



# National CSFP News

## Message from the President



*Vicki Metheny*  
*President*

Funding questions for FY06 are still up in the air. We have heard many reports that your calls and faxes got through and we hope they make the difference. The contacts our clients made are the best advocacy for the program. We appreciate the Public Policy team of Mark Lowry, Frank Kubik and Ellen Stroud making personal visits to staffers and Legislators in July. We also have our national hunger partners to thank for continuing to spread the word regarding the

funding needs for CSFP.

Our 2006 NCSFPA Board Officer & Directorship Nomination process is underway with ballots to be out by October 20<sup>th</sup> and the elections set to wrap up by November 10<sup>th</sup>. We have a rotating board and encourage you to seriously consider serving. Please feel free to contact your board representative or myself for more information.

In the wake of hurricane Katrina, the entire CSFP community is sending our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to all of the victims along the gulf coast that have been affected by this devastating disaster. I am happy to report that we have heard from our friends Andy Fox, Tim Robertson, and Carole Brown who are all safe. For more information about New Orleans read the email sent by Andy on page 5.

This has been a full and eventful year for all of us. I appreciate this opportunity to serve our CSFP clients and all of you as President and as the local CSF Program Representative on the USDA Advisory Council for Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition this year for the Association. It has certainly been a privilege and a learning experience. It has been great to work closely with the Board, the Committees and with USDA in particular. I look forward to next year and the teamwork involved in facing our new challenges. I thank all of you for your support, your questions and your participation as we work together to improve CSFP.

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Join us in Dallas, TX  
February 5-8, 2006

You'll be glad you did!

The NCSFPA Annual Conference offers a tradition of bringing together partners from USDA, local and state agencies, nutritionists, advocates and program support teams, all working in collaboration to strengthen CSFP services.

Policy – Nutrition News – Program Logistics – Ideas – Challenges  
– Solutions – New Initiatives

The conference setting will provide you with the opportunity to expand your personal or organizational network while enhancing your own skills and knowledge.

Time networking together is something high on the agenda for all of us – two informal settings will be provided – Super Bowl Party (Sunday) & Casino Night/Costume Contest (Tuesday).

## FNS News

We would like to thank the National CSFP Association and the program community for your efforts to assist those affected by Hurricane Katrina. The USDA continues delivering food and facilitating delivery of nutrition assistance programs in affected states and host states across the country. To date, in Louisiana and Texas alone over 428,000 displaced households have been signed up for over \$151 million in food stamp benefits. More than 15 million pounds of commodities and baby foods have been ordered for affected states. For more information regarding the USDA's Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, please go online to the USDA home page at <http://www.usda.gov>. From that web page, you can select the link entitled "Hurricane Katrina Relief Information."

We are pleased to announce the selection of Ms. Laura Castro as the new Policy Branch Chief in the Food Distribution Division. Laura fills the vacancy created by Phil Cohen's recent retirement. She brings an extensive list of skills and experience to this position. Laura is transferring from her current position as Chief of the Special Nutrition Analysis Branch in the Office of Analysis, Nutrition and Evaluation, where she has been for the past two years. Prior to that, she served as a Program Analyst for the Office of Budget and Program Analysis for three years. She spent the first 10 years of her career as an Auditor and Senior Evaluator for budget issues at the Government Accountability Office. Laura is a Certified Public Accountant and obtained a Master of Public Administration degree from George Washington University in 1996.

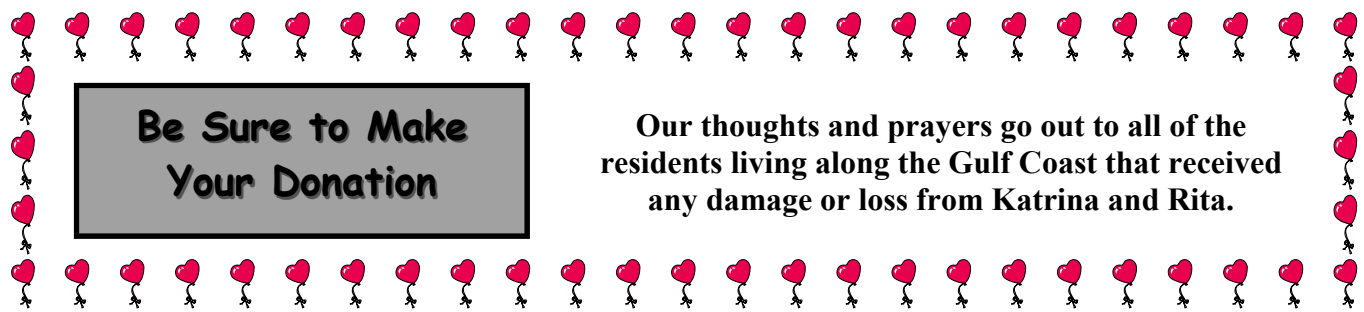
The President's fiscal year (FY) 2006 budget request for the CSFP is \$106.854 million, equal to the amount appropriated for FY 2005. The House passed an appropriations bill specifying \$107.716 million for the program. The Senate recently passed an appropria-

