

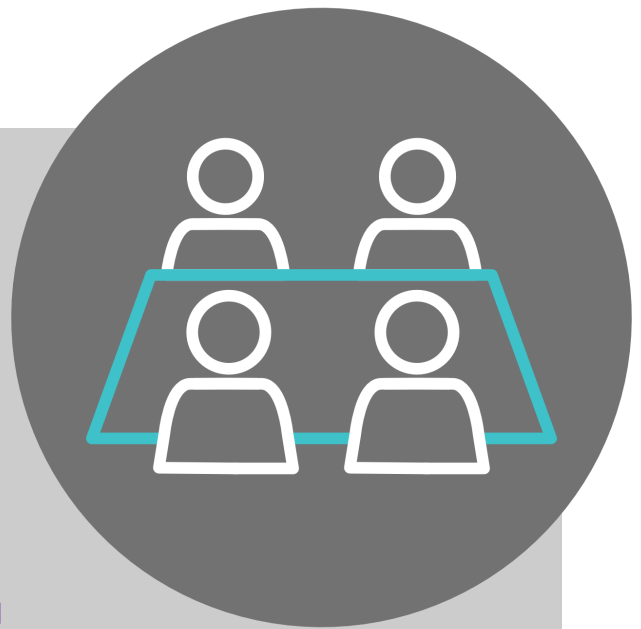


# THE OUTLOOK

A Monthly Newsletter for School Nutrition Programs

Illinois School Nutrition  
Advisory Council

# Join the Discussion



## Council Application Deadline is April 29

**T**he Illinois State Board of Education's Nutrition Department is committed to working with school nutrition professionals, industry members, and advocacy groups to gain knowledge about program operations to better administer the School Nutrition Programs throughout Illinois schools. We are looking for individuals representing partners in the overall administration and operations of the School Nutrition Programs to become a member of the Illinois School Nutrition Advisory Council for School Year 2022-2023.

Interested persons should complete the [ILSNAC SY 22-23 form](#) no later than April 29, 2022.

We anticipate hosting up to four meetings annually (May 2022 – April 2023) with the first meeting planned via Microsoft Teams on May 17 beginning at 10 a.m.

For questions regarding the Illinois School Nutrition Advisory Council, please contact Roxanne Ramage at [rramage@isbe.net](mailto:rramage@isbe.net) or (800) 545-7892.

## NEWS BITES

### UPCOMING WEBINAR

The next **Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition** webinar is set for 2-3 p.m. April 7.



[Register online for “Think Outside the Service Line With Grab-and-Go Menu Options for NSLP and SFSP.”](#)

### COMING UP!

The eighth annual **School Lunch Hero Day** is May 6. The special day is the perfect opportunity to go above and beyond to recognize school nutrition professionals. [Visit the School Nutrition Association’s webpage](#) for planning inspiration.

### REGISTRATION UNDER WAY

The **Illinois School Nutrition Association Annual Conference** is scheduled for June 22-23 in Springfield. For more information about the conference and to register, [visit the ILSNA website](#).



### CONGRATULATIONS!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture named the **Northern IL Food Bank** as a recipient of a silver [Turnip the Beet award](#). This award recognizes sponsors within the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) that go above and beyond program requirements to serve high-quality meals to children during the summer months.

# REMINDER: SCA Funds Available

**E**ligible School Food Authorities have until June 17 to say “Yes” to the Supply Chain Assistance (SCA) Attestation Statement to receive allocated funds from [the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s SCA funding program](#).

The Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition Department sent guidance on March 1 to Authorized Representatives and Sponsor Contacts in the Web-Based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS). Please review the [Supply Chain Assistance Funding Program Guidance](#) for more information, including the required Action Steps.

If the SCA Attestation Statement was completed in WINS by March 18, an SFA should anticipate receiving SCA funding in early April. If it is completed by April 18, the funding distribution is expected in early May. A [funding timeline and a copy of the SCA](#)

[Attestation Statement is available online](#).

On Dec. 17, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the [Allocation of Supply Chain Assistance \(SCA\) Funds to Alleviate Supply Chain Disruptions in the School Meal Programs](#) funding program. State agencies will distribute SCA funds to eligible school food authorities to be used exclusively to purchase unprocessed or minimally processed domestic food products to help SFAs deal with challenges, such as unanticipated cancellation of food and supply contracts, reduced availability of certain foods, unexpected substitution of certain products, unpredictable increases in food and supply prices, and other obstacles related to pricing and/or availability that have been reported to or identified by state agencies administering the Child Nutrition Programs.

