

School Nutrition Update

January 29-February 2, 2024



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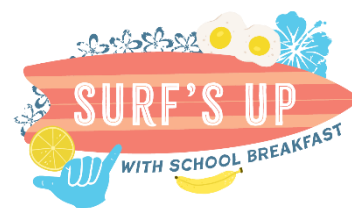
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Program Operations Information

Share How You Plan to Celebrate #NSBW 2024 by 2/6

National School Breakfast Week is coming up March 4-8. The 2024 #NSBW theme is “Surf’s Up with School Breakfast”. We want to hear how you plan to celebrate. [Share details](#) with us about your #NSBW events by **February 6**. If you would like representatives from the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition, or the USDA, Southeast Regional Office, to attend, please let us know. Please make sure to tag @NCSchoolMeals with social media posts about your #NSBW events. We love to see and share how you are celebrating and promoting the importance of school breakfast!



Recruiting 2024 N.C. Summer Nutrition Program Sponsors

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) is seeking schools and community organizations to serve as sponsors for Summer Nutrition Programs in 2024 to help ensure children who have limited access to food at home get the educational enrichment and nutritious meals they need for optimal growth, development, and overall well-being. Of particular need are schools and community organizations in rural areas, Indian Tribal Territories, and areas with a concentration of migrant farm workers, where access to summer meal sites or transportation has been an issue. New federal regulations permit sponsors with a rural designation to apply for State Agency approval to allow meals for multiple days to be taken away from the meal site for children to enjoy throughout the week. [Learn more](#).



Completing the Non-Congregate Meal Application Process

The Congressional Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 required the Secretary of Agriculture to make available an option to states to provide summer meals for non-congregate meal (NCM) service in rural areas where no congregate meal service is available. This [Interim Final Rule](#) amends the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO) regulations to codify the flexibility for rural program operators to provide NCM service in the SFSP and SSO, collectively referred to as the Summer Nutrition Programs.

Sponsors interested in participating in rural NCM service for the summer of 2024 must apply to be eligible. Complete the [form](#) to begin the process with a NCDPI, Summer Nutrition Consultant. The full application process includes multiple steps to determine Sponsor eligibility and capacity to serve rural non-congregate meals and establishes an integrity plan to guide NCM operations.

Note: Potential meal sites must be classified as **RURAL** to operate in a non-congregate fashion. Completion of the interest form does not constitute NCM approval from the State Agency. Additional items are required for NCM approval including an integrity plan, completion of a webinar, and meal site application(s). For questions, please contact Jennifer Bailey, Section Chief, Summer and Special Nutrition Programs, jennifer.bailey@dpi.nc.gov.

Be Ready for the SFSP Required Annual Continuing Education (R.A.C.E.) Online

NCDPI is excited to announce that the 2024 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Required Annual Continuing Education (R.A.C.E.) online training course will open by the end of the day on **February 1, 2024**. Completion of R.A.C.E. online by at least two individuals is required to submit the SFSP application. The R.A.C.E. online training course must be completed by **February 29, 2024**. The program application is due on or before **March 1, 2024**. Be on the lookout for a special School Nutrition News e-blast with instructions and links to access Canvas and the R.A.C.E. online training course.

Register for the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Administrator Showcases by 3/1

[Register](#) to participate in a N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Administrator Showcase by **March 1!**

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition will be offering two opportunities across the state to participate in this unique event. Each event will take place over two consecutive days.

Please plan to attend **only one** showcase event.



- **March 18-19, 2024** - Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center (Williamston)
- **March 21-22, 2024** - Masonic Center of Winston Salem (Winston-Salem)

Workshop times are as follows:

- Day 1 - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Day 2 - 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Check-in starts 30 minutes prior to the start time each day. Participants are responsible for all travel expenses including breakfast, beverages, snacks, lodging, and mileage. Lunch and one snack will be provided each day.

