

THE OUTLOOK

Your Guide to School-Based Child Nutrition Programs

March 2014

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Celebrate Nutrition this Month!



Free School Resources from Team Nutrition

Posters:

- [Make Half Your Plate Fruits and Vegetables Poster](#)
- [Dig In! Six Poster Set](#)
- [Eat Smart to Play Hard With MyPlate Large Poster](#)

Lessons:

- [Serving Up MyPlate: A Yummy Curriculum \(Grades 1-6\)](#)
- [Nutrition Voyage: The Quest To Be Our Best \(Grades 7-8\)](#)

Videos:

- [Healthier Middle Schools: Everyone Can Help](#)

Become a Team Nutrition School! It's free and signing up is easy at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/join-team>.

Ordering Information:

Schools participating in the Federal Child Nutrition programs may request free print copies* of Team Nutrition materials at: <http://tn.ntis.gov/>.

*while supplies last.



<http://teamnutrition.usda.gov>

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Training Opportunities for School-Based Child Nutrition Programs

Every third Tuesday of each month from 2:00pm – 3:30pm, ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division will host a webinar detailing a variety of NSLP regulations. In case this date and time is not convenient for you or your staff, each webinar will be recorded and archived for future viewing <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/workshops.htm> (National School Lunch Program). Prior topics archived online include:

- ✓ Benefit Issuance and Meal Counting and Claiming
- ✓ Electronic Direct Certification
- ✓ Certification of Eligibility
- ✓ Verification
- ✓ NSLP/SBP Menu Planning
- ✓ USDA Foods
- ✓ Implementing the School Breakfast Program
- ✓ Paid Lunch Equity

Below is the list of future training topics, along with registration information.

Training Tuesday Webinars (February - May 2014)		
Date	Topic	Registration Link
3/18/2014	Heart Healthy Month - Focus on Fat and Sodium Reduction in School Meals	https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/636191192
4/15/2014	Local School Wellness Policies	https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/672001681
5/20/2014	Special Diets/ Accommodations/ Allergies	https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/164631233

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The 7th Annual Illinois School Wellness Conference: *Every Kid Healthy*

Date & Time: Wednesday, April 30, 2014
8:15am – 3:30pm

Location: Hilton Garden Inn in Champaign, IL



Audience: School Administrators, Physical Education Teachers, School Food Personnel, School Nurses, School Health/Wellness Team Members, Board Members and other leaders of healthcare organizations, Students/Learners, Educators, Community Advocates, Childcare Providers

Conference Tracks: Breakfast, Nutrition, Coordinated School Health, Physical Activity and Early Childhood

Cost: \$50 (registration fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, conference materials and raffle prizes)

Hosted by: Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Action for Healthy Kids

Register Today: <http://bit.ly/ILconf> For details, contact Lindsey Arenberg at larenberg@actionforhealthykids.org

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SY15 Annual Order Period for USDA Foods – February 15 – March 15

The Illinois Commodity System (ICS) began accepting orders beginning **February 15, 2014** for next school year. The order will need to be completed by **March 15, 2014**. Schools that choose to divert USDA Foods to processors should watch the ICS message board on **March 22, 2014** for important news regarding processors that are getting trucks. Orders placed with processors that do not get a truck can be changed to those processors that are getting trucks from **March 22 through March 30, 2014**. If you placed an order with a processor that didn't get a truck, that order will be deleted and your entitlement will be adjusted accordingly.

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Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Unused Funds

For SY14, ISBE allowed participation in the program to all schools that requested to participate subject to a \$500 allocation floor. ISBE allocated the money we could spend with DOD amongst all schools that selected yes under *Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Participation* on the *Annual Order Forms* menu option on ICS. Recent reports from DOD indicate many schools that have money allocated to them have yet to place any orders for fresh fruits or vegetables. Schools can see how much money has been allocated to them by selecting *Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Participation (SY2014)* on the *Annual Order Forms* menu option on ICS. Those schools that have not spent any of the money allocated to them are advised to contact DOD at 215-737-5573 to begin placing orders or risk having the money used by other schools participating in the program. **As in previous years, we anticipate there will be unused funds available for use by schools participating in the program beginning sometime in April 2014. Funds will be available until the state as a whole runs out of money.**

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Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Vendor Change Effective April 1, 2014

Effective March 31, 2014, the DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program will not be serviced by PFG Fox River. Vermillion Valley Produce (VVP) of Danville won the bid and will begin servicing Illinois on April 1, 2014. VVP will be using subcontractors to be able to service the entire state. The subcontractors will be Get Fresh Produce – Bartlett, Central Illinois Produce - Morton, Central Illinois Produce – Urbana, and Cusumano & Sons - Mt. Vernon. To find out which of these companies will be servicing your school, please review list on the Food Distribution Website and under Additional Links on the Start Page of the Illinois Commodity System (ICS). The list is sorted by city and should be posted the first week of March.

