

School Nutrition Update

February 24-28, 2025



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Important Dates

Date	Action Step
February 28	SFSP R.A.C.E. Online Training Course Completion Deadline
March 1	Summer Sponsor Application Deadline School Nutrition Semi-Annual Financial Report (FC1-A) Deadline
March 7	Deadline for completing FFVP Online Application
March 14	Signature Pages and FFVP Weekly Operation Form Due (submit electronically)
March 20	Charter School Bootcamp Registration Deadline
April 1	Monitoring and Compliance Self-Assessments Deadline
April 21	Spring Policy Updates Registration Deadline
Each Month – By the 10th (On or Before)	Claim for Reimbursement Due (NSLP, SBP, ASSP)
Each Month – By the 15th (On or Before)	FFVP Reimbursement Claims Due

Program Operations Information

Be Aware - CEP Meal Program Incentive Payments (HB259 Section 7.59)

On **Monday, February 4, 2025**, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Office of School Nutrition processed the first round of reimbursements for the state-funded Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program

Incentive. This program, as part of HB259 legislation, applies to eligible and approved CEP schools. The claim has already been set up in the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS), and payment has been processed. No further action is required from School Food Authorities (SFAs) to receive these funds. The payment details can be viewed in the SNTS under SY2024 – 2025, SNP > Claims > Claim - FUNDS for SNP. This payment covers meals claimed from July 2024 through October 2024. The payment has been entered under the “State CEP Meal Program Incentive HB259” grant for the month of January 2025. If you have any questions, please contact your [Area School Nutrition Consultant](#).

Complete Eat and Learn – R.A.C.E. Online Training Course by 2/28

Completion of the 2025 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Required Annual Continuing Education (R.A.C.E.) Online training course, also known as *Eat and Learn NC*, by at least two individuals with administration-level duties is required to submit the SFSP Application. The R.A.C.E. online training course should be completed by **February 28, 2025**. Please submit your *Eat and Learn NC* 2025 certificates with the SFSP application (which is due on or before **March 1, 2025**). The course is open now and can be accessed one of two ways:

- If you have a NCDPI School Nutrition Canvas account, [LOG INTO CANVAS](#) then select [EAT AND LEARN NC 2025](#) and “Enroll in Course”.
- If you do **NOT** have a NCDPI School Nutrition Canvas account, an account must be created first. Please [REGISTER](#) for a Canvas account. Once registration is complete, your new Canvas account will be created. Each new user will receive a confirmation and a Canvas email notification to "Finish your registration". Please allow 2-3 business days. If you do not receive a communication in that time period, check your spam/junk email and/or contact Donna Knight, Program Coordinator, donna.knight@dpi.nc.gov. Follow the Canvas email directions to finish registration. When you have a Canvas login, you can follow the instructions above to log into Canvas and select the *Eat and Learn NC* 2025 Course to enroll.

If at any time you forget your password, please email Donna Knight, Program Coordinator, donna.knight@dpi.nc.gov, to have it reset. Do **NOT** use the reset link in Canvas. We encourage SFAs to complete their online training as soon as available and submit their application soon. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jada Brown, Summer Nutrition Compliance Specialist, jada.brown@dpi.nc.gov.

Submit School Nutrition Semi-Annual Financial Report (FC1-A) - Due 3/1

The FY 2024-25 Semi-Annual Financial Report (FC1-A) is due **March 1**. Traditional Public Schools (LEAs) must submit the report via the SNTS. All other SFAs (Charters Schools, RCCIs, and Non-Public Schools) should email a modified version of the report to Jamie Narron, jamie.narron@dpi.nc.gov. The modified financial template is available on the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition [website](#). The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition relies on the FC1-A data to prepare a legislated report, as required by G.S. 115C-450, and is unable to grant extensions for late submissions. If you anticipate any delays in finalizing your report, we kindly ask that you submit a preliminary report and indicate in the comments section of the FC1-A that the submission is provisional. You may resubmit the FC1-A once your numbers are confirmed. However, we must receive at least your best estimate by **March 1, 2025**. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Narron, jamie.narron@dpi.nc.gov.