tions bill specifying \$108.854 million for the CSFP. The appropriations bill now goes to conference where differences between the House and Senate versions will be resolved. It remains to be seen what Congress will ultimately provide for the program.

The CSFP Plain Language, Program Accountability, and Program Flexibility final rule was published in the Federal Register on August 11, 2005 at 70 FR 47052. The rule became effective on September 12, 2005. It is important to note that the performance provisions contained within the rule will apply to 2006 caseload assignments. Although the rule permits the use of September in determining a State's base caseload and eligibility for additional caseload in certain limited circumstances, it will not be available for use as an independent consideration for 2006 caseload assignments. Furthermore, the minimum caseload utilization requirement in order for State agencies to qualify for additional caseload increases from 90 to 95 percent under the rule. This rule makes the CSFP easier to understand and administer, and more effective and efficient in providing benefits to eligible persons. A link to the final rule is available at the CSFP home page of the FNS website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/csfp/default.htm>.

The dates for the CSFP-101 training conference calls for State agency staff have been confirmed for November 1, 3 and 15. Invitations have already been sent to CSFP State agencies via FNS Regional Offices. We would like to thank those select CSFP State agencies that responded to questionnaires regarding caseload management, and food ordering and inventory management best practices. The information shared by State agency respondents has proven to be valuable in the development of the conference call guide, which will be forwarded to all CSFP State agencies prior to their respective training dates. We look forward to

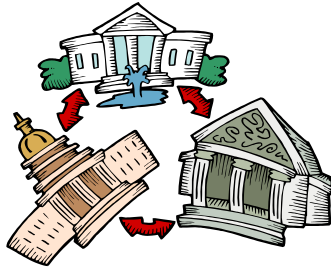
*Submitted by: Cathie McCullough, Director  
Food Distribution Division USDA Food and Nutrition Service*



**Be Sure to Make  
Your Donation**

**Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of the  
residents living along the Gulf Coast that received  
any damage or loss from Katrina and Rita.**

## Legislative Update



As the fiscal year is coming to a close on September 30th, Congress is wrapping up work on the FY06 Agriculture Appropriations Bill. As this article is being written, the bill is on the Senate floor and is expected to be passed with the Appropriations Committee markup of \$108,854,000. The House has passed their version of the bill with \$107,716,000 for CSFP. There is also an expected \$6,020,000 in commodity drawdown that will be available for CSFP in FY06.

Where this leaves us at this point is hard to say. There is the issue of the availability of bonus cheese and non-fat dry milk for next year as well as the uncertainty of food package costs that make it difficult to assess the situation. It's impossible to say whether the dollar amounts that are being considered for CSFP will be sufficient to support our current national monthly caseload of 536,196. The good news is that our friends in Congress and USDA are aware of our concerns and they are working hard to keep us from having to reduce our current participation levels. In fact, we have been told by many people in Congress that the CSFP community has done a great job of providing information and making their concerns known to their congressional delegations. You've been able to get their attention and everyone should be congratulated for that.

Once the Senate has completed their work, the bill will go to conference where we will do all that we can in order to maintain our current caseload level for FY06.

You can follow the progress of the FY06 Agriculture Bill by going to [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov) on the web and clicking on Appropriations Legislation for the latest status.

In addition to funding for next year, CSFP will be coming up for reauthorization in the upcoming Farm Bill. USDA is hosting many sessions across the country that will allow you to offer comments on behalf of CSFP. I encourage you to participate in one of these sessions if at all possible. Please go to [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov) and click on Farm Bill Forums for a listing of the scheduled forums. Leona Martens is leading a subcommittee for the Association that is working on the Farm Bill.

