## Staying on Track

October 2023

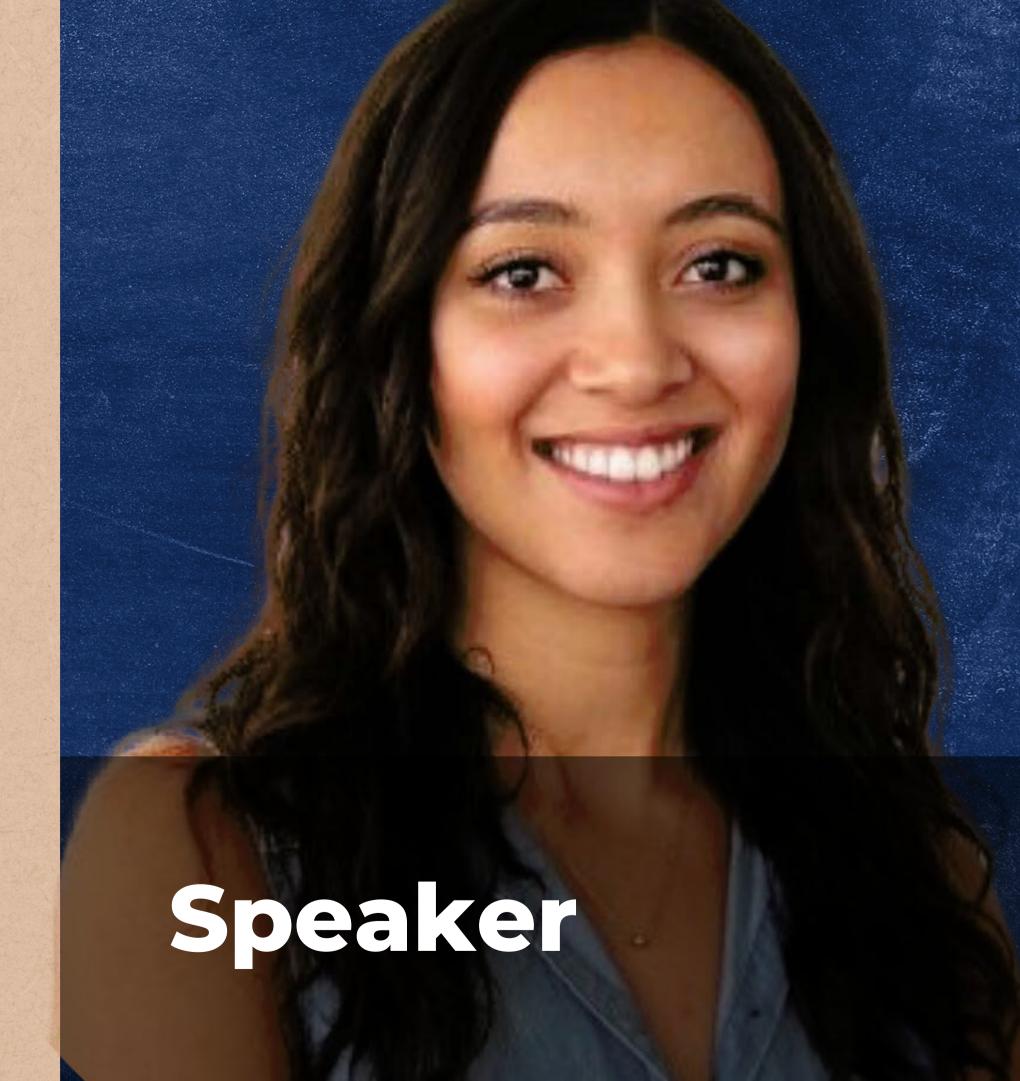


Health and Nutrition Services
Arizona Department of Education



Today's webinar will be facilitated by Ashley Kennedy. Prior to joining ADE in March 2022, Ashley worked in food service at Tempe Elementary School District and completed the School Nutrition Specialist internship at Paradise Valley Unified School District.