ISBE has been in communication with the owner of VVP and we have been assured this transition from Fox to VVP will be seamless. Schools will still order via FFAVORS and their delivery dates and times will be established and remain consistent within those dates and times. Within the next few weeks, VVP will be calling each school participating in the program to verify contact information, delivery addresses and delivery dates.

Once you determine who your vendor will be, if you have further questions, you can call the customer service line for each house.

Vermillion Valley Produce – Danville	(800) 397-7638
Central Illinois Produce – Urbana	(800) 397-8308
Central Illinois Produce – Morton	(800) 601-7444
Get Fresh Produce – Bartlett	(630) 665-9665
Cusumano & Sons – Mt. Vernon	(800) 872-3779

We will continue to post information on the ICS message board as it becomes available.

This transition will not affect the “unused funds” process which traditionally happens towards the end of each school year. This year, we again anticipate additional funds, and we estimate the funds will become available mid-April.

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SY2014-2015 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant Application – Now Available – Due March 21, 2014

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) grant application for School Year 2014-2015 is now available online under *What's New* at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/> . Carefully review the application packet for all of the FFVP program requirements. All NSLP participating elementary schools (schools with grades 8 and below operating) are encouraged to apply, however, USDA requires priority is given to the schools with 50% or more free and reduced price eligible. The deadline to apply for FFVP (School Year 2014-2015) is March 21, 2014.

The purpose of FFVP is to increase fresh fruit and vegetable consumption in elementary schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). FFVP grant funds are used to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to children at no cost, during the school day outside of the reimbursable meal(s) periods. This program is different from the Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. The DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program allocate USDA Foods planned assistance level (pal) monies so that schools may acquire fresh fruits and vegetable to use during the service of reimbursable meals to students (breakfast and lunch).

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Claim Common Cents

If you are completing your monthly claim and you have extra days showing on the Daily Meal Count entry screen because you did not operate due to holidays, snow days, teacher institute days, etc. you can either leave that day blank or type a 0 in that day. The system will only count the days that you have actually entered meal counts, as days of operation for that meal service. You do NOT need to go back to Participation Detail to remove days that you did not end up serving meals.

The Daily Meal Count entry screen has also been updated recently to now show running totals of the meal counts that you are entering. This should help with catching keypunch errors before you move off of this page. See example below.

22	Lunch	National School Lunch	32	7	140
23	Lunch	National School Lunch	Free	Reduced	Paid
24	Lunch	National School Lunch	30	8	164
27	Lunch	National School Lunch	Free	Reduced	Paid
28	Lunch	National School Lunch	34	7	156
29	Lunch	National School Lunch	29	6	139
30	Lunch	National School Lunch	33	8	156
31	Lunch	National School Lunch	28	8	163
			431	101	2168

If you have any questions regarding claims, please contact Funding & Disbursements at 217-782-5256.

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USDA Proposed Rule – Professional Standards for School Nutrition Personnel – Comments Due April 7, 2014

An USDA proposed rule entitled, “Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs Personnel as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010,” was published in the Federal Register on February 4, 2014. The USDA will accept public comments to these proposed rules through April 7, 2014, so please take time to review and provide feedback to USDA. The complete [proposed rule](#) is available online.

This proposed rule would establish minimum professional standards for school nutrition personnel who manage and operate the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. The proposed rule would also institute hiring standards for the selection of State and local school nutrition program directors; and require all personnel in these programs to complete annual continuing education/training. This proposed rule is expected to provide consistent, national standards for school nutrition professionals and staff. The principal benefit of this proposed rule is to ensure that key school nutrition personnel are meeting minimum professional standards in order to adequately perform the duties and responsibilities of their positions.

