6/7/12

Thursday Update

Dear Districts,

It’s time for another Thursday Update, and this time, it’s actually on Thursday!

**Announcing…A New Claim System**

We are excited to announce that the CDE OSN has purchased a new claim system. Initially, this system will handle Renewal Agreements; site and sponsor applications; breakfast, lunch, snack, and special milk claims; and PK-2 claims. Gradually, we will be adding the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, the Summer Food Service Program, Verification, Food Safety Inspection Reports, and much, much more to its functionality. Over the next couple of months, we will be working on testing the system, issuing user names and passwords for users, and sending out information on how to use the new system. Online training, which will be optional, will be available. The system will likely be opened for use in August; stay tuned for more information. Also, since our current claim system will be accepting June 2012 as its last claim month, it is imperative to double-check all May and June claims before releasing them. If a claim is incorrect, it will not be able to net against a future claim; the district would need to send us a check for the difference.

**Free and Reduced Trainings**

Just a reminder that F&R trainings are underway. Information for the online training was sent out on 6/1 (please see <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriEmails.htm>). Also, information is posted on the regional trainings: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriF&R-RegionalTraining.htm>. The deadline to RSVP for the Loveland training is Tuesday 6/12. Due to low attendance so far, the deadline for the Grand Junction training has been moved up to 6/29. Please note: If not enough people register for this training, it will have to be cancelled. Please pass this information along to anyone in your district who is involved with the F&R training.

**Certification Update**

The CDE OSN has received guidance from the USDA regarding the tools to be used for SFAs to seek certification of compliance with the New Meal Patterns. Our office is diligently working on reviewing these tools and on developing policies and procedures that will assist SFAs with the certification process. In the meantime, we would like to ask that no one submit any of the tools to us until we give the go-ahead. This is for a few reasons: We cannot begin approving certification until July 1; specific, detailed procedures must be put into place before requests for certification can be reviewed; and the USDA may still be in the process of updating the certification tools. Please be aware of this last point if you are already beginning to try to determine within your district if your menus will meet the new patterns; only the final version of the USDA-developed tools that we will issue will be accepted by our office for certification requests.

**Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Update**

Just a reminder that all SFAs are required to submit a completed PLE worksheet prior to approval of the Renewal Agreement for School Year 2012-2013, no later than September 15, 2012. If your district will be increasing prices, you must also submit the Request for a Meal Price Increase (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriprogramrenewal.htm>). If your district decides not to increase lunch prices and will fund the additional required revenue from non federal funds, the district must specifically make a transfer to Fund 51 that is designated for “paid lunch equity.”   A general transfer is not acceptable to meet the PLE requirement. If you have any questions concerning the PLE worksheet and necessary steps to comply with the requirements, please contact either [Jennifer Otey](mailto:otey_j@cde.state.co.us) or [Lynn Warner](mailto:warner_l@cde.state.co.us). This information is also posted at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriReauthorization.htm>.

Thank you,

Jennifer Otey

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