Ashley helps lead the upLIFT efforts that provide professional development for directors to serve desired menus.





## Disclaimer

This training was developed by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Health and Nutrition Services Division (HNS). The content in this training is intended for professionals operating one or more United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) in Arizona under the direction of ADE. The information in this training is subject to change. Attendees are encouraged to access professional development materials directly from the training library to prevent the use of outdated content.

## Intended Audience

This training is intended for School Food Authorities (SFAs) operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

## Objectives

The Staying on Track Webinar Series reviews key HNS communications sent to program directors over the past month. The monthly recap will:

- Ensure vital emails were not overlooked;
- Give HNS an opportunity to provide detailed training on important topics; and
- Provide program directors an opportunity to ask for clarifications.

#### **TRAINING HOURS**

Information to include when documenting this training for Professional Standards:

Training Title: October Staying on

Track

**Key Area:** 1000 - Nutrition, 3000 -

Administration, 4000 -

**Communications and Marketing** 

**Learning Code:** 1130, 1230, 1310, 3120,

3130, 3350, 4120

Length: 1 hour

## Questions

- Questions can be asked in the Q&A at any time and will be answered by another HNS trainer during the webinar.
- At the end of the webinar, the trainer will answer new questions or questions that still need to be addressed.
- Any questions not addressed during the webinar should be directed to your HNS Specialist.



## Agenda

**Section 1: September HNS Communications Round-Up** 

**Section 2: Last Month's Hot Topics** 

**Section 3: Last Month's Training Opportunities** 

Section 4: A Look Ahead to Upcoming Deadlines and HNS Communications

SECTION September HNS Communications Round-Up



## Announcements & Resources



## REMINDER OF THE VERIFICATION CONFIRMATION REVIEW WAIVER REQUIREMENTS

SFAs that use a technology-based system with a high level of accuracy in processing an initial income eligibility determination when reviewing household applications were able to submit a Confirmation Review Waiver request to HNS.



#### **2023 FARM FRESH CHALLENGE**

The Farm Fresh Challenge will be held from October 1 through October 31. This challenge is for CNP operators to cultivate excitement around fresh and locally sourced foods.



## <u>UPCOMING PARTNER EVENT: 2023 AZ FARM TO SCHOOL GATHERING</u>

This year's Arizona Farm to School Gathering hosted by the Arizona Farm to School Network is happening this October! HNS highly encourages participation in this two-day hybrid event.



#### **CELEBRATE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK!**

This year's National School Lunch Week theme is "Level Up with School Lunch" and will take place October 9-13, 2023. Take the time to highlight the importance of school lunch!

## Announcements & Resources



#### **PY23 SUMMER OPERATOR SURVEY**

The State Nutrition Action Committee (SNAC) Summer Food Service Program Workgroup is seeking input and feedback on operations in summer 2023. All summer operators are encouraged to complete the PY23 Summer Operator Survey.



#### **ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT DUE DATES**

The AFR submission deadlines for non-AzEDS schools is quickly approaching. The AFR for non-public schools (private schools, RCCIs, Special Milk Program schools, and BIA schools) was due on 10/1. The AFR for public schools and charters is due 10/15.



#### **SNAC SFSP WORK GROUP MEETING**

All summer operators are encouraged to attend the October SNAC SFSP Work Group Meeting on 10/25 from 1:30-3 PM MST. This meeting will review summer 2023 and discuss opportunities for summer 2024.



#### **VERIFICATION KICK-OFF!**

Phase 2 of verification officially began on October 1! SFAs are encouraged to utilize the resources provided to ensure a successful verification outcome.

## Announcements & Resources



#### **CELEBRATE NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH**

October is National Farm to School month. It is meant to enrich the connection between local food producers and education sites. Celebrate this month by participating in the Farm Fresh Challenge.