While the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institutes were for your School Nutrition Managers, this event is for you and your central office staff (Supervisors, Menu Planners/Dietitians, and Training Specialists). Please join Chef Cyndie Story and the K-12 Team from Culinary Solutions as they sample our North Carolina K-12 Culinary recipes, share updated information about the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institutes, demonstrate new school meal recipes and quick-scratch techniques, and share helpful resources to assist you with incorporating the skills and recipes from the institutes into your School Nutrition Program. Photos and success stories from N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute workshops over the years will be highlighted.

Do not miss this opportunity to "taste" the difference that the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute can make in your program and to talk with a "seasoned" team of chefs with years of School Nutrition experience! For questions or more information, reach out to Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov.



Get Ready for the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute – Apply by 3/1

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition, in conjunction with Chef Cyndie Story and the K-12 team, will be offering six [North Carolina K-12 Culinary Institute](#) regional workshops during the summer of 2024. The Institute is intended for School Nutrition professionals who are currently managing and/or responsible for the supervision of site-level nutrition operations (e.g., School Nutrition Managers and School Nutrition Assistant Managers). The purpose is for participants to master fundamental culinary skills to enhance school meals and be empowered to teach-it-forward to their team members at the local level.



The N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute is a wonderful opportunity for School Nutrition Managers! These workshops will prepare participants to serve as Chef Ambassadors in their districts and beyond. Selected workshop participants will learn fundamental culinary techniques such as knife skills, food production strategies like batch cooking for quality, quick-scratch cooking techniques, and merchandising tips for new K-12 Chef-developed recipes specifically for North Carolina schools. Participants will also learn effective teach-it-forward techniques so they can communicate new knowledge and skills with others in their districts.

The objectives for the Institute are to:

- Improve student health, well-being, and academic success through nutritious, appealing meals at school,
- Increase participation in high quality, enticing school nutrition programs,
- Expand capacity of local school nutrition programs to purchase, prepare and serve fresh, locally grown produce,
- Increase consumption of fruits, vegetables, and whole-grain rich foods, and
- Provide continuing education opportunities for school nutrition personnel.

The N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute workshops will be hosted by School Food Authorities (SFAs) across the state and facilitated by the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute team, including State Agency staff. The following workshops will be offered this summer:

- June 25-27 – Alexander County Schools and Pitt County Schools (Two workshop options)
- July 9-11 – Columbus County Schools
- July 23-25 – Northampton County Schools
- July 30-August 1 – Cherokee County Schools
- August 6-8 – Alamance-Burlington School System

Interested School Nutrition Managers and Assistant Managers must submit a [Chef Ambassador Application](#) by **March 1** to be considered for a spot and must have the support of their School Nutrition Director/Administrator, Principal, and/or Supervisor to attend. Submitted applications will be reviewed and selected participants will be

notified by email. Selected participants must confirm their spot. Please reach out to Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov, with any questions.

School Nutrition Spotlight

Congratulate Lauren Weyand – FAME Silver Leadership Awardee!

Lauren Weyand, Child Nutrition Director for Craven County Schools, was recognized with the Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence (FAME) Silver Leadership Award during the School Nutrition Association Industry Conference (SNIC) held January 14-16 in Orlando, Florida. Congratulations to Lauren and all of the awardees recognized! We appreciate all their efforts to make a difference in the lives of students each day.

[Learn more about the FAME Awards](#). Consider applying for or nominating a deserving School Nutrition professional for a FAME Award next year.



Follow/Like Us on Social Media

Did you know you could find the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition on social media? Follow or like our pages - @NCSchoolMeals and @Ray4NCKids on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Share Your School Nutrition Photos

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition wants to highlight the appealing, wholesome, quality meals our School and Summer Nutrition Programs across the state offer to students. Share your beautiful photos of serving lines, complete school or summer meals, and nutrition education and promotion with us. Please send to Tracey Bates, NCDPI School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, at tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov. Make sure to include the school and district or organization info so we can aim to credit the source. Be on the lookout for photos from across the state on social media.

