

"...Remember: you are the voice of those you serve..."

CSFP E-Newsletter-Spring 2011

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SPRING 2011

"...speak often and loudly for them."

A Letter From Our President...

Dear CSFP Colleagues and Friends,

As we begin 2011 it is hard to believe that we have already celebrated 10 years of the new Millennium. I am not sure where time goes but it seems that each year goes by faster than the previous one as we age. I have always thought each new year brings challenges and opportunities and 2011 is no different.

January is the time of year when many of us set out to renew our spirits and life in general by making resolutions to take better care of ourselves and families. It is also a time for the National CSFP Association to look forward to the year ahead to see how we can work together as a community to continue to improve the health and nutritional status of the many participants we currently serve and those that are in need of our services.

This winter seems to be hitting the country hard in many places including New Hampshire where today it was 6 below zero this morning as I left for work. I sit here thinking of how fortunate many of us are as we know we have a warm home to go to tonight when we come home from work and a healthy meal to eat. This is why I think many of us continue our work in CSFP to improve the lives of those who may not have these basic needs we all take for granted each day.

This year the Association will be looking for your support and commitment to help get the word out about the great work you are all doing in the CSFP community and to grow the program to meet the need and demand for services in every state. Remember you are the voice of those you serve so they depend on you to speak often and loudly for them.

The CSFP Association is looking forward to having you help us build its membership this year, improve communication with members, strengthen committee participation, reinstating the NCSFPA newsletter, revitalizing our website, and increase our public policy work to ensure visibility across the country. We will also be looking for new energetic members to consider running for the Board later this year. I look forward to all of the accomplishments we will make this year as we work together.

I want to remind you to mark your calendar as we have an exciting agenda planned for our Annual Conference from May 22-24, 2011 in San Francisco, CA. I look forward to seeing you there and for the opportunity to meet those of you I have not yet met and to reconnect with old friends.

I am honored to be able to serve as your President this year. I look forward to your involvement in the Association over the next year.

Susan Wnuk

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USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Contribution

January 1 was not only the beginning of a new year, but for the CSFP community, it was also the start of the caseload cycle. At FNS, we are looking forward to working with NCSFPA, as well as our State and local partners, in making this caseload cycle a successful one. Frequent and open communication will be integral to our success, so thank you for inviting us to participate in your new E-Newsletter this year!

2011 Caseload

On December 30, 2010, FNS issued tentative caseload and administrative grants for 2011. CSFP is currently funded under a [continuing resolution \(CR\) through March 4, 2011](#), at a funding level prorated to \$171.409 million. Tentative caseload assignments and administrative grant amounts are based in part upon projected amounts of USDA donated foods being available to CSFP, as well as a total projected cash resource level, including cash carryover and recoveries.

“At FNS, we are always looking for ways to improve the CSFP food package.”

FNS tentatively issued 604,931 caseload slots nationally, equal to last year’s national total caseload level. Although the amount of caseload available nationally has not changed since 2010 under this year’s tentative allocation, 22,558 caseload slots were reassigned to eligible State agencies most likely to use them in 2011, as determined by past performance. With the tentative allocation, FNS did not have sufficient resources to add the six States which submitted State Plans to begin participation in 2011-- Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Final caseload and administrative grants, which may be higher or lower than tentative allocations, will be allocated once Congress takes final action on the fiscal year (FY) 2011 appropriation.

More information on how caseload is being allocated in 2011, including how much caseload and administrative funding each State is tentatively receiving, can be found in the [CSFP Tentative Caseload Assignments for 2011 memorandum](#).

Caseload management is one of the biggest challenges in administering CSFP. The beginning of each caseload cycle is a good time for State and local agencies to develop strategies to fully use caseload during the year, and also make sure they do not violate [CSFP regulations](#) by exceeding their caseload allocation on an average monthly basis. Keep in mind that 2012 caseload allocations will be contingent on FY 2011 (October 2010 through September 2011) participation for currently participating States. Therefore, States which tentatively received more caseload in 2011 than in 2010 should work to use available caseload as early as possible.

Furthermore, States are responsible for ensuring that program participation does not exceed the State’s caseload assignment on an average monthly basis. This is particu-



National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association (NCSFPA)



larly important for States which received less caseload in the 2011 tentative allocation than their 2010 caseload assignment. States receiving less caseload in 2011 should review participation levels to ensure that they are at or near their new tentative caseload assignments on an average monthly basis, without exceed their new caseloads. Last year, FNS issued policy memorandum [FD-099](#), which clarifies policies and procedures regarding CSFP waiting lists and caseload management and may be useful in your planning.

CSFP Food Package Changes

At FNS, we are always looking for ways to improve the CSFP food package. During last year's NCSFPA conference, members of the Association expressed interest in having ultra high temperature milk ([UHT milk](#)) introduced into the CSFP food package. In comparison to the evaporated milk traditionally offered in the CSFP food package, one percent ultra high temperature milk offers less calories, saturated fat, total fat, and cholesterol per serving. UHT milk is fortified with vitamins A and D. It is a more versatile product than evaporated milk as it can be consumed as fresh milk, for example as a beverage or with cereal, and can also be used in recipes. UHT milk is ready-to-serve, without adding water.

Last fall, FNS sampled UHT milk at over 25 local agencies, each in a different CSFP State. The vast majority of feedback from States indicated that local agencies and participants liked the product. Thus, given the benefits of the UHT milk over the evaporated milk, and the positive feedback received from CSFP agencies regarding UHT milk, FNS will replace evaporated milk with UHT milk in the CSFP food package.