#### **USDA FOODS SHIPMENT SCHEDULE**

SFAs that have a fall break are reminded to check their USDA Foods shipment schedule. Any deliveries that cannot be accepted may result in penalty fees.

## Memorandums



SP 22-2023: COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY
PROVISION: IMPLEMENTING THE NEW
MINIMUM IDENTIFIED STUDENT PERCENTAGE

SP 22-2023 explains changes made to the CEP in the Final Rule published on September 26, 2023, which includes lowering the minimum identified student percentage from 40 percent to 25 percent.



## National School Lunch Week

### **CELEBRATE #NSLW23 OCTOBER 9-13, 2023!**

Celebrate NSLW the second full week of October! The theme this year is *Level Up with School Lunch!* 

NSLW is intended to promote the importance of healthy school lunch in a child's life and the impact it has inside and outside of the classroom.

During the weeklong celebration, the goals are to:

- increase student participation; and,
- connect with families, teachers, and administrators to spread the message about the benefits of school meals.



Get more information and marketing materials for National School Lunch Week by <u>clicking here!</u>



#### What is the Farm Fresh Challenge?

The Farm Fresh Challenge is for CNP operators to cultivate excitement around fresh and locally sourced foods.

Participating operators must complete a series of challenges that promote tasting, teaching, and connection of participants to foods local to Arizona within a one-week timeframe between October 1-October 31.

### TASTE Arizona

Serve local! Serve a minimum of three locally-sourced meal components.

### TEACH Arizona

Host *at least two* educational activities themed around AZ local food and agriculture!

## **CONNECT Arizona**

Promote your FFC activities via a social media post, magazine feature, newspaper article, etc. at least once.

# Program Year 2024 Farm Fresh Challenge october 1 - october 31

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## Farm to School Month

#### **OCTOBER IS FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH!**

The National Farm to School Network advocated for the creation of National Farm to School Month by Congress in 2010 and now organizes the annual celebration with hundreds of partner organizations across the country.

This year, AZ State Governor Katie Hobbs has proclaimed October 2023 as Arizona Farm to School Month.



## Farm to School Month

#### **WAYS TO CELEBRATE**

Farm to School Month is intended to be a time to celebrate the connections happening between children and local food. It is a great opportunity to plan a new farm to school activity, organize a special celebration of your current efforts, and/or initiate a new partnership!

Ways to Celebrate in AZ:

- Participate in the <u>Farm Fresh Challenge</u>
- Attend the <u>2023 Arizona Farm to School Gathering</u>

Find more celebration activities, ideas, and resources in the National Farm to School Network's <u>toolkit!</u>



## Try it Local! Local Food for Schools

The Arizona Department of Education Health and Nutrition Services is pleased to announce Arizona's participation in the Local Food for School (LFS) Cooperative Agreement Program!

Try it Local! LFS is an opportunity for schools participating in NSLP to be reimbursed for minimally processed local or regional foods used in the school meals.



## Try it Local! Local Food for Schools

#### **HOW WILL IT WORK?**



Purchase minimally processed local or regional foods to be used in school meals.



Submit invoice or receipt! Provide invoice or receipt to HNS in ADEConnect: CNP Supplemental Payments.



Receive reimbursement for all qualifying purchased food.

#### FOR EXAMPLE...

SFA #1 purchases lettuce from a local distributor and believes their cost is eligible for reimbursement through Try it Local. SFA submit receipts to HNS in the ADEConnect system- CNP Supplemental Payments. HNS reviews the receipts to confirm the purchase qualifies and issues payment to SFA #1!

#### **Another example:**

SFA #2 participates in the Farm Fresh Challenge! They submit receipts to HNS in the ADEConnect system- CNP Supplemental Payments for the qualifying local items they purchased. HNS reviews the receipts and issues payment for food purchases to SFA #2!



Operators will need to request access to the CNP Supplemental Payments application from their Entity Administrator(s). For assistance, please use ADEConnect's How to Videos.