Staff with the Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division of the Illinois State Board of Education presented a webinar that provided an overview of this proposed rule. The recorded webinar and PowerPoint are both now available under [Archived Webinars](#).

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USDA Letter on National School Lunch Program Unpaid Meal Charges– February 2014

USDA Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services (FNS) Kevin Concannon recently sent a letter to each State Superintendent regarding student debt and unpaid meal charges in the National School Lunch Program. A [copy of this letter](#) is available for your review. It reinforces FNS’ belief that such issues must be handled in a way that first and foremost respects and maintains student dignity. The letter also details positive steps that States and local educational agencies (LEAs) can take to prevent potential issues.

Complete USDA Guidance is available in the ISBE Administrative Handbook, [Benefit Issuance, Meal Counting and Claiming Section](#).

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What is the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?

CEP is an alternative to collecting, approving, and verifying household eligibility applications for free and reduced price eligible students in high poverty local educational agencies (LEAs) for schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Illinois was one of the first states that were selected to participate in the CEP and we are now in our third year of implementing this provision which will be going nation-wide next school year.

For a LEA to be eligible to use the CEP for next school year, the LEA must have one or more schools that have an **identified student** percentage of 40% or greater in the current school year (SY2013-2014). Just to be clear, Identified Students are different from your free and reduced eligibility numbers.

Identified students include the following:

- Directly certified students including SNAP, TANF, Medicaid (available in some but not all schools), & Foster Children.
- Extension of benefits students
- Homeless, migrant, runaway and headstart students signed off on by the programs coordinator.

*the Identified Student numbers must be specifically from April 1, 2014.

The LEA and school must also agree to offer all students in the school breakfasts and lunches at no cost and to cover any cost above the federal reimbursement received with non-Federal funds. Reimbursement for schools participating in CEP will be based on claiming percentages derived from the percentages of identified students.

Participation in CEP may impact other areas of the school, including Title I, E-Rate, Fee Waivers and any reports that may require individual student socioeconomic data. We do have resources available and information regarding handling these possible impacts and have developed tools to assist schools in overcoming these impacts.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Nutrition Programs Division will be hosting a basic overview webinar on CEP and it is HIGHLY recommended that those interested in CEP attend, including those that work directly with the meal programs and those that work with the other areas of the school that may be impacted by participation in CEP.

- March 5, 2014 2:30pm - 3:30pm - This is a CEP Basic Overview for those interested in learning more about CEP. Topics will include:
 - General program overview
 - How to determine Identified Students numbers
 - Other areas impacted by participation in CEP & solutions
 - Information on how to apply and due dates

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/308263425>

For more information about CEP please visit our website at:

http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_hhfka_implementation.htm

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Paid Lunch Equity: School Year (SY) 2014-2015 Calculations

Under the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) requirement, School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program are to ensure sufficient funds are provided to the nonprofit school food service account for meals served to students not eligible for free or reduced price meals. There are three ways to meet this requirement:

- 1) increase prices charged for "paid" lunches,
- 2) contribute non-federal funds to the non-profit food service account, or
- 3) combination of increasing paid lunch prices and contributing non-federal funds.

SFAs must annually review their paid lunch revenue to assure compliance with the paid lunch equity requirement. When the average paid lunch price is less than the difference between the free and paid Federal reimbursement rates, the SFA must determine how they will meet the requirement—by increasing their average paid lunch price or providing funds from non-Federal sources. Therefore, **for SY 2014-2015, SFAs which on average charged less than \$2.65 for paid lunches in SY 2013-2014 are required to complete the PLE Calculator to determine their new paid lunch price and/or amount to contribute.**

To assist in meeting this requirement, the SY14-15 PLE Calculator in addition to a recorded instructional webinar is available at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nsjp_hhfka_implementation.htm.

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Summer Food Service Program

Don't miss out!! The workshops for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) are HERE!! The Summer Food Service Program is designed to bridge the "nutrition gap" when school is not in session. Children up to age 18 can eat free nutritious breakfasts, lunches or snacks at summer feeding sites operated by approved sponsors. Sponsors receive federal reimbursement for serving meals that meet USDA nutrition guidelines. The SFSP is targeted to low-income areas where at least 50% of the children qualify for free or reduced price school meals. Many sponsors also offer educational, enrichment, or physical activities or partner with others to do so.