Thank you for all of your support. The Association would not be as successful as we have been without your help.

*Submitted by: Frank Kubik, NCSFP Legislative Chair  
Focus:HOPE, Detroit, Michigan*

## Before a Disaster Strikes

### Feature 1 of a 4-part Series

You can cope with disaster by preparing in advance and by working with your family as a team. Follow the steps listed to be prepared:

- ◆ *Get Informed*
- ◆ *Make a Plan*
- ◆ *Assemble a Survival Kit*
- ◆ *Maintain Your Plan and Kit*

Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility!

## Bost Visits Austin, Texas



Eric Bost, Under Secretary of Agriculture, visited the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) in Austin, Texas on August 8, 2005. Mr. Bost was on his way to Orlando, Florida and made a quick one-hour visit to the food bank. Betty Veasley, of the Regional Southwest USDA Office in Dallas accompanied Mr. Bost, along with staff from the Austin USDA/FNS office and staff from Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Mr. Bost toured new office space recently completed as offices for staff and Vista volunteers. A round table discussion with Mr. Bost was held where he took questions and comments from those present. An agency asked about a greater variety of protein products. Comments were made as to the increasing numbers of new clients the agencies are seeing each month and the increasing costs of operating a pantry. It was also noted that the high price of gasoline was keeping some from getting to the pantries and feeding sites.

After a tour of the facility Mr. Bost took time to update everyone on the increasing costs of commodities, getting a wider variety of products and how USDA could propose their ideas to Congress but that Congress often had their own agenda. Reauthorization was discussed. Mr. Bost did state that he had his staff researching the possibility of changing the priority of CSFP from women, infants and children to the elderly. Doing away with women, infants and children and making CSFP for the elderly only. He has not made any decision on this issue yet.




*Under Secretary Bost walking through the Capital Area Food Bank.*

The food bank was pleased with the visit and its agencies were glad to have had the opportunity to be heard.

*Sam Varela, CSFP/TEFAP Manager  
Special Nutrition Programs  
Austin, Texas*

**Food for Thought.....**  
by *Margaret Mead*

*What people say, what people do,  
and what they say they do,  
are entirely different things.*



## News From New Orleans

We've gotten news from some neighbors who have temporarily returned to Algiers that our home is mostly intact. Algiers is one of the few neighborhoods, which escaped catastrophic flooding, since it doesn't share the same water basin with the rest of the city. It is an extremely tough time for my family and me, but our friends have been beyond wonderful.

Regarding Food for Families/Food for Seniors, I spoke with Tim Robertson and he is looking at leasing a large warehouse facility on the I-20 corridor east of Monroe. He is also planning to rent another warehouse facility in the Lafayette area and will retain, for the time being, the current warehouse building in Baton Rouge. As soon as these arrangements are finalized and the buildings have been prepared with loading docks they will begin receiving foods. Tim was able to locate a satellite photograph, which showed that the entire roof of our main warehouse at 5200 Haynes Boulevard was peeled away by the storm, so all of the foods inside must be considered a total loss. The roofs' survived at our two warehouse facilities nearby on Townsend Place; however, we have no way of determining at this point how much water from flooding entered those buildings. We expect we have lost the majority of our van fleet, but many of the trucks parked at Haynes Boulevard may have weathered the storm and remained functional. Tim plans to retrieve any working trucks as soon as possible so they can be used at our new warehouse facilities. So we've taken a licking, but we're still kicking!

*Best wishes,*

*Andy Fox*

*Louisiana CSFP Manager*

*temporarily sheltering in Surfside, Florida*

## CSFP State-by-State Participation May, FY 2005

Average program participation through the month of May, FY 2005 was 518,811\*,\*\*. By category, average participation through the month of May, FY 2005 was 6,426 infants, 37,502 children, 9,085 women, and 465,798 seniors. Seniors comprised approximately 89.8 percent of all CSFP participants. Total participation for the month of May, FY 2005 was 516,849. This participation total of 516,849 for May, FY 2005 represents an increase of 495 participants from April, FY 2005. Each State's average participation through May for women, infants, children and seniors is detailed below. In addition, each State's total participation for the month of May only is detailed below. Finally, included are each State's current caseload assignments through the end of December 2005.