## HNS is here to help!

HNS has a dedicated team of specialists eager and available to help SFAs understand and procure local foods eligible for Try it Local funds.

Please submit a <u>School Interest Form</u> to connect, learn more, and start receiving funds for eligible local foods!

## Verification: Phase 2

#### **PHASE 2 OFFICIALLY BEGAN OCTOBER 1!**

#### **Phase 1: Prepare - Complete!**

- count the total number of applications on file
- count and categorize applications by case number, foster, free by income, and reduced by income
- follow along with the steps in the Verification Best Practices Calendar to ensure accurate and timely verification outcomes

## Phase 2: Calculate & Select Applications - Happening Now!

- determine which sampling method your SFA qualifies for based on the Verification Non-Response Rate Report
- locate the ADE Verification Sample Size Calculator
- calculate how many applications will need to be verified
- select verification applications

## Adult Meal Pricing

#### PRICING NON-PROGRAM ADULT MEALS

SFAs must price adult meals so that adult payments cover the overall cost of meals, including the value of donated foods (USDA Foods) used in the production of adult meals.

The minimum adult payment should reflect the price charged to students paying full price, plus the reimbursement rate received for a full-price meal and the value of donated foods.

In **non-pricing programs** (e.g., Special Assistance Provisions), the adult meal price should be at least the amount of reimbursement received for a free meal, plus the value of donated foods.

A	du	lt	Meal	Pricing Tool				
Adult Breakfast Pricing Tool				Adult Lunch Pricing Tool				
Method #1 (recommended for pricing sites)			Example	Method #1 (recommended for pricing sites)			Example	
. Enter your highest paid student price for breakfast			\$ 2.00	Enter your highest paid student price for lunch			\$	3.00
. Current paid breakfast reimbursement rate	\$ 0.3	38	\$ 0.38	Enter current paid lunch reimbursement rate			\$	0.4
Sub-total Sub-total	\$ 0.3	38	\$ 2.38	3. Performance-based reimbursement rate (\$0.08)	\$	0.08	\$	0.0
Suggested adult breakfast price (rounded up to the nearest \$.05)	\$ 0.4	40	\$ 2.40	4. Current USDA food value	\$ 0.	.2950	S	0.3
				Sub-total	\$	0.38	\$	3.8
				Suggested adult lunch price (rounded up to the nearest \$.05)	\$	0.40	\$	3.8
Method #2 (recommended for non-pricing sites)			Example	Method #2 (recommended for non-pricing sites)			Exa	ample
Method #2 (recommended for non-pricing sites)  Enter current free breakfast reimbursement rate		_	Example \$ 2.73	Method #2 (recommended for non-pricing sites)  1. Enter current free lunch reimbursement rate			Exa \$	
	\$ -				\$	0.08	-	4.3
. Enter current free breakfast reimbursement rate	\$ - \$ -		\$ 2.73	Enter current free lunch reimbursement rate	-	0.08	\$	4.35 0.08
. Enter current free breakfast reimbursement rate Sub-total	\$ - \$ -		\$ 2.73 \$ 2.73	Enter current free lunch reimbursement rate     Performance-based reimbursement rate (\$0.08)	\$ 0.	.2950	\$	4.35 0.08 0.30 4.73