Send in Articles or Topics of Interest for the School Nutrition Update E-letter

If you have a resource, grant, job opportunity, continuing education event, award announcement, shout out or other news item for the School Nutrition Update, **please send a brief ready-for-print article (250 words or less) to Tracey Bates, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov, by 12 pm on the WEDNESDAY** prior to when the SN Update is sent out the following week. Please include “SN Update” in the email subject line. If there are topics of interest you would also like to see included, please share as well. **Submissions received after the deadline will be saved for the next issue.**

Job Opportunity

Apply for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Child Nutrition Area Supervisor Position

Child Nutrition Services with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools is seeking applicants for an open Child Nutrition Area Supervisor position. The Area Supervisor is responsible for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating all aspects of the school-based Child Nutrition Program to ensure that school meals are nutritious, appealing, and cost-effective. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Work with the NCDPI – Area School Nutrition Consultant Opening

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition is pleased to announce it is recruiting for a School Nutrition Consultant to join its team. The position is regionally based and covers Mecklenburg, Union, and Anson Counties. A Nutrition Consultant serves in a professional consultative and auditing capacity, ensuring School Food Authorities (SFAs) are informed of and comply with all policies, procedures, and laws applicable to the federally assisted and state-administered School Nutrition Programs. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Grant Opportunity

Apply for and Promote the GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant 2024 – Due 2/9

The 2024 GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant, brought to you by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation and KidsGardening, is designed to bring the life-enhancing benefits of gardens to communities across the United States. In March, 170 programs will receive \$500 in funding to start or improve their garden or greenspace. In addition, fifteen programs will receive an additional \$1,000 through their Plus, Pride, and Equity Specialty Awards.

Whether you are creating an aquaponics program, developing a native plant garden, updating your raised bed garden, or starting an after-school program garden club, consider applying for the grant opportunity. Applications are due **February 9**. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Learn About and Apply for RFA on Supporting the Use of Traditional Indigenous Foods in the Child Nutrition Programs – Due 3/18

USDA has announced a Request for Applications (RFA) for the [Supporting the Use of Traditional Indigenous Foods in the Child Nutrition Programs Cooperative Agreement](#) on [Grants.gov](#). In Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will award \$2 million in total grant funding to up to four (4) organizations to provide regionally focused training and technical assistance (TA) to School Nutrition professionals on procurement, preparation, and crediting of traditional Indigenous foods, including the use of cooperator and FNS-developed resources and tools. The cooperators, with FNS guidance and approval, will also develop culturally relevant nutrition education materials for students to accompany the traditional Indigenous foods that are served, and the cooperators will train School Nutrition professionals and other school staff on providing nutrition education to students.

The Lead Applicant entity must be led and staffed primarily by members of Federally Recognized Tribes and/or Native Hawaiians but may have partners that are not. Eligible entities include non-profit organizations; School Food Authorities that participate in the National School Lunch Program; tribal government owned entities, arms, or instrumentalities; Native Hawaiian Organization as recognized by the Department of the Interior; and/or other non-governmental entities including Tribal Colleges & Universities. Applicants must demonstrate existing relationships, experience and expertise in training, TA, School Nutrition, Indigenous foods, and nutrition education. Fiscal sponsorships of eligible entities are allowed.

Additional information:

- Two informational webinars about the RFA are scheduled.
 - [Register](#) for the **February 8, 1:00 pm ET** informational webinar.
 - [Register](#) for the **February 13, 3:00 pm ET** informational webinar.
- USDA FNS requests that entities planning to submit applications provide a Letter of Intent by **February 19, 2024**.
- The deadline for submitting proposals is **March 18, 2024**.
- Grant applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](#).
- Use this [USDA CloudVault link](#) to download PowerPoint slides that can be used to raise awareness of this opportunity.