Apply for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) – Deadline 3/7

The USDA, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) application for the 2025-26 School Year (SY) is open in the SNTS. The FFVP is a federally-assisted program that provides “free” fresh fruit and vegetable snacks (a minimum of two days/week during the instructional school day) for which eligible elementary schools can apply annually.

The goal of the FFVP is to create healthier school environments by providing healthier food choices to the enrolled students at a participating school. Expanding the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience, and children increasing their overall acceptance and consumption of fresh, unprocessed produce, will make a difference in children’s diets to impact their present and future health.

It is not a requirement for an eligible elementary school to apply to participate in the FFVP. The program is additional work for School Nutrition administrators and staff; however, the opportunity for students to receive nutritious snacks at no charge has numerous benefits. Please consider forming a FFVP team and if not already, become educated about the FFVP, discuss, and if all are interested and committed to success, strongly consider applying.

Upcoming Dates:

- **Friday, February 17, 2025** – FFVP Online Application Opens in the SNTS
- **Friday, March 7, 2025** – Deadline for completing FFVP Online Application
- **Friday, March 14, 2025** – Signature Pages and FFVP Weekly Operation Form Due (submit electronically)

FFVP information is available on the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition [website](#). If you have any questions, please contact Jacquelyn McGowan, FFVP Coordinator, at jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov or 984-236.2909.

Participate in a CEP Webinar – 3/13, 2 pm ET

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition is offering a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) webinar on **Thursday, March 13, 2-3:30 pm**. This webinar is intended for SFAs that operate the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs. The webinar will provide an overview of CEP for the upcoming school year and identify the requirements of implementing CEP. It will also review the Identified Student Percentage (ISP) and provide guidance for pulling CEP information on April 1 and entering it into the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS) by April 8. Please note that it is REQUIRED for all School Food Authorities (SFAs) to conduct the CEP data pull and report in the SNTS, whether or not they are going to participate in CEP. The webinar will also be recorded and available to reference soon after. [Register for the CEP webinar](#).

Register for the Charter School Bootcamp by 3/20

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition is excited to provide another opportunity for School Nutrition Administrators and Directors to attend the special professional development workshop *Boot Camp for School Nutrition Personnel in Charter Schools: How to Effectively Manage the Risks and Navigate the Regulatory Waters of the Federal School Nutrition Programs*.

This a two-day workshop. The workshop will be held **March 27 AND March 28**. The workshop times are:

- **Thursday, March 27, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm** (Check-in starts at 9:00 am.)
- **Friday, March 28, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm** (Check-in starts at 9:00 am.)

The workshop will be held at the Bryan Park Conference Center located just outside Greensboro (6275 Bryan Park Road, Browns Summit). Please note, it may also show up as Greensboro address in a navigating app.

[Register](#) by **Thursday, March 20**. Each person wanting to attend must register individually, and registration may close early if our capacity is reached. Advance registration is required to ensure adequate materials and meals.

Please note - Lunch will be provided on March 27 only. Participants are responsible for all additional travel expenses including breakfast, lunch on March 28, beverages, snacks, lodging, and mileage. We do not have hotel rooms reserved or hotel recommendations for this workshop.

This intensive course was designed specifically for Charter School personnel who administer and/or operate the School Nutrition Programs. The two-day workshop will provide valuable information about the complex rules and regulations of the Federally-assisted School Nutrition Programs and your responsibilities for implementing the rules as a program administrator or manager. Your participation will provide a unique opportunity to support your success in meeting the unique needs and challenges of Charter Schools' participation in the School Nutrition Programs. Some questions answered during the workshop include:

- How do you know what to prioritize when managing the School Nutrition Programs?
- How to maintain program compliance with the regulations to avoid costly findings and required corrective actions?
- How do you minimize the risk of non-compliance which may result in the reclaim of funds and adversely impact the status of your charter?
- What strategies help Charter Schools comply with program regulations while simultaneously providing nutritious, appealing meals to students?

