



## Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education

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### MEMORANDUM

7/14/2016

TO: Child and Adult Care Food Program Institutions

FROM: Mitzi Langley, Nutritionist  
Health and Nutrition Unit

RE: Newly Released CACFP Nutrition Standards

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The State Agency is excited about the newly released CACFP Meal pattern updates that have been released for implementation by October 1, 2017. The State Agency will be providing technical assistance to assist in making a smooth transition. The new standards for meals and snacks served in the CACFP are based on the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#), science-based recommendations made by the National Academy of Medicine, cost and practical considerations, and stakeholder's input.

The improvements are expected to enhance the quality of meals served in CACFP to help young children learn healthy eating habits early on in their lives and improve the wellness of adult participants. Through the [Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act](#) championed by the First Lady Michelle and signed by President Barack Obama; USDA made the first major changes in the CACFP meals and snacks since the Program's inception in 1968, which will help ensure children and adults have access to healthy, balanced meals and snacks throughout the day. The new CACFP nutrition standards will help safeguard the health of children early in their lives and improve the wellness of adults.

The Health and Nutrition Unit (HNU) will be providing guidance, resources, best practices, and training to all CACFP participants. This new meal standard for the CACFP centers and day care homes must be fully implemented by October 1, 2017. The State Agency understands that questions may arise and we are using this tool to inform all CACFP participants to continue using the current meal patterns until training and implementation phases are released by the State Agency.

For questions regarding this memorandum, contact the Child and Adult Care Food Program at 501-682-8869.