



Staying on Track with the Essentials of CACFP for Program Year 2026: **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

Answers to the questions asked in HNS' *Staying on Track with the Essentials of CACFP for Program Year 2026 webinar*. Please note, operators are responsible for remaining up-to-date on program guidance and regulations. The following answers reflect the information available at the time of the live webinar and may be subject to change.

Q: I have multiple people in the room watching the live webinar with me. How can we ensure we all receive our training certificates?

A: A training certificate will be generated by APLD for the individual who logged in to join live. Please have any additional individuals who joined complete the survey at the following link to receive a training certificate:

- [Click here to complete the brief survey and obtain a training certificate.](#)

Q: Who is required to attend the Understanding CACFP Monitoring Requirements and the Five-Day Reconciliation webinar?

A: Only multi-site institutions operating the CACFP are required to attend the Understanding CACFP Monitoring Requirements and the Five-Day Reconciliation webinar. This webinar will be held on Tuesday, September 9 from 11 - 12 PM MST. [Click here to register.](#)

Q: What if we DO receive commodities and don't want the Cash in Lieu of Commodities?

A: Operators of the Child and Adult Care Food Program in Arizona choose to receive Cash in Lieu of Commodities per the annual survey. School Food Authorities participating in USDA Foods must utilize those commodities on meals served for their School Meals Programs and should not be using these items for the CACFP. Please contact your assigned Health and Nutrition Services for additional support.

Q: If we are approved to use an electronic system for meal counts, will the process stay the same?

A: Meal counts, whether collected manually or using an electronic system previously approved by ADE HNS, must be collected at the point of service.

Q: Do the 10 hours of training need to be completed prior to renewal application submission?

A: Yes. Certificates demonstrating that training requirements have been satisfied must be uploaded to the Sponsor Information page of your Management Plan. If training is not complete, your application will not be approved.

Q: Can someone review my menus for accuracy?

A: Please contact your assigned specialist.

Q: How can we get copies of posters?

A: Please contact your assigned specialist.

Q: When serving mixed items on the menu - i.e. mixed vegetables, do all vegetables in the mixed vegetables need to be listed?

A: Yes. All food items in a mixed item must be listed. This is to ensure all foods served are creditable and to safeguard operators in the event of any participant food allergies.



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Q: What is Cash in Lieu of Commodities?

A: CACFP sponsoring organizations and independent institutions are eligible to receive either entitlement funds allocated toward receiving food through the USDA Foods in Schools program or Cash in Lieu of Commodities.

- Cash in Lieu of Commodities (CIL): Instead of participating in the USDA Foods in Schools program (described below), CACFP operators may elect to receive cash payments. CIL currently provides CACFP operators an additional \$0.30, which is added to the reimbursement amount for each lunch and supper meal claimed. This is actual funding that is added to the monthly reimbursements with no additional requirements.
- The USDA Foods in Schools program, which is not exclusive to schools, provides operators access to domestic, wholesome foods such as grains, fruits, vegetables, and proteins to support meals that meet USDA regulations. Participating CACFP operators would receive approximately \$0.30 in entitlement funds for each CACFP lunch and/or supper meal claimed in the prior fiscal year. Entitlement funds are not direct cash payments and can only be used in exchange for USDA food items through the myFOODS system.

Annually, state agencies are required to survey operators to determine if operators would prefer to receive USDA Foods or Cash in Lieu of Commodities. Based on survey responses, in Arizona, operators elected to receive CIL. As a result, all operators of the CACFP will receive CIL, which is an additional \$0.3050 in reimbursement for each lunch and supper claimed.



Thank you for participating in the webinar!

In the event you have questions that were not answered, please contact your assigned Health and Nutrition Services Specialist and they will be happy to assist you.