Line	Reference	Instruction		
	Adult Breakfast Pricing Meth	od 1 (Pricing Sites)		
1	Highest paid student price for breakfast	Enter the highest amount paid by students for breakfast at this site.		
2	Current paid breakfast reimbursement rate	Input the amount reimbursed for each paid breakfast served at this site.		
	Adult Breakfast Pricing Method	2 (Non-Pricing Sites)		
Current free breakfast reimbursement rate		Input the amount reimbursed for each free breakfast served at this site.		
	Adult Lunch Pricing Metho	d 1 (Pricing Sites)		
1	Highest paid student price for lunch	Enter the highest amount paid by students for lunch at this site.		
2	Current paid reimbursement rate	Input the amount reimbursed for each paid lunch served at this site.		
3	Performance-based reimbursement rate	The performance-based cash reimbursement is \$0.08 per lunch meal for SY23-24.		
4	Current USDA food value (cash in lieu of commodities rate)	The value of USDA Foods for SY23-24 is \$0.2950 for all sites.		
	Adult Lunch Pricing Method 2	! (Non-Pricing Sites)		
1	Free lunch reimbursement rate	Input the amount reimbursed for each free lunch served at this site.		
2	Performance-based reimbursement rate	The performance-based cash reimbursement is \$0.08 per lunch meal for SY23-24.		
3	Current USDA food value	The value of USDA Foods for SY23-24 is \$0.2950 for all sites.		
	This institution is an equal opp	portunity provider		

### **Adult Meal Pricing Tool**

## Adult Meal Pricing

#### **PROGRAM VS NON-PROGRAM ADULT**

Funds from the non-profit school food service account may not be used to provide free or discounted meals to adults unless the individual meets the definition of a **program adult**.

**Program Adult:** may be served a meal at no charge, but may not claim the meal for reimbursement

- directly involved in the operation and administration
- food service directors, kitchen managers, cooks, servers, cashiers, etc.

**Non-Program Adult:** must be charged a sufficient amount to cover the overall cost of the meal

- not directly involved in the operation and administration
- school administrators, custodians, teachers, etc.

More detailed guidance is available in <u>HNS TA 02-</u> 2022: Establishing Nonprogram Adult Meal Prices.

## Final Rule & CEP

## SP 22-2023: CEP: IMPLEMENTING THE NEW MINIMUM ISP

The Final Rule, <u>Child Nutrition Programs:</u>
<u>Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) -</u>
<u>Increasing Options for Schools</u>, amends CEP regulations by lowering the minimum identified student percentage (ISP) from 40 percent to 25 percent, which will give States and LEAs greater flexibility to offer no-cost meals to all enrolled students if financially viable.

Because the final rule is effective after the June 30 CEP election deadline for SY 23-24, FNS is collecting requests from State agencies to permit mid-year CEP elections. ADE HNS is considering issuing this request and will provide updates to operators via HNS Communications.

Changes to CEP as a Result of the Final Rule								
Provision	Previous Minimum ISP	New Minimum ISP (effective 10/26/23)						
Minimum ISP	Required to have ISPs of <b>40 percent or</b> <b>higher</b> to elect CEP.	Required to have ISPs of <b>25% or higher</b> to elect CEP.						
Grace Year Eligibility	Required to have ISPs of less than 40% but greater than or equal to 30% in year 4 of the CEP cycle to elect CEP for a fifth year, or grace year.	Required to have ISPs of < 25% but ≥ 15% in year 4 of the CEP cycle to elect CEP for a fifth year, or grace year.						

For more information, please join FNS' webinar for SFAs this Thursday, October 5, 2:00 PM EST. Register here!



HNS released the <u>first upLIFT bulletin of SY 23-24!</u> This bulletin provided an overview of this year's upLIFT initiative, "upLIFT Your Voice," highlighted a delicious new side dish served at Washington Elementary School, and included information about the upcoming upLIFT webinar, Research Rundown, Nutrition Knowledge Fact Sheet, and featured food!

#### **Featured Resources:**

- Research Rundown
- Nutrition Knowledge Fact Sheet
- Featured Food Yogurt!
  - Whole Food Profile
  - How to Use Whole Foods



To access upLIFT resources and webinar recordings, please visit HNS' <u>upLIFT webpage</u>.

True or False: Custodians are considered a Program Adult.

- **A** True
- **B** False



True or False: Custodians are considered a Program Adult.

**A** True



Although custodians work in the cafeteria around school food service, this is not a school food service staff who is performing Program requirements that require training through the School Nutrition Programs.