Training workshops for the Summer Food Service Program will be held at the following locations for organizations interested in sponsoring the SFSP during the summer of 2014.

New Sponsor Orientation

March 11th — Marion at Williamson County Pavillion
March 20th — Alsip at Doubletree Hotel
March 26th — Fairview Heights at Four Points Sheraton
April 10th — Schaumburg at Hilton Garden Inn
April 16th — Galesburg at Prairie Inn
April 30th — Lisle at the Hilton
May 14th — Springfield at Illinois Education Association

Sessions are designed to provide a complete overview of SFSP. All first year sponsors and sponsors who were a new sponsor in 2013 (with the exception of school districts) are required to attend the New Sponsor's training. Also, previous year sponsors who have not had experience with the new online system (WINS) are expected to attend the full-day training this year. In addition, the full-day training is highly recommended for sponsors that have new employees working with the program. Check the website link below for times. Lunch will be provided at the New Sponsor Orientation.

There are also a number of webinars this year for current and potential sponsors to participate in. These will be recorded and posted to the website so they may be referred to at any time. Click the link below for the complete listing.

Reservations are required for the workshops and webinars and must be made in advance. To register or obtain additional information, please visit our website at: http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp_training.htm or contact Amy Bianco or Naomi Greene at 800/545-7892 or abianco@isbe.net or nagreen@isbe.net.

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USDA Announces Farm to School Grants!

Three different kinds of grants will be available, as well as a separate funding track to support trainings and events. Planning grants are intended for schools just getting started on farm to school activities. Implementation grants are available for schools seeking to augment or expand existing efforts. Additionally, eligible non-profit entities, Indian tribal organizations, state and

local agencies, and agriculture producers or groups of producers may apply for support service grants in order to conduct trainings, create complementary curriculum, or further develop supply chains, among other activities. Proposals are due at 11:59 p.m. EST, April 30, 2014. New in FY 2015, USDA funds will be made available to support meetings, trainings, and events intended to strengthen farm to school supply chains or provide technical assistance. The Training and Event funds range from \$15,000 - \$50,000. USDA expects to distribute approximately \$500,000 in additional funds to support at least one statewide or regional meeting in all seven FNS regions and at least one national conference. Letters of Intent are due at 11:59 p.m. EST, April 2, 2014.

To assist eligible entities in preparing proposals, USDA will host a series of webinars related to the application process:

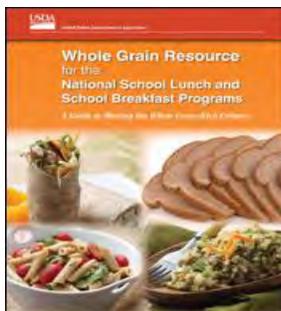
- March 11, 2014, 1:00 EST – Planning Grants
- March 12, 2014, 1:00 EST – Implementation Grants
- March 13, 2014, 1:00 EST – Support Service Grants
- March 14, 2014, 1:00 EST – Training and Event Funding Track

The Farm to School Grant Program is a cornerstone of USDA's Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative, which coordinates the Department's work on local and regional foods. The grant program was initiated by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA), which authorized and funded USDA to assist eligible entities, through grants and technical assistance, in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. The Act provides \$5 million annually to support grants, technical assistance, and the federal administrative costs related to USDA's Farm to School Program. In this funding cycle, USDA anticipates awarding up to \$5 million in HHFKA grant funding and an additional \$500,000 in program funds to support training and events.

For additional information, forms and links to register for the webinars please visit the USDA website at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/fy-2015-farm-school-grant-program-funds-available>

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Whole Grain Resource for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs



Beginning in July 1, 2014 all grains must be whole grain-rich in both the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. USDA has developed a new Whole Grain Resource for schools to help staff identify whole grain-rich foods. The resource also includes exercises on identifying products that meet the whole grain-rich criteria and calculation examples. Go to the following URL to download the pdf at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/whole-grain-resource>.