**Total participation  
for the month of  
May, FY 2005 was  
516,849.**

State	May 2005	Avg. Participation thru 5-05	Caseload
New Hampshire	7,793	7,727	7,861
New York	31,123	33,207	35,148
Vermont	4,563	4,565	4,705
District Columbia	7,852	8,186	8,322
Pennsylvania	15,252	15,071	15,575
Kentucky	16,579	16,712	16,906
Mississippi	7,439	7,447	7,463
North Carolina	1,365	1,388	1,468
South Carolina	3,975	3,959	4,000
Tennessee	14,047	14,591	15,249
Illinois	16,379	16,703	16,702
Indiana	4,456	4,796	4,876
Michigan	83,880	83,070	83,918
Minnesota	15,158	15,044	14,957
Ohio	13,217	13,195	13,226
Red Lake	117	115	109
Wisconsin	5,092	4,917	5,436
Louisiana	82,450	84,269	86,682
New Mexico	17,289	18,184	20,848
Texas	15,819	12,755	13,205
Colorado	18,714	19,202	22,249
Iowa	4,100	4,156	4,191
Kansas	6,095	6,172	6,400
Missouri	10,185	9,874	10,000
Montana	7,072	6,842	7,183
Nebraska	14,066	14,267	14,105
North Dakota	2,987	2,978	2,986
Oglala Sioux	781	675	700
South Dakota	3,000	3,014	3,000
Alaska	2,470	2,299	2,429
Arizona	17,168	17,789	18,080
California**	56,323	55,790	57,369
Nevada	6,398	6,491	6,910
Oregon	1,293	1,113	1,459
Washington	2,352	2,251	2,479
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>516,849</b>		<b>536,196</b>

\*Due to rounding, the sum of the average WIC and the average elderly population for each State in FY05 may not equal the total average participation for each State. No states in 1st or 2nd caseload cycles. \*\*Month of May data not available in National Databank for CA, data carried forward from previous month.

## Support Your National CSFP Association With These Great Products From Premier Marketing Group

The National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association (NCSFPA) proudly offers you a wide variety of items for use in promoting participation in your local program. Shown below are a few items that are readily available. Literally thousands of other products are available if these don't meet your needs. A portion of each purchase you make is returned to the Association to support our programs and services! These customized items are a great way to promote your local program, encourage new participants or say "thanks" to current participants and staff. **To place your order, call PMG at 1-800-427-6767.**

### Jar Openers - Handy & Easy!

Jar openers are handy for your clients to use and easy for you to hand out at health fairs or mail to clients! These 5" round rubber jar openers are helpful for a variety of tasks that require a firm grip. Clients will use them over and over, giving your message long term exposure! Colors available:



**NCSFPA Pricing: 300 pieces just \$.69 each (minimum) - 500 pieces just \$.59 each - 1000 pieces just \$.51 each - 2500 or more pieces call for a quote**

### Tote Along for Convenience



This handy tote will help your program participants carry their personal items along with them around the house and around town. Made of durable 8 oz. cotton canvas, this natural tote is 13" wide x 15 1/2" tall and comes with your choice of colored webbing handles. Webbing available in black, red, navy blue, royal blue, dark green, and natural beige. **MINIMUM ORDER: 100 bags**

**NCSFPA Price: \$2.19 per bag**  
**Set-up Charge: \$55.00**

### Open Letters Easily & Safely

Open even the most stuck envelopes with this easy to hold letter opener. Available in a variety of colors, this is a handy accessory for any adult. Minimum quantity: 300. Item available in White, Red, Black, Blue, Translucent Red, Blue, Yellow, Purple and Green. Imprint Color: Various (one color imprint)



**NCSFPA Price: \$0.68 each**  
**Set-up Charge: \$55.00**



### Quality Pens Like this Bic Pen Stick Around!

This quality pen is available in a variety of color combinations while the ink is black in all. Minimum Order: 250 pens Item Color: White barrel, clip and grip colors: Red, Forest Green, Navy, or Black. Imprint Color: Various (one color imprint)

**NCSFPA Price: \$.99 each**

Your purchase of these items supports NCSFPA as well as your effort to get your message out to those who can use the program!