These types of adults are considered Nonprogram Adults.



True or False: Funds from the non-profit school food service account may be used to provide free or discounted meals to non-program adults.

- **A** True
- **B** False



True or False: Funds from the non-profit school food service account may be used to provide free or discounted meals to non-program adults.

**A** True



Funds from the non-profit school food service account can only be used to cover meals for adults who work directly with the school food service and are considered program adults.

Non-program adults are required to be charged for meals.



Which HNS resource walks SFAs through the Verification timeline and provides all needed forms and resources?

- Verification Non-Response Rate Report
- **B** Verification Tracking Form
- **C** Verification Best Practices Calendar

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- C Yerification Best Practices Calendar

The <u>Verification Best Practices Calendar</u> provides all steps, forms, and resources to Phases 1-4 of Verification.

HNS created this resource to assist SFAs through Verification to ensure accurate and timely reporting.



SECTION3
Last Month's
Training
Opportunities

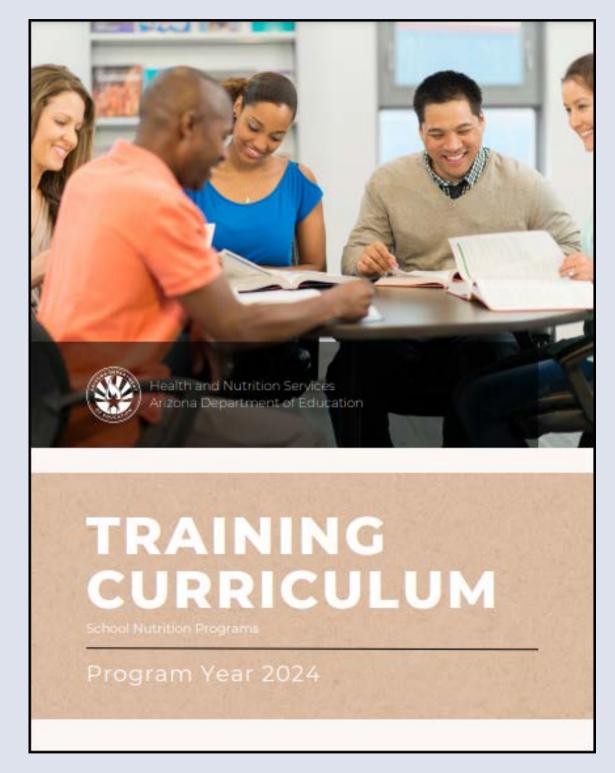


## Training for School Nutrition Programs

#### TRAINING CURRICULUM

Because the trainings offered by HNS are vast in quantity and diverse in content, ADE has drafted specialized curricula based on job duties to help directors get started creating training plans for the year.

Each curriculum includes a list of recommended trainings offered by HNS and the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) for specific roles, the format of each training, the Professional Standards hours each training provides, and where to access the training or registration.



<u>Training Curriculum for Arizona Child Nutrition</u>

<u>Professionals Operating the National School Lunch and</u>

<u>School Breakfast Program in Program Year 2024</u>

## Training Opportunities

#### **EVENTS OFFERED IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER**

To access webinar slides and recordings, visit HNS' webpage or refer to the HNS Communications Event Follow-up email.



Staying on Track



upLIFT: upLIFT Your Voice - Kickoff Webinar!