## Webinars Captioned in Spanish

**T**eam Nutrition is pleased to announce the release of two English webinars captioned in Spanish.

**Master the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT):** The webinar can be viewed in English and with Spanish captions at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/professional-standards-resources>.

**Navigating the Food Buying Guide**

**Calculator:** The webinar can be viewed in English and with Spanish captions at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-training-resources>.

For more information about these tools and related resources visit:

- [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool \(PSTTT\)](#)

# Request USDA Foods and DOD Fresh

**O**n Dec. 17, 2021, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the Biden-Harris Administration is providing up to \$1.5 billion to states and school districts to help school meal program operators deal with the challenges of supply chain disruptions brought on by the pandemic. To support the USDA Foods in School Program, \$300 million has been dedicated to support food orders through USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

Illinois’ fair share of the \$300 million was \$10,217,237, and our spending options included USDA Foods and DOD Fresh produce. ISBE allotted half of the funds to USDA Foods and half to DOD Fresh produce.

**How to Request USDA Foods:** USDA Foods funded by CCC appear in the Illinois Commodity System (ICS), on the program year 2023 Annual Order Form, Bonus Tab. Schools may place orders for CCC foods now through May 31, 2022. The CCC foods will be in addition to program year 2023 PAL/entitlement orders. We cannot guarantee that you will receive all of the bonus CCC foods that you request, but \$5 million purchased a significant amount of food, and we anticipate that you will receive a significant portion of the foods you request. CCC foods will be delivered to schools along with PAL/entitlement foods, during School Year 2022-23.

**How to Request DOD Fresh:** DOD Fresh CCC funds will be available in FFAVORS beginning July 1, 2022. All DOD orders placed under NSLP after July 1, 2022, will be funded by DOD Fresh CCC funds until Sept. 30, 2022, or until we run out, whichever comes first. USDA set the timeframe, and it is not flexible. All CCC DOD funds must be used by Sept. 30, 2022, or we lose them. Also, CCC DOD funds are allotted in FFAVORS at the state level, not the school district level.

**Please request and accept as much CCC USDA Foods and CCC DOD produce as you can effectively utilize in your School Nutrition Programs.**

Email [fdp@isbe.net](mailto:fdp@isbe.net) or call (800) 545-7892 with questions.

## STEM Experience — Dairy

**I**ndividuals and teams of science educators are invited to apply for an all-expense paid immersive professional development experience by April 15 to deepen understanding and application of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) through the lens of dairy food production and practices. Participants will:

- Earn up to 40 CEU of professional development hours
- Discover phenomena in food production that can be used for classroom learning experiences
- Support in the development of a NGSS unit outline to assist in

planning, adapting, and developing experiences for students with real-world content.

This year’s STEM Experience – Dairy will take place near the Minneapolis area July 17-20 with two 90-minute webinars preceding the immersive event and a 90-minute webinar following the event.

[Learn more and apply by April 15 online.](#) This opportunity is brought to you by American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, a non-profit based in DC in partnership with local dairy farm families.

If you have questions, please reach out to [onthefarm@fb.org](mailto:onthefarm@fb.org).

## Team Nutrition Releases New Training Guide

**T**he U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released a new training guide on “Best Practices for Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast.”

The USDA Team Nutrition guide is [available for download today online.](#)





**Illinois State  
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Nutrition Department**

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## Events, Meetings, and Deadlines

- **April 7** – Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition Webinar: [“Think Outside the Service Line with Grab-and-Go Menu Options for NSLP and SFSP”](#)
- **May 6** – [School Lunch Hero Day](#)
- **May 30** – ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day
- **June 20** – ISBE offices closed for Juneteenth
- **July 4** – ISBE offices closed for Independence Day
- **July 25-27** – [SNP Back to School Conference](#)

Please note this is not a complete list of Nutrition Department events, meetings, and deadlines. Visit us online at [www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition).

## What’s New?

- [School Nutrition Programs: Important Announcement Roundup](#)
- [CACFP: Read the new issue of Mealtime Minutes](#)
- [Supply Chain Assistance Funds](#)
- [March 8 School Nutrition Programs ISBE Update posted](#)
- [Fiscal Year 2023 Income Eligibility Guidelines](#)
- [Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains and Sodium – Final Rule](#)

Watch for our latest news and posts under What’s New? at [www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition).

## Non-Discrimination Statement

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*Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.*

*To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter 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;
2. **Fax:** (202) 690-7442; or **Email:** [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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