Participants will review the basic requirements for operating a successful and compliant School Nutrition Program. The topics chosen for this workshop are cited as the most challenging for Charter Schools to correctly implement. The following topics are often cited as "findings requiring major corrective actions" in eighty percent of Charter Schools participating in the School Nutrition Programs:

- Meal pattern
- Offer versus serve
- Accuracy and accountability in meal counting, claiming and consolidation
- Cash management procedures
- Standardized recipes
- Production records as the legal basis to substantiate reimbursable meals
- Purchases using school nutrition funds
- Succession plans to train new Charter School personnel in the event of staff turnover

The workshop provides continuing education credit as required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for professional development in the learning code 3000 Administration. Charter School personnel are required to participate in a minimum number of professional development workshops annually to achieve and maintain good standing in the School Nutrition Program.

This is a great opportunity to strengthen your knowledge and skills in the management of the School Nutrition Programs while minimizing the risks which may, unintentionally, undermine the integrity of your program. If you have general questions about the workshop, please contact Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, at katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov. We look forward to seeing you for this important professional development opportunity!

Complete Monitoring and Compliance Self-Assessments for School Year 2024-25

Per the [Annual Agreement](#), Charter and Non-Public School Food Authorities (SFAs) are required to complete two comprehensive Self-Assessments by **November 1** and **April 1** annually. Self-Assessments forms are located on the [Monitoring & Compliance page](#) of the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition website. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact your [Area School Nutrition Consultant](#).

Self-assessments are to include an in-depth review of the meal counting and claiming and cash management procedures employed by each school or site under an SFA’s jurisdiction for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). SFAs are required to establish internal controls which ensure the accuracy of meal counts prior to the submission of the monthly Claim for Reimbursement. The internal controls must include an on-site review of the readily observable general areas of review identified under 7 CFR 201.18(h) and the meal counting and claiming system (as defined in 7 CFR Part 210.2) employed by each school approved to participate in the NSLP and at least 50% of the schools approved to participate in the SBP within the jurisdiction of the SFA. While the annual requirement is to complete 50% of the schools approved to participate in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) in the SFA’s jurisdiction, each school approved to participate in the SBP must be reviewed at least once every two years. If the review discloses problems with a school's meal counting or claiming procedures, or in a readily observable general area, the SFA shall ensure that the school implements corrective action, and within 45 calendar days of the review, conduct a follow-up on-site review to determine that the corrective action resolved the problems. Each on-site review shall ensure that the school's claim is based on the counting system authorized by the State Agency under 7 CFR 210.7 and that the counting system, as implemented, yields the actual number of reimbursable free, reduced-price, and paid lunches, respectively, served for each day of operation.

Register for the 2025 N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Administrator Showcases

Please join Chef Cyndie Story and the K-12 Team from Culinary Solutions as they reveal what to expect for this summer's North Carolina K-12 Culinary Institutes. They will share recipes, 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. You will not go home empty-handed - all participants will receive an N.C. K-12 Culinary goodie bag!



While the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institutes were for your School Nutrition Managers, the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Showcases are for you and your central office staff! The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition will be offering two

opportunities across the state to participate in this unique event. Please plan to attend only one showcase event.

- **April 15, 2025** - Masonic Center of Winston Salem (Winston-Salem) – [Register for the 4/15 Showcase](#). (Registration closes **Monday, April 7.**)
- **April 17, 2025** - The Journey Center (Greenville) – [Register for the 4/17 Showcase](#). (Registration closes **Wednesday, April 9.**)

Each workshop will take place **9:00 am - 4:00 pm**. Check-in starts 30 minutes prior to the start time. Participants are responsible for all travel expenses including breakfast, beverages, snacks, lodging, and mileage. Lunch and one snack will be provided each day.

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.

Plan to Attend Spring 2025 Policy Updates – Register by 4/21

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition is happy to announce our in-person Spring 2025 Policy Updates meetings. We will be offering six opportunities across the state to engage with our team and network with other School Nutrition professionals while also receiving important information and updates impacting North Carolina School Nutrition Programs. Please note that Policy Updates are intended for School Nutrition Administrators and their central office staff.