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School Grants for Healthy Kids-Due May 2, 2014

Action for Healthy Kids has announced the 2014-2015 School Grants for Healthy Kids opportunity. Almost 1,000 grants will be awarded in the range of \$500 to \$5,000 nationwide. The grants are designed to help schools with the following:

- Create or expand School Breakfast Programs

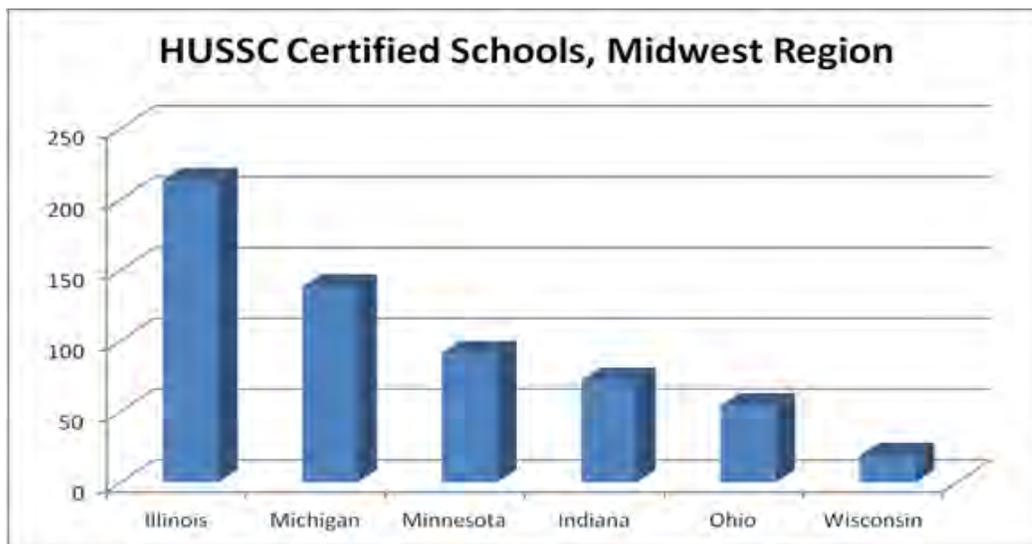
- Pilot Universal Breakfast Programs
- Enhance their physical activity programs

In addition to the monetary value, significant in-kind contributions will be made available. The due date of the grant is Friday, May 2, 2014. A one-hour introductory webinar on Thursday March 20, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. will be aired and the recording will be archived. To register for the webinar and access the application, visit <http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/resources/school-grants>. CSX Transportation, Kellogg Company, and the Kellogg's Corporate Citizenship Fund are partners in this project.

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Status of the HealthierUS School Challenge in Illinois

Illinois leads the Midwest Region in number of HealthierUS School Challenge certified schools effective September 2013. Kudos to the 200+ schools in Illinois that have taken the initiative to create healthier school environments through promotion of nutrition and physical activity. If your school is interested in taking this voluntary challenge, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/hussc/healthierus-school-challenge> for the application or contact cnp@isbe.net for more information.



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Calendar of Events

March 2014

National Nutrition Month[®], Enjoy the Taste of Eating Right <http://www.eatright.org/NNM/>

2-5 School Nutrition Association's Legislative Action Conference—
Washington, DC <http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Content.aspx?id=306>

3-7 National School Breakfast Week
http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Level2_NSBW2014.aspx?id=18805

- 5 ISBE Webinar: Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) 2:30-3:30 pm
Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/308263425>
- 6 International School Meals Day
<http://www.internationalschoolmealsday.com/>
- 9 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 10 Begin submitting February claims for reimbursement. ALL February child nutrition program claims (original and revised) must be received by ISBE no later than April 29, 2014
- 11 SFSP Current and New Sponsor Orientation Information Workshop
Marion, The Pavilion
Register at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp_training.htm
- 12-13 ISBE Board Meeting—Springfield <http://www.isbe.net/board/default.htm>
- 13-20 Make changes to next months USDA Foods order
- 15 SY2014-15 USDA Foods orders due
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 18 ISBE webinar: *Heart Healthy Month - Focus on Fat and Sodium Reduction In School Meals*. Register at
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/636191192>
- 20 SFSP Current and New Sponsor Orientation Information Workshop—
Alsip, Doubletree
Register at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp_training.htm
- 25 National Agriculture Day, <http://agday.org/>
- 26 SFSP Current and New Sponsor Orientation Information Workshop—
Fairview Heights, Four Points by Sheraton
Register at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp_training.htm



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Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish or call the [State Information/Hotline Numbers](#) (click the link for a listing of hotline numbers by State); found online at http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/contact_info/hotlines.htm.

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