8/23/12

Thursday Update

Dear Districts,

Happy Thursday!

**New Claim System**

Just another reminder that we now have a new claim system! For everyone who has already filled out their applications in the new system, thank you! For anyone who has not yet, please be sure to refer to the Step-by-Step Instructions for Applying before accessing the new system. This document and the link to the system can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriprogramrenewal.htm>. Also, just a reminder that the Renewal Agreements are now included as part of the claim system; they will be uploaded to us via the claim system.

**Direct Cert Passwords**

In the past, anyone who had access to the claim system and to Direct Cert was able to use the same password. Please note, though, that our new claim system is not tied to the systems running Direct Cert. So, if any claim system users change their password in the new claim system, this will not affect the Direct Cert password—and vice versa. To change Direct Cert passwords, there is now a link on the Direct Cert page, <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutridirectcert.htm>, “Change Password.”

**Certification Info and Materials**

* CDE Facts Sheet - A facts sheet has now been developed by CDE, which districts can provide to parents to help them better understand all of the changes in the new meal patterns.
	+ This fact sheet is attached to this email and will soon be posted at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutritrainingsNewMealPatterns.htm>.
* Certification Webcasts - USDA has rolled out some webcasts that demonstrate the use of the Certification tools.
	+ These can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriCertification.htm>.
* “And 6 Cents for All!” – We have received a few questions on this, so we just wanted to be sure that everyone was aware of the following: Once an SFA is certified, the additional 6 cents per lunch meal reimbursement will be made for *all* lunches, whether free, reduced, or paid.
* A couple more lucky volunteers – In our Thursday Update last week, we advertised that we would like to have a few volunteers come to CDE on Tues 28 August so we could go over the Certification training with them and help them fill out their Certification tools. We still have a few spots available, so if you are interested, please contact Lindsay Hucknall, hucknall\_h@cde.state.co.us. You are welcome to work that day at your own pace, and it’s even okay if you have already completed the Certification training once (we will just be going through it again). Benefits?? 1) Helping the CDE OSN  discover new ways to develop resources and provide other assistance to districts statewide as they complete the Certification process,  2) Receiving hands-on assistance as  you work through the Certification tools, 3) Food! – breakfast & lunch will be provided for you.

**The School Day Just Got Healthier**

USDA has created a Back to School Campaign called ***“The School Day Just Got Healthier.”***  The goal for the campaign is to prepare parents, students, and schools for the changes to the school food environment instituted by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) of 2010.   The primary target audience for the messages will include parents, students, school leadership officials (principals, school boards, superintendents), and school staff involved in the food service decision making and implementation of new school meal patterns.  The secondary audience includes local elected officials (mayors, state legislators, county executives, county supervisors), chefs, community and faith-based organizations, and the general public. The objectives for the campaign are to help schools create awareness of and build support for the changes to school meals among parents and children attending schools.  Another objective is to help persuade school principals or other school decision makers to provide content to parents and students about the benefits of the changes in school meals.  Finally, it will provide products and tools to school food service staff and decision makers to facilitate the successful implementation of the new school meal standards.  Additional information and resources can be found at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/healthierschoolday/default.htm>.

Thank you,

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