Date	Location	Primary Facilitators
Tuesday, April 29	Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce 1099 Gum Branch Road, Jacksonville	Laura Chase, Pam Sheets
Tuesday, April 29	N.C. Telecenter 415 East Boulevard, Williamston	Cathie Masters, Leslie Otts, Katie Exum
Wednesday, April 30	Masonic Center of Winston-Salem 4537 Country Club Road, Winston-Salem	Trip Warren, Flo Smith, Choncy Holman
Thursday, May 1	NCSU McKimmon Center 1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh	Dana Edwards, Jamie Narron, Jennifer Ozkurt
Thursday, May 1	Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) 121 Hendersonville Road, Asheville	Jennifer Brown, Sheryl Harris
Friday, May 2	Great Wolf Lodge 10175 Weddington Road, Concord	Kim McCall, Kristen Bealler

Participants are welcome to attend any meeting location, even if your Area School Nutrition Consultant is not facilitating that meeting. However, we do encourage you to attend the meeting that your Area School Nutrition Consultant is facilitating, if possible. Please only register for one location.

Each meeting will **begin at 9:00 am and conclude by 4:00 pm**. Additional details can be found in the registration form. [Register](#) by **Monday, April 21**.

Contact Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov, with any questions, or if you need to cancel or modify your registration. We look forward to seeing you this spring!

School Nutrition Spotlight

Celebrating the Superbowl – Princeton Middle/High School

The Princeton Middle/High School Nutrition Team with Johnston County Schools had so much fun preparing a tailgate menu for the Superbowl! The cafeteria and lines were decorated, and the food was delicious. Each student that ate school lunch received chips and made from scratch Spinach Queso and/or Buffalo Chicken Dip in addition to their meal. Lunch was a choice of Meatball Subs; Cheese, Pepperoni, Buffalo, or Fiestada Pizza; French Fry Bar that included Fries, Queso Cheese, Hot Honey Chili, Jalapenos, and Bacon; a Fresh Spinach Bar that included Fresh Spinach, Cherry Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Shredded Carrots, Boiled Eggs, Croutons, and Bacon Bits; Pineapple Parfait; Bananas; Apple Slices; and Milk. Students had a great time celebrating the Superbowl and enjoying the tailgate menu!



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 X, formerly Twitter.

Share Your School Nutrition Photos

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition wants to spotlight 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

School Nutrition Update e-letters are scheduled to go out twice per month during the second and fourth full weeks. 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 take the actions below**. 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.**

- **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.**

Job Opportunity

Work with the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition – Area SN Consultant Openings Positions – Close 2/27

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition is pleased to announce it is recruiting for two Area School Nutrition Consultants to join its team. A School Nutrition Consultant serves in a professional consultative and auditing capacity, ensuring SFAs are informed of and comply with all policies, procedures, and laws applicable to the federally assisted and state-administered School Nutrition Programs. These positions are regionally based.

- [School Nutrition Consultant 60009633](#) – Franklin, Johnston, and Wake Counties
- [School Nutrition Consultant 65029179](#) – Chatham, Durham, Granville, Harnett, and Lee Counties

Apply for Charlotte-Mecklenburg CN Area Supervisor Position – Closes 2/28

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) is seeking applicants for an open Child Nutrition (CN) Area Supervisor position. The Area Supervisor is responsible for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating all aspects of the school-based CN program to ensure that school meals are nutritious, appealing, and cost effective. They provide expert knowledge of the food service industry to assist in developing CMS and Child Nutrition policies and procedures used in the management of staff in compliance with State/Federal laws and regulations. They facilitate departmental improvements through the creation of a positive work environment, analyzing program needs and developing program goals and action plans. The Area Supervisor is responsible for recommending facility and equipment improvements, monitoring food production, food security, sanitation, employee safety, human resource management, meal accountability, and monitoring departmental key performance indicators for their assigned schools. They regularly interact with the school principal and staff to promote CN as an integral part of the school program. [Learn more and apply for the CMS CN Area Supervisor opening.](#)

