb, CMP**  
*President  
Child Nutrition Program, Inc.*

Vicki has led the Child Nutrition Program to steady annual growth, and due to her background in public administration, she has a deep understanding of how to run an effective federal program. Vicki serves on the NCA Board of Directors, serving as its president from October 2015 to September 2017. She also advocates for child care providers and sponsoring organizations as a member of the Paperwork Reduction Work Group.

12:10 pm - 1:10 pm

### Safe Foods, Healthy Bodies

Learn how food can become unsafe, and explore methods to reduce risk of food-borne illness in child care settings. Understand how to handle, prepare and store foods safely. Review CACFP crediting information for infant foods and combination foods. Gain resources to train this workshop for CACFP participants.



**Kate Abernathy, CMP, CCNP, LD, RD, MS**  
*Chief Executive Officer  
Providers Choice*

Kate's work focuses on expanding participation of CACFP healthy meals and snacks to children across Minnesota through Providers Choice, which sponsors over 3,400 homes and 40 centers. Kate's passion for child nutrition stems from a strong desire to promote health and wellness. Her in-depth nutrition expertise and leadership supports providers with managing special diets, creating resources to simplify menu planning and giving overall support to childcare providers.

1:20 pm - 2:20 pm

### Completing Claims Like Clockwork

Learn the CACFP best practices for the submission of accurate claims for the reimbursements of meals. Identify management practices that adversely impact claims and help ensure that providers are getting reimbursed for the meals that they are serving.



**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.

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

### CACFP Creditable Resources

Join this session to 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. Create your own toolkit of meal pattern materials and nutrition education flyers to use in your program and share with your community.



**Lisa Mack**  
*Executive Director  
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.



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# 2021 CACFP VIRTUAL SUMMIT

## Thursday, September 16

11:30 am - 12:00 pm

### Coffee & Conversation: Meal Patterns

Bring your questions – you can ask us anything about CACFP meal patterns – and we'll answer as many as we can.



*Tonya Nichols, CMP*

*Culinary Director  
Central Iowa Shelter and Services*

Tonya works at the largest homeless shelter in the state of Iowa. She has turned over 2,000 pounds of fresh farm foods into

meals that the youth love and enjoy eating. Tonya enjoys creating recipes that meet the meal pattern and include fresh food from the garden to make even picky eaters smile.



*Christina Flythe, MA, MSW, CCNP*

*Director of Health and Nutrition  
Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.*

Christina is responsible for overseeing 290 home daycare programs in the CACFP within Suffolk County. Prior to her current role she was Director of Parent Leadership Initiative, responsible for advocacy and civic engagement. Flythe has 10 years' experience in ECE, CCNP, and holds master's degrees in social work and education. She is a trained facilitator with National Parent Leadership Institute and Center for Nonprofit Leadership through Adelphi University. She is a member of Leading with Racial Equality cohort through Early Care and Learning Council, where she is researching food deserts on Long Island.



*Toyin Okunoren, MS, RDN, MHA, CMP, CCNP*

*CEO and Owner  
Little Ones Learning Center*

Toyin worked as a clinical dietitian at the Regional Medical Center in Memphis where she provided nutrition education to patients and their families while in the hospital and during visits to outpatient clinics. In 1994 she opened a day care center which she currently operates with her daughter. Toyin's interest in early childcare education stems from her belief that providing quality care, including good nutrition, is an important building block in raising healthy bodies and minds.



*Conchetta Yonaitis, MEd*

*Special Nutrition Programs Manager  
Virginia Department of Health*

Conchetta has served with the Virginia Department of Health since 2013. Prior to this, she was a sponsor of both the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program. Conchetta has an undergraduate degree in English and a master's in education.

12:10 pm - 1:10 pm

### Introducing Healthy Foods with Fun, Interactive Learning

Eating patterns that are adopted during childhood affect health across a lifespan. Learn new ways to introduce healthy and nutritious food choices to children participating in CACFP through fun and interactive learning activities.



*Deborah Gillison-Wilson, CMP, CCNP*

*Executive Director  
Georgia Nutritional Services, Inc.*

Deborah has over 20 years of experience working with child and adult care programs and has been in business as a CACFP sponsor since 1996. Under her directive, guided by her passion for the cause and with an outstanding and committed team, GNSI exists to improve and maintain the health and nutritional status of children and adults.



*Amanda Dyes, CCNP*

*Program Manager  
Georgia Nutritional Services, Inc.*

Amanda is committed to the business goal of ensuring day care facilities are serving balanced, nutritious meals to children and adults in care to foster nutritious eating habits. She started at GNSI in 2014 and holds a BS in Computer Science with a concentration in Business Administration.



*Shelby Beverly, MSA, CCNP*

*Compliance and Procurement Analyst  
Georgia Nutritional Services, Inc.*

Shelby started her career with GNSI in December of 2016 and has been engaged in training and development, programming, and new initiatives that support the health and nutritional status of children and adults within the CACFP. She is dedicated to making a difference in day-to-day programs and meal service that benefit young children and adults.

1:20 pm - 2:20 pm

### Accountability & Leadership

Understand the power of recognition, learn how to give great feedback and build a team that trusts. Get a list of guiding principles that create a culture of collaboration and accountability. Discover how looking at the big picture can help with the small stuff in your workplace.



*Maggie Mae Kennedy*

*Assistant Director of Operations & Personnel  
Galena Park Independent School District*

Maggie Mae leads 250 supervisor and field employees for 26 campuses on daily operations, staffing, CACFP and HR. This is her 10th year working in student nutrition; her first seven years were as an operation manager and senior nutrition trainer at Houston ISD. She is a seasoned presenter focused on leadership development, CACFP, summer feeding, train-the-trainer and Breakfast in the Classroom.

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

### CACFP Summit Wrap-Up

If you had a question that didn't get answered, now's the time. We'll get through as many as we can. We'll also share what's coming next and ask for your feedback too.