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POLICY UPDATE



07.27.2017 Twenty-first Release of the Child Nutrition Database (CNDB)

In a [memo](#) from July 27, 2017, the USDA released its twenty-first Child Nutrition Database (CN21), which is available on the [Healthy Meals Resource System website](#) for companies who develop software approved by the USDA for nutrient analyses required in the school meal programs. New in this release are fields for vitamin D and potassium, 379 new food products from the food industry, and nutrient data for 122 new USDA standardized recipes. Companies with USDA-approved nutrient analysis software are required to incorporate CN21 by August 21, 2017.

8.15.2017 2018 Direct Certification Improvement Grant RFA

The USDA FNS announced [in a memo](#) its release of the FY 2018 Direct Certification Improvement Grant Request for Applications (RFA). The grants are to fund State Agency initiatives and projects that work to improve direct certification rates through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other needs-based assistance programs. The grants ultimately intend to assist States in improving access, increasing accuracy and reducing paperwork in the NSLP and School Breakfast Program (SBP) by simplifying the certification process for free school meals. Under the [2018 RFA](#), States will have six opportunities to apply for Tier 1 or Tier 2 grants beginning November 15, 2017 and ending February 15, 2019.

8.22.2017 Comment Request – Summer Meals Study

On August 22, 2017 the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) [introduced an information collection](#), which invites the public and other agencies to comment on the Summer Meals Study. The Summer Meals Study is intended to develop an understanding of the facilitators and barriers to program implementation; perceived benefits and challenges for sponsor and site participation; nutritional quality of meals served; parental awareness; factors influencing child participation; and the Summer Food Service Program and the National School Lunch Program's (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option. Comments are due by October 23, 2017.

Questions or comments?

Send them to SNA's Government Affairs Coordinator, Lawren Geer, at lgeer@schoolnutrition.org