Work with Harnett County Schools – School Nutrition Supervisor Opening

Harnett County Schools is recruiting applicants for an open School Nutrition Supervisor position. A bachelor's degree, or equivalent educational experience with an academic major in food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or a related field and at least eight hours of food safety training, either not more than five years prior to the starting date or completed within 30 days of the employee's start date, or a bachelor's degree in any academic major and at least five years' experience in management of School Nutrition Programs and at least eight hours of food safety training, either not more than five years prior to the starting date or completed within 30 days of the employee's start date. A Registered Dietitian is preferred. [Learn more and apply for the Harnett County School Nutrition Supervisor opening.](#)

Apply for Anson County School Nutrition Director Position

Anson County Schools is actively recruiting applicants for the School Nutrition Director position. A bachelor's degree, or equivalent educational experience, with academic major in specific areas; or a bachelor's degree in any academic major and a State-recognized certificate for School Nutrition Directors; or a bachelor's degree in any academic major and at least two years of relevant School Nutrition Program experience; or an associate's

degree, or equivalent educational experience, with academic major or concentration in food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or a related field; and at least 2 years of relevant School Nutrition Program experience is required. [Learn more and apply for the Anson County School Nutrition Director position.](#)

Have a Job Opportunity to Share?

If you have a job opportunity to share, please send to Tracey Bates, School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov.

- **Write a brief paragraph describing the position role, responsibilities, and requirements.** Consider including unique aspects of the role, facts about your public school unit and School Nutrition Program, or other information that may entice applicants.
 - **Note the closing date (if applicable).**
 - **Include a link to the job description and online application accessible to individuals outside of your public school unit.**
-

Award/Grant Opportunity

Apply for a Whole Kids Garden Grant – Due 3/5

Do you know a school that wants to create or enhance their school garden? Newman’s Own Foundation is teaming up the Whole Foods Market Foundation on the 2025 Whole Kids Garden Grants Program! The garden must be located at a charter or public school (including Tribally controlled and Bureau of Indian Education schools or a non-profit private school.) The deadline to apply is **March 5, 2025**. [Learn more and apply for the Whole Kids Garden Grant.](#)

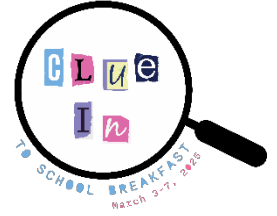
Submit Application for SNF Equipment Grants – Due 3/12

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) is awarding over \$600,000 worth of equipment to school districts with 2025 Equipment Grants. Applicants must be current director-level members of the School Nutrition Association (SNA). Visit the Equipment Grants page for more eligibility details. Thanks to the generosity of SNF's sponsors, thirteen grants are available (totaling over \$600,000 worth of equipment): Alto-Shaam, AmTab, Cambro, FWE, Hobart, Innoseal, LTI, Inc., Sterno Delivery, Vulcan, and Winston Foodservice. If you are selected as a finalist, you will be asked to create a 2- to 3-minute video. [Visit the SNF website to learn more about each grant and fill out your application\(s\).](#) Applications are due **March 12**.

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Clue In to School Breakfast, #NSBW National School Breakfast Week – 3/3-7

Schools across the North Carolina and the nation can “Clue In to School Breakfast” for National School Breakfast Week, **March 3-7**. What a terrific opportunity to remind students, educators, families, and the school community about the importance and benefits of school breakfast! Find free [#NSBW resources](#) from the national School Nutrition Association. Share how you celebrate #NSBW with the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition. Tag @NCSchoolMeals with your posts on social media.



Celebrate National Nutrition Month in March – Food Connects Us

National Nutrition Month® (NNM) is celebrated each March. The 2025 NNM theme is “Food Connect Us”. Food connects us to our cultures, our families, and our friends. Sharing a meal is an opportunity to learn about its preparation, who made it, and how and where the ingredients were sourced. Health, traditions, and access can all impact the foods we eat. The food we eat also affects our health. Participating in School Nutrition Programs offers students not only a nutritious meal but also an opportunity to connect with fellow students, teachers, and School Nutrition professionals. School meals can truly make a difference for students.



