



Summer Meals Newsletter

Upcoming USDA/Partner Events:

[Best Practices: Use of the USDA Department of Defense \(DoD\) Fresh Program in SFSP](#)

Thursday, March 8, 2018
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service

[Tribal and Rural Summer Meals](#)

Thursday, March 20, 2018
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EST
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service

[Engage the Healthcare Community to Support Summer Meals](#)

Tuesday, March 27, 2018
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST
Share our Strength, No Kid Hungry

Save the date!

[Summer Meals Matter Call: Getting the Word Out About Summer Meals](#)

Thursday, April 5, 2018
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EST
Food Research and Action Center



What is the USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program?

[USDA and the Department of Defense \(DoD\) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program](#) allows schools to use USDA Foods entitlement dollars to buy fresh produce. The program is operated by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) at DoD. Advantages of the DoD Fresh Produce program include greater buying power, consistent deliveries, emphasis on high quality, a large variety of produce items including pre-cuts and locally grown, and an easy-to-use ordering website with funds tracking. Attend the webinar on March 8 for more information!



USDA Seeks Public Input on Child Nutrition Food Crediting!

We want to hear from you and what you think about food crediting in Child Nutrition Programs! The comment period has been extended until April 23, 2018.

In order to claim Federal reimbursement, Child Nutrition Program operators must serve meals and snacks that meet the minimum meal pattern requirements of the respective Program. Crediting is the process designed by USDA to specify how individual food items contribute to the Child Nutrition Programs' meal patterns. Several factors impact how food products can credit toward reimbursable meals, such as volume, weight, and overall nutrient profile.

The purpose of this Request for Information is to help USDA gather feedback from a wide variety of stakeholders on how FNS' crediting system can best address today's evolving food and nutrition environment, as well as to offer first-rate customer service to those operating and benefitting from the Child Nutrition Programs.

Electronic comments are preferred and may be submitted at <http://www.regulations.gov>. State agencies are encouraged to distribute this information to all Child Nutrition Program Operators and all Child Nutrition Program stakeholders.

For more information about the Request for Information, please see the webinar that was recorded in December 2017, exploring all of the questions asked in the Request for Information: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/fr-022918>