Nutrition Education & Promotion

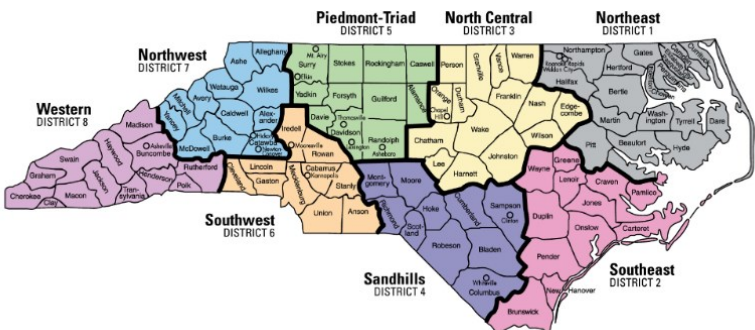
Make Your Voice Heard – Participate in Farm to School Listening Sessions

The [Farm to School Coalition of North Carolina \(F2SCNC\)](#) wants to hear from you! The F2SCNC wants to learn more about all the great things that are happening across the state with farm to school, hear about your dreams or vision for farm to school in North Carolina, and understand what resources are needed to make those dreams a reality.



The Coalition is hosting virtual listening sessions via Zoom for each of the NCDPI eight educational regions across the state on select afternoons, 3:30-5 pm, in February. Dates for listening sessions are listed in the registration form and the table below. [Sign up](#) for the listening session in your region.

If you are unable to make the date for your region, feel free to sign up for one of the other listening sessions. Connection info will be sent to registered participants in advance of the listening sessions.



District	Dates, 3:30-5 pm
1	Thursday, 2/8
2	Tuesday, 2/6
3	Thursday, 2/15
4	Thursday, 2/22
5	Thursday, 2/29
6	Tuesday, 2/13
7	Wednesday, 2/14
8	Thursday, 2/22

Continuing Education

Optimizing School Nutrition Kitchens – 2/1, 3 pm ET

Embarking on the journey of designing a new school kitchen can be both thrilling and challenging. It represents a unique opportunity to ensure that the kitchen layout is not only efficient but that the selected equipment perfectly complements the available space and energy and meets the demands of diverse menus.



Participate in a Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) webinar on February 1 at 3 pm ET to learn from experts as they guide you through the best practices in planning, team collaboration, facility design, and staying abreast of current trends when researching and selecting equipment for a new or remodeled school kitchen. This webinar will also feature a sneak peak of the CICN latest resource, "Facility Design and Equipment Purchasing for School Nutrition Programs," which will provide invaluable insights for streamlining your school's culinary infrastructure. [Learn more and register.](#)

Celebrate Champions at the 2024 N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference – 2/27

New speakers have been announced for the N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference, an annual day of celebration and inspiration for anyone invested in making sure kids have access to healthy food at school and beyond. The one-day event, presented by the Carolina Hunger Initiative, will take place February 27 at The Friday Conference Center in Chapel Hill. This year's agenda includes:



Tuesday, February 27, 2024 • Chapel Hill, NC



"YOU are the CHAMPIONS!"

- Olympian Sue Walsh,
- The NC Teacher and Principal of the Year,
- First Lady of North Carolina Kristin Cooper,
- Nutrition professionals from schools, state agencies, and food banks across the state,
- A performance from the Raleigh Rockers Breaking Crew, and
- Much more!

Attendees will connect with other child hunger leaders from across the state, learn about new strategies and success stories, and leave reenergized to continue the fight against child hunger. [Learn more and register.](#)

Access Virtual Training Opportunities

The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) has compiled [resources to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus](#). Online food safety/HACCP training is available on the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#) and the ICN [website](#). Additional continuing education resources are available on the School Nutrition [website](#) from NCDPI, ICN, the School Nutrition Association and other agencies and organizations. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers [continuing professional education resources](#) for Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists (RDNs) and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs).

Important Dates

Date	Action Step
February 6	Deadline to Complete NSBW 2024 Celebrations Form
February 9	Application Deadline for GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant
February 15	Second Review of Applications Report Deadline
February 29	R.A.C.E. Online Completion Deadline
March 1	Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Application Deadline
March 1	Financial Form (FC-1A) Deadline for July 1 thru December 30 (Semi-Annual Report)
March 1	Registration Deadline for N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Administrator Showcases
March 1	Application Deadline for N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Workshops
March 18	Application Deadline for Supporting the Use of Traditional Indigenous Foods in the Child Nutrition Programs Cooperative Agreement

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained [online](#), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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