Verification Review for School Year 2023-2024

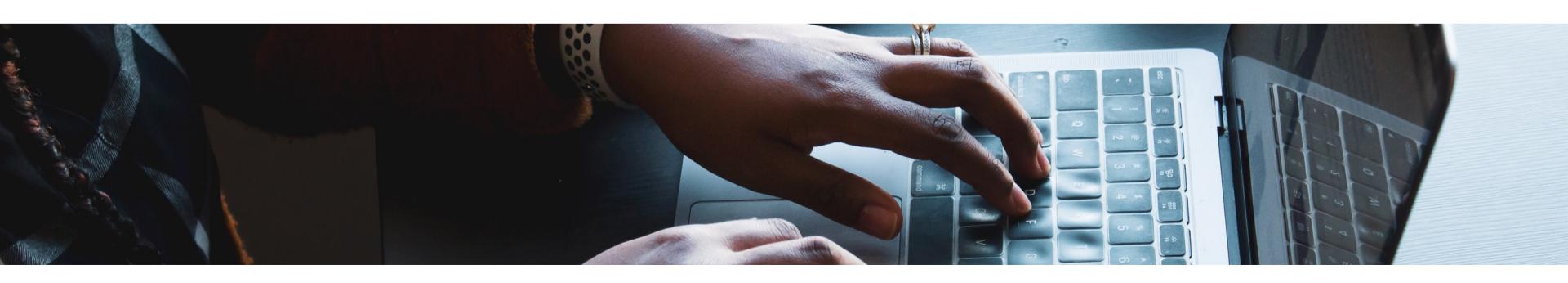
SECTION 4
Upcoming
Deadlines &
Communications



## In Our Drafts

#### **KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR THE FOLLOWING EMAILS THIS MONTH:**

- Verification Reminders
- Program alerts notifying SFAs of FFVP award funding in GME
- Try it Local! Local Food for Schools funding campaign
- Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards for School Food Authorities (SFA)
- CNP Integrity Final Rule
- School Garden Grant



## October Checklist

#### October 1 - October 10

Submit September reimbursement claims (best practice)

#### October 1

60-day deadline to submit July claims

#### October 1

**Annual Financial Report due for Non-Public Schools** 

#### October 9-13

**Celebrate National School Lunch Week!** 

#### October 15

Annual Financial Report due for Public Schools

#### **Daily**

- Complete production records
- Count meals at the point of service
- Complete Daily Edit Checks

