

2008 National CSFP Food Cost Survey Results-

Thank you to all who were able to take time out of busy schedules to survey local food prices. The results varied widely-small rural communities (lower prices reported overall) to large metro areas (highest prices overall). The survey averages are weighted by the actual national participation ratios of MIC (fewer served, but a larger food package) and Seniors (93% of participation, but a smaller food package).

- **The national median CSFP food package commercially obtained cost in April 2008 was \$46.69.**
- **The national average was \$61.39 at grocery chains and \$31.13 at large discount stores (NOTE: not all CSFP items were available at all discount stores & many programs reported they & their clients did not have access to all three types of stores in their locale – small local grocer/ convenience stores, grocery chains and large discount were surveyed).**
- **USDA average cost estimated to be \$21.91 in same time frame.**
- **Survey NOTE:** When the same survey was conducted in 1996, national participation was only 46% seniors compared with current 93.2% senior participation. It is also important to note that in 1996, the food packages contained more protein items (larger pack sizes contained more servings per pack); included monthly dry milk offerings in larger pack sizes (now roughly ½ size pack and issued every other month), more peanut butter servings (issued monthly as opposed to currently alternating with beans) and a total of about 60 food varieties available to order. In 2008, fewer total items, smaller pack sizes with fewer servings per package and 20 fewer varieties are being offered to CSFP operators in an effort to contain costs.