

NUTRITION NEWS

Helpful Hints & Tips | CACFP Edition XVII

• National CACFP Week •



March 13-19, 2016 was National CACFP Week, a national education and information campaign sponsored annually by the National CACFP Sponsors Organization. The purpose of the campaign is to highlight the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and how the program is combating hunger and teaching children all about nutritious foods and healthy eating.

To celebrate, the National CACFP Sponsors Association is holding a contest. Share what you did or are doing to promote National CACFP Week and you could win \$250! Operation Proclamation will name two winners – one sponsoring organization and one provider. The entry deadline is March 31, 2016.

The online entry form can be found [here](#). For information on resources to continually promote the CACFP, visit this [link](#).

• March Budget Tips •



All institutions and sponsors should have a budget on file that reflects how CACFP meal reimbursements are expensed. Be sure to check your paper and online records. If you are unable to locate a physical copy of your budget or if you do not have a budget in the online application, you must create a current budget.

Contact your area Training & Technical Assistance Coordinator for help with this process. Email requests to NutritionTA@decals.ga.gov.

Also note, the Budget Guidance Manual has been updated and can be found online [here](#).

• Read Across Georgia Month •

“Read Across Georgia” month is an annual campaign that supports and focuses on childhood literacy. The month kicked off with Governor Deal, First Lady Sandra Deal, and Zac Brown Band's lead guitarist Bowles.

The purpose of “Read Across Georgia” is to encourage children to read and to highlight the importance of literacy.

We encourage you to participate in not only in Read Across Georgia in March but to continually read to the children in your care and provide opportunities for them to look at and handle books. Reading and engaging with books will help build children's literacy skills and instill in them a love of reading.

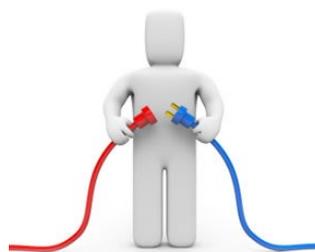
• Annual Requirements and Documents •

The 2016 CACFP Annual Training and Annual Certification Requirements should now be completed and the approved 2016 application should be on file in CNP 2000. If you have not completed annual renewal, please do so as soon as possible. Institutions that do not complete FY 2016 annual requirements by April 30, 2016 must reapply to participate in the CACFP as a new institution.

Without completing annual training, assessment questions, and certification requirements, institutions will not have access to the 2016 CACFP application and will not be able to file 2016 claims for reimbursement. Institutions that did not complete 2016 annual requirements prior to February 29th are no longer eligible for CACFP reimbursement for the month of December 2015.

In addition, the annual renewal process includes submitting annual documents based on institution/sponsor type. The chart on DECAL's website [here](#) outlines annual renewal documentation requirements. Click the "Annual Documents" name in Column 1 to access that document.

• Parent Provider Connection •



Engaging with the families of children in your care is critically important to enhance their preschool experiences and outcomes. The National CACFP Sponsors Association provides a monthly resource called *Parent Provider Connection* to help centers communicate with families effectively. *Parent Provider Connection* is a letter that provides ideas for activities, nutrition notes, and space for centers to personalize the letter about activities and assignments the children in the center will work on that month.

To access all the *Parent Provider Connections* that have been issued in 2016, visit this [link](#) and sign in to your National CACFP Sponsors Association account. You will be able to download templates and customize them for your center. For April, the theme will be Italy and will include a recipe for a healthy calzone and much more! To see the April edition of the *Parent Provider Connection*, click this [link](#).