## This month...

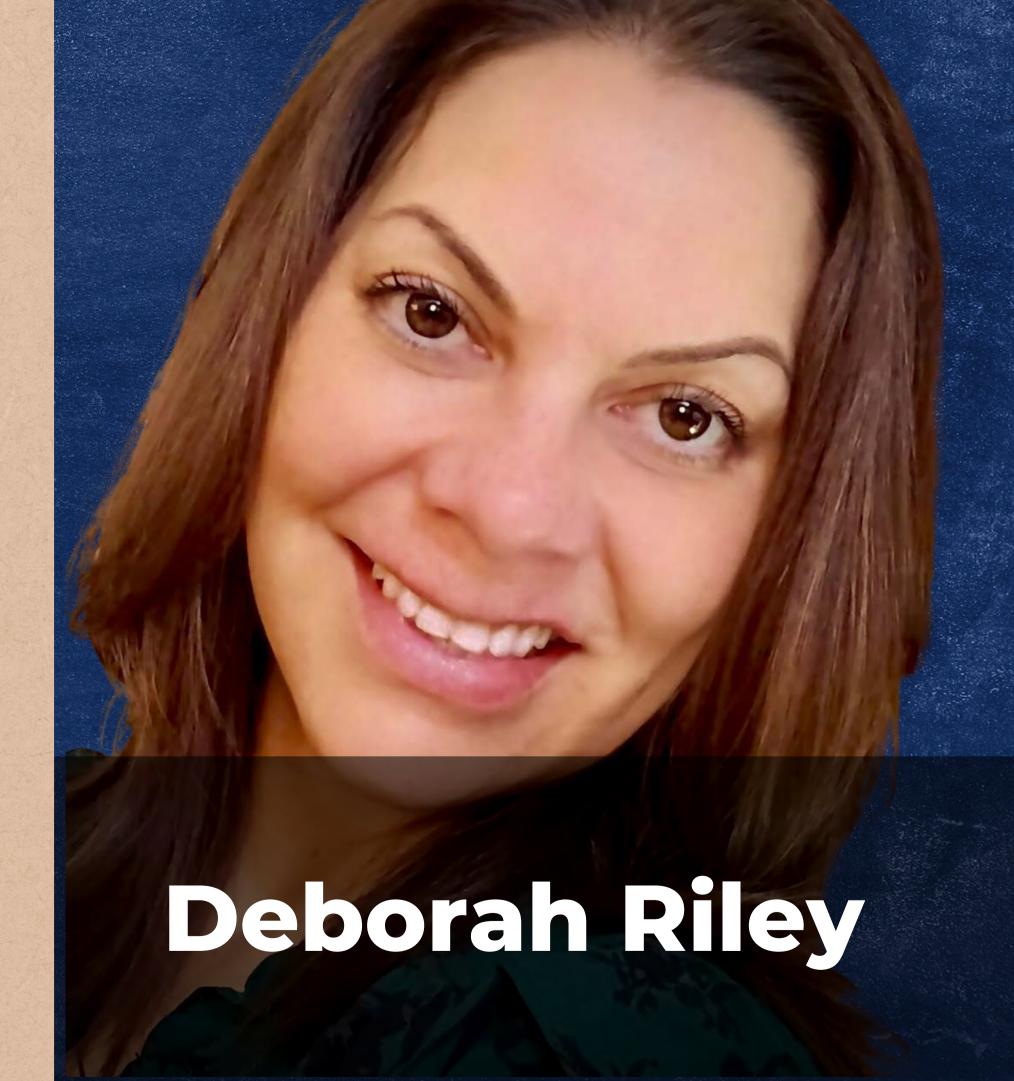
- Participate in the Farm Fresh Challenge!
- Celebrate Farm to School Month!
- Begin Verification Phase 2 and Phase 3
   Activities
- Complete <u>What to Except: NSLP</u>
   <u>Administrative Review</u> (if you are up for review during SY 23-24)

## Join Us Next Month!

#### **NEW STAYING ON TRACK SPEAKER!**

The Staying on Track webinar will be facilitated by Deborah Riley. Deborah has extensive experience working with Child Nutrition Programs, having previously served as a School Nutrition Program Specialist at ADE, Coordinator/Director of Nutrition Services at Fowler Elementary District, and Child Nutrition Supervisor at Phoenix Elementary School District.

Please join HNS in welcoming Deborah Riley!





## Join Us Next Month!

### Staying On Track

November 7, 2023 1:30-2:30 pm

We will be reviewing recently released HNS Communications and policy memorandums, and relevant key tasks, deadlines, and action items.

STAYING ON TRACK

### PLEASE PUT QUESTIONS IN THE Q&A

If you are attending the live webinar, you will receive an email once attendance has been completed. Once you have received this email, your training certificate will be available in Arizona Professional Learning Development (APLD).

If you are watching the recorded webinar, you can access the survey link and certificate of completion at the end of the webinar slides.





## Congratulations

You have completed the Online Course: Staying on Track: October 2023

Information to include when documenting this training for Professional Standards:

**Training Title:** October Staying on Track

Key Area: 1000 - Nutrition, 3000 - Administration,

4000 - Communications and Marketing

**Learning Code:** 1130, 1230, 1310, 3120, 3130, 3350, 4120

Length: 1 hour

Please note, attendees must document the amount of training hours indicated on the training despite the amount of time it takes to complete it.

## Certificate

Requesting a training certificate

Please click the button to complete a brief survey about this online training. Once the survey is complete, you will be able to print your certificate of completion from Survey Monkey.



Information to include when documenting this training for Professional Standards:

Training Title: October Staying on Track

Key Area: 1000 - Nutrition, 3000 - Administration,

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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 at: <a href="https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf">https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf</a>, 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; or

### 2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

### 3. email: <u>Program.Intake@usda.gov</u>

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