UHT milk will be available for ordering as early as February 2011, with deliveries beginning as early as July. However, it is important to note that UHT milk may not be distributed until all evaporated milk inventories are depleted at the national multi-food warehouses and in State and local inventories.

On January 13, FNS issued revised CSFP food package Distribution Rates to reflect distribution rates for UHT milk. The revised Distribution Rates contain other changes, such as a change in infant formula package size, and will be posted on the [CSFP home page](#) in the coming days.

On a final note, thank you again for giving us an opportunity to participate in your E-Newsletter. We look forward to keeping in touch.

Cathie McCullough
 Director, Food Distribution Division
 Food Distribution Division
 Food Distribution Division



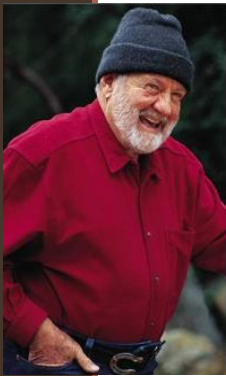
Education Committee Report



Until March 4, 2011 the third Continuing Resolution (CR) is in place and USDA has issued a memorandum with tentative caseload allocations. With the CR, the funding level remains the same as the previous fiscal year at \$171.4 million. FNS has announced temporary caseloads, providing an additional 22,000 slots nationally. However, more than 100,000 slots had been requested. Additionally no caseload was provided for any of the six newly approved states. FNS continues to tell us that their start-up depends upon Congress providing funding beyond the \$176.8 million requested in the President's FY 2011 budget.

The Education Committee will continue working on 2011 fiscal year appropriations and is preparing to work on the 2012 fiscal year budget which would begin October 2011.

In the coming weeks, Congress will need to take further action to provide funding for the remainder of this current year. Options include a full-year CR, an omnibus appropriations bill, or some type of hybrid of the two. New Congressional leadership has also committed to cutting federal spending, with those cuts beginning as part of this next bill. The President is also scheduled to submit his FY 2012 budget to Congress on February 13. We have no information at this point regarding what will be requested for CSFP, although we have been told that the budget request will be very tight.



NAPS TO THE RESCUE!

At the Channel One Food Bank in Rochester, MN we serve an average of 3,500 families a month at our onsite food shelf. Due to the ever increasing volume of clients, we

have been forced to limit visits to the food shelf to once a month.

Several months ago one of our intake workers received a call from a 74 year old client named John. John was calling to say that he had already used his monthly visit but had run out of food and had not eaten in 4

days. The worker quickly authorized an emergency visit and asked John to come in as soon as possible.

When John arrived at the food shelf he was visibly shaking and weak. The intake worker noticed he was wearing a medical alert bracelet for diabetes. As the worker visited with John, she asked him if he had ever applied for the NAPS program. John said that he had not; the worker went on to explain the program and what is in the monthly box. John became very excited about the CSFP product and quickly thought of several recipes he could use the cheese in.

John enrolled in the NAPS program

and received his first box that day. It's been four months since John's emergency visit and he continues to receive his Naps box at his monthly food shelf visit. John has not run out of food again and has repeatedly thanked us for helping him enroll in the Naps program: CSFP is making a difference in John's life.

Susan Siegle
—Director of Client Services,

In an effort to put a "face" on the CSFP program each quarter we will be featuring an article on a client for whom CSFP has made a difference. If you have a story you would like to share please email it to:

susansiegle@channel-one.org

Value Added Services

Submitted by Mary Clare Rieschl



Value added services are when you offer something extra to participants on CSFP Distribution Day. The people who work with our CSFP populations think about how they can enhance the trip to pick up the food box. Many agencies and sites offer a value added service on distribution days. If something extra could be given, what should it be? Who would do it? What have you done? Please share and we can highlight your experiences and stories on this newsletter site.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

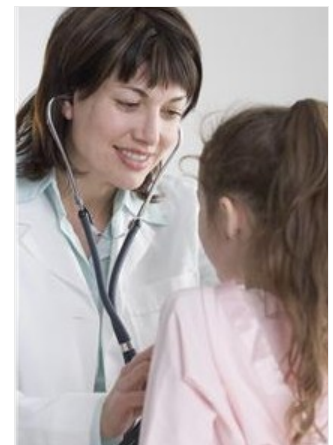
- Nutrition Educators from the County Extension Service can offer food samples, food demos, newsletters, classes and information about other Extension Programs.
- Another idea is to find a "Nutrition Educator in training". You can check the colleges for nutrition and dietetics programs (RD) and Dietetic Technician Registered (DTR).
- You may be able to offer a public health experience to nursing students or pharmacy students from a local college. Other student majors that interact with the public could be Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Recreational Therapists.
- A dental hygienist or other dental student may have a requirement for community health experience addressing dental health for seniors or children.
- Can someone who volunteers with tax preparation attend distribution to tell about the service?
- Community Education through the local school district might send someone to tell about upcoming events. Also ask at your local Senior Center for a list of activities.
- Do you have a local organization that assists people who want to apply for SNAP?

Here is a site that provides lots of ideas:

<http://www.healthfinder.gov/nho/default.aspx>

National Health Observances

Health observances are special days, weeks, or months used to raise awareness of important health topics. Examples include World AIDS Day or the Great American Smokeout. Healthfinder.gov features one health observance each month in its National Health Observances Toolkit. The toolkit is full of information and ideas to engage the public in health promotion activities.



"If something extra could be given, what should it be? Who would do it? What have you done?"

SAVE THE DATE

National CSFP Association Annual National Conference



~Building the Communication Bridge~

San Francisco, CA
Holiday Inn at Fisherman's Wharf

May 22, 2011 - May 24, 2011



More Hotel and Agenda Information Coming Soon

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Commodity Supplemental Food Program