**Order or For More Information, Call 1-800-427-6767 or email rickyd@pmginc.t**

## CSFP Distribution Site Receives Donation

The Central Nebraska Community Services Grand Island, NE CSFP distribution site serves some 2,450 CSFP participants each month and delivers food packages to some 400 homebound seniors in Hall and Merrick counties.

In August 2005, the Merrick County Foundation Board of Directors approved a \$6,000 grant that was used toward the purchase of a pickup that will deliver commodity food packages from Grand Island to about 200 homebound Merrick County senior citizens.

The grant was made possible by contributions from Alfred and Elizabeth Bader (\$5,000) and the Roy and Gloria Dinsdale fund (\$1,000).



*Pictured are: Jayne Waite, CSFP Specialist, Marla Ortegren, Foundation director and Alice Butt, Central City Senior Center director.*

## University of Nebraska Extension Education Program

For the last six years Joyce Reich of the University of Nebraska Extension Nutrition Education Program has been a constant presence at our CSFP site in Humboldt Nebraska. Joyce read in her local newspaper about the CSFP program and thought it would be a good partnership, since there are so many seniors in this area.

Joyce meets with each client when they come in to receive their commodities. After six visits they graduate from the nutrition program and receive a cookbook put out by the extension program. Things she discusses with them are:

- ◆ *General food nutrition.*
- ◆ *The Food Pyramid*
- ◆ *Different food groups*
- ◆ *Using food resources*
- ◆ *Menu planning/shopping*
- ◆ *Reducing fats, sugars and sodium.*



*Joyce Reich meets with CSFP participant.*

After a client has graduated the education does not stop. Joyce still visits and passes out new ideas and recipes at each visit. Joyce feels the commodities provide nutritional food, but sometimes our clients just need a few guidelines on how to utilize them to receive the best nutritional value.

# National CSFP News

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U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
STATE OF  
NEBRASKA

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20-12-00

## Recipe Corner



### Easy Corn Chowder—Makes 6 Servings

2 cups peeled & diced potatoes      1/2 cup celery, diced  
1 (15.5 ounce) can creamed corn      1 (15.5 ounce) can whole kernel corn      1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup onion, chopped      1 (12 ounce) can evaporated milk      1/8 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper

In a large pot over medium heat, place potatoes, celery, and onion with water to cover. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes, until potatoes are tender. Drain. Return vegetables to pot with creamed corn, corn, evaporated milk, cayenne, and salt over low heat. Simmer 20 minutes.

Calories-260      Cholesterol-20 mg.      Sugar-1 g.      Calcium-200 mg.      Sodium-590 mg.      Calories from fat-50  
Protein-8 g.      Iron-1 mg.      Total Carbohydrate-43 g.      Total Fat-5 g.  
Saturated Fat-3 g.      Dietary Fiber-3 g.

*Recipe provided by Allrecipes.com*

### Skillet-Helper Chilimac—Makes 6 Servings

1 (29 ounce) can beef, defatted      2 (16 ounce) cans tomatoes      1 (15 ounce) can vegetarian beans, drained      1 cup dry macaroni

Remove fat and heat meat in skillet. Add tomatoes, beans, and skillet helper mix. Boil uncovered 10 minutes. Add the macaroni, cover, and cook on low heat for 15 minutes or until macaroni is cooked.

Calories-400      Cholesterol-70 mg.      Sugar-10 g.      Calcium-100 mg.      Sodium-570 mg.      Calories from fat-160  
Protein-25 g.      Iron-4 mg.      Total Carbohydrate-37 g.      Total Fat-18 g.      Saturated Fat-7 g.      Dietary Fiber-6 g.  
Vitamin A-110 RE      Vitamin C-25 mg.

*Recipe provided by Gila River Indian Community FDP, Sacaton, AZ*

### Garden Supper Casserole—Makes 4 Servings

2 cups soft bread, cubed      1/2 cup shredded cheese      5 tablespoons margarine, melted      1 cup cooked peas  
2 tablespoons onion, chopped      3 tablespoons flour      1 teaspoon salt      1/8 teaspoon pepper  
1 1/2 cups milk      1 cup canned beef, cut up      1 large tomato, sliced

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Mix bread cubes, cheese, and 2 tablespoons melted margarine. Spread half the mixture in greased 1 quart casserole dish and top with peas. Cook onion in 3 tablespoons margarine until onion is tender. Blend in flour and seasonings. Cook over low heat, stirring until mixture is bubbly