The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics hosts the annual National Nutrition Month® celebration and also national RDN Day and NDTR Day to recognize Registered Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians, Registered and the work they do to improve health through nutrition. National Nutrition Month® is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the importance of nutrition and school meals. You can recognize any RDNs or NDTRs that work with your School Nutrition Team or Public School Unit with RDN Day and NDTR Day. Learn more and find resources from the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#). Share how you celebrate #NNM, #RDNDay and/or #NDTRDay with the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition. Tag @NCSchoolMeals with your posts on social media.

Continuing Education

Register for the 2025 N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference

The 2025 N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference is 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 is presented by the Carolina Hunger Initiative and will take place **Tuesday, February 25, 2025**, at The Friday Center in Chapel Hill. Attendees will grow their community of child hunger leaders from across the state, hear new strategies and success stories, and leave reenergized to continue the fight against child hunger! This year’s theme is “Rooted in Community”. [Learn more and register for the conference](#).



Submit Presentation Proposal for the 2025 National Farm to Cafeteria Conference – Due 2/28

The National Farm to School Network (NFSN) is excited to announce the 10th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference on **June 3-6, 2025** in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This conference is the premier event for anyone passionate about bringing local food to institutional settings and driving positive change in the food system. Whether you are a food service professional, farmer, educator, policymaker, entrepreneur, or student, this conference offers invaluable opportunities to network, learn, and share knowledge with others who are shaping the future of food access and sustainability. Are you interested in creating a poster, leading a workshop, or planning a lightning talk? NFSN invites you to [submit a proposal](#)! The Request for Proposals (RFP) for conference workshops and posters is open now through **February 28, 2025**.

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a State or local government entity. The Department of Justice (DOJ) has consistently made clear that the Title II nondiscrimination requirements apply to all services, programs, and activities of public entities (also referred to as “government services”), including those provided via the web. It also includes those provided via mobile apps.

Learn More about Digital Accessibility – March Webinar Series

In April 2024, a regulatory rule, [Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability; Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities](#), was published in the Federal Register. In this rule, the DOJ establishes technical standards for web content and mobile app accessibility to give public entities greater clarity in exactly how to meet their ADA obligations and to help ensure equal access to government services for individuals with disabilities.

Understanding the laws and policies that govern digital accessibility is essential for ensuring compliance and promoting equitable access to digital resources. NCDPI has offered a webinar series on accessibility for Public School Units (PSUs). The webinars were recorded and posted on the NCDPI website. [View the accessibility webinars for PSUs](#).

NCDPI is offering a webinar series in March designed specifically for vendors who develop digital solutions for K-12/higher education, state government and/or local government entities. Ensuring that your digital products and services are accessible is not only about legal compliance; it is a commitment to providing solutions that are accessible to all users. This webinar series will provide foundational knowledge and practical guidance on integrating accessibility into product design, development, procurement, and customer support.

Who Should Attend?

Vendors providing digital solutions to public entities, including solutions such as:

- **Educational technology & learning platforms**, such as Learning Management Systems (LMS), instructional content, assessment solutions
- **Public & employee-facing web platforms**, such as government portals, Human Resources (HR) systems, parent & staff dashboards

- **Data & reporting systems**, such as student information systems, analytics tools, compliance tracking
- **Document & content management solutions**, such as electronic forms, PDF creation tools, publishing platforms
- **Collaboration & communication tools**, such as web conferencing, messaging, email platforms, notification systems
- **Authoring & interactive media platforms**, such as e-learning content creators, simulations, AI tools
- **Mobile apps & digital services**, such as applications for public services, user portals, engagement platforms

All personnel/team roles, including leadership, product development, UX/design, sales, marketing, procurement, and customer support should attend. Participants can [register](#) for any or all webinars in the series. Each webinar will be recorded, and all registrants will receive an email following the event with the recording link. Feel free to attend the vendor webinar series and share information on this webinar series with vendors that work with your SFA.

Access Virtual Training Opportunities

Continuing education resources are available on the Office of School Nutrition [website](#) from NCDPI, the Institute of Child Nutrition, 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).

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.