

# Child Nutrition Thursday Update

## In this week's Thursday Update

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Child Nutrition Website - <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition>

Child Nutrition List Serve Email - [child.nutrition@maillist.informe.org](mailto:child.nutrition@maillist.informe.org)

# Claim Deadline Extended

Due to the incoming Nor'easter, **April's** claim deadline has been extended to **April 10, 2024 at 4:00pm**

Please be safe in the storm.

# Summer EBT

## Help us address summer hunger!

A healthier future for our country begins with our children. Unfortunately, many children face hunger during the summer when they lose access to school meals. Children need good nutrition to grow, learn, and thrive. There are now three flexible ways to reduce child hunger in the summer:

1. Traditional Summer Meal Service, that we refer to as Hot Lunch Summer.
2. Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer program, shortened to S-EBT
3. To-go/delivery meal service in rural areas that will be part of the Hot Lunch Summer Program (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/rural-designation>)

Learn how all three options can work together to address summer hunger and help fuel children with the nutrition they need when school is out.

Today, I want to share some information about the Summer EBT Program. The Summer EBT program will be managed by the Office of Family Independence, under of the Department of Health and Human Services in coordination with the Child Nutrition Department, under of the Department of Education.

S-EBT will help offset food costs to families by offering each eligible child \$120.00 during the summer on an EBT card.

Each child will need to be found eligible, through streamlined certification, or by a S-EBT application. In the application they must show that they meet the eligibility requirements for free or reduced-priced school meals and verify enrollment at an eligible school in the school year immediately prior to summer operational period (June 15- August 15).



Streamlined certification will be done through the direct certification list and cross referenced with student enrollment in your schools based on April 1st data.

The S-EBT application and other information, including Q&A documents, will be able to be accessed at <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/programs-services/food-supplement>. Applications will be processed by DHHS, and not the Child Nutrition Program.

Letters are anticipated to be sent to all families with eligible students the week of May 6th. This letter will give them the information about the program, and the opportunity to opt out of the S-EBT program if they chose to do so.

S-EBT benefits for students receiving SNAP will be issued on a household EBT card. Students not receiving SNAP will have their own card. The S-EBT Cards are anticipated to be mailed to families in late June in one lump sum. Families that apply after the first payment in late June, will be paid in subsequent payment periods in July, August, or September.

### **We need your help to reach our students and their families, here are some next steps**

1. *Update & verify that all addresses are correct in your student information systems by April 1st*
2. *Share information with your families. We will be providing:*
  - a. *Flyers*
  - b. *Postings for websites*
  - c. *Social media posts*
3. *Stay up to date with information shared in the upcoming months.*
4. **Attend one of the Summer EBT webinars:**
  - a. **April 23rd at 1:30pm**
  - b. **April 26th at 11:00am**

Questions related to **Child Nutrition and School Administration** can be directed to [jane.mclucas@maine.gov](mailto:jane.mclucas@maine.gov).

**Eligibility and Application** questions can be directed to the S-EBT website <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/programs-services/food-supplement>

Thank you for your help eliminating hunger for our students this summer!



# USDA Foods

## Last USDA Monthly Survey for SY24!

The last USDA monthly survey for SY24 is April 1st-15th, bonus items will be offered, bonus means free items which are available first come, first serve. Items not taken by the Sponsor throughout the school year, will be shipped in May. Orders cannot be refused or sent back to the PFG warehouse once shipped.

### What is left in your districts inventory?

Please check the Inventory tab on the Sponsor Summary page in CNPweb. The description and available quantity columns will show the items being shipped. If those columns are blank, then the items have been delivered throughout the year.

if you have questions regarding your USDA order or bonus items, please contact Terri, 624-6882 or [terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov](mailto:terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov)

**For directions on how to place your final SY24 USDA Order and order Bonus Items, please visit the [USDA Foods](#) page of our website.**

# State Local Foods Fund

## New Qualifying Processed & Value-Added Foods!

There are new qualifying processed and value-added foods for the state Local Foods Fund! (LFF)

Hurricane Soups' monkfish stew (in partnership with Maine Coast Fishermen's Association) was one of the first qualifying processed/value-added products for the LFF, and now they have qualified 12 more of their soups! Many of their soups feature locally caught fish and seafood. A full list of their approved soups can be found on the Child Nutrition Website under the Farm & Sea to School Program tab.

In addition, Maine Family Farms natural casing hot dogs qualify for LFF!

As a reminder, if you have a value-added or processed local food item you would like qualified, please reach out to [Katie.Knowles@maine.gov](mailto:Katie.Knowles@maine.gov) and she will reach out to the processor to help them through the application process!

The Local Foods Fund reimburses schools \$1 for every \$3 spent on eligible local food products (up to \$5,000 a year).

# Summer

**The 2024 SFSP Application is now available in CNPweb!**

Contact [paula.nadeau@maine.gov](mailto:paula.nadeau@maine.gov) for access or user changes as a CNPweb user access form will need to be completed.

Do you need to add or inactivate sites? Complete this [form](#).

The application has changed! Need help? Visit the “Help” tab in CNPweb for step by step instructions.

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## **Updates for 2024!!**

### **Non-Congregate portion of the Site Info Sheet**

#### **Help Maine Expand SFSP and SSO in Rural Areas!**

The rural designations in the Summer Food Service Program and NSLP Seamless Summer Option have been revised! Please see the updated map [here](#). A permanent non-congregate (meals to go) meal service option through the SFSP and SSO for children who live in rural communities with no congregate meal service was established through the Consolidated Appropriations Act. Non-congregate operations must be approved by Maine DOE in order to claim meals taken offsite. Additional SFSP/SSO eligibility criteria are in place as to what constitutes open sites and which meals can be claimed. The area eligibility [map](#) indicates which areas are open site eligible based on census tract data. School data can also be used. Please email [adriane.ackroyd@maine.gov](mailto:adriane.ackroyd@maine.gov) for more information, including how to operate non-congregate sites in rural areas that are not area eligible.



## Management Plan

Due to a final integrity rule released by USDA, select Sponsors, including those who only operate SFSP, will be required to complete a new portion of the SFSP application – a Management Plan. The Management Plan template will be completed in CNPweb as part of the annual application to participate. The Management Plan is located in the checklist and instructions are in the help tab.

## Important Deadlines

**April 21, 2024:** SFSP application deadline for those who receive USDA SFSP commodities

**May 1 – 15, 2024:** USDA SFSP Commodity Orders for those who receive commodities

**June 2, 2024:** SFSP application deadline for those who do not receive SFSP commodities

**By start of operations** – mandatory SFSP training must be completed for all staff

## 2024 SFSP Reimbursement Rates

	Rural or Self-Prep	All Other Types of Sites
Breakfast	2.9775	2.9225
Lunch or Supper	5.2125	5.1300
Snack	1.2350	1.2050

# From the USDA

The **Child Nutrition Database, Release 27 (CN27)** is now available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/child-nutrition-database>. The CNDB is a required database for nutrient analysis software approved by USDA for use in school meals.

## **Action Steps for Nutrient Analysis Software Companies:**

To maintain USDA approval, software companies must submit their nutrient analysis software updated to include CN27 and certification of compliance software to the USDA Software Evaluation Team by Tuesday, July 9, 2024. Instructions for submitting software to USDA is being provided directly to software companies.

FNS recommends that companies update their software for their customers by the start of their school year, if possible. If you have questions about CN27 or if you are a new company seeking approval, please contact the USDA Software Evaluation Team at [cnpntab@usda.gov](mailto:cnpntab@usda.gov).

## **Action Steps for State Agencies, School Food Authorities (SFA), and Local Schools:**

After July 9, 2024, State agencies, SFAs, and local schools should verify with their nutrient analysis software company that the software includes the most current version, CN27, of the Child Nutrition Database (CNDB). More information can be found in this [memo](#).

# Child Nutrition Training Opportunities

Registration links are in the title or can be found on our website

## Summer EBT

April 23rd @ 1:30pm

## Summer EBT

April 26th @ 11:00am

A healthier future for our country begins with our children. Unfortunately, many children face hunger during the summer when they lose access to school meals. Children need good nutrition to grow, learn, and thrive. Help us address summer hunger, by learning more about the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (S-EBT)

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## Accountability Webinar

April 29th @ 1:30pm

Proper accountability is one, if not the, most important parts of running a school nutrition program. This webinar will review different accountability methods, including electronic point of service (POS), rosters, and tic sheets, and when to use them. We will also look at the pros and cons of each, as well as common accountability issues that are seen with administrative reviews.



# In Person SFSP Training

## New and Make-up Sponsor Training

May 9, 2024

9:00am-12:00pm

Child Nutrition Office

Deering Building

Room 101

90 Blossom Lane

Augusta

This training is for new Summer Food Service Program sponsors. It is also an opportunity for experienced sponsors to receive a more in depth training opportunity. In this session, sponsors will receive a comprehensive overview of the SFSP requirements in Maine. This training is required for new sponsors operating in 2024. There will be a break for lunch.

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# One Month Away!!!!

## SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY

May 3, 2024

CELEBRATE  
YOUR  
HEROES!



# School Nutrition Association Annual National Conference

You don't want to miss this great opportunity to mix and mingle with thousands of people who do what you do! Ever feel like you are in a bubble? These people know just what you're thinking and doing. Over 100 Educational session, great keynote speakers, and a food show with over 300 exhibitors (be sure to wear your most comfortable shoes).

July 14th-16th  
in Boston

More information can be found on the School Nutrition Association's [website](#).





# Shout Out!!!

RSU 2 has been participating in the Harvest of the Month program all year and have incorporated local foods into their meals.

Students at Monmouth Memorial School recently enjoyed a local haddock meal. Food Service Director Bobbi French says that students have done an amazing job trying the new foods being offered to them.

Thank you for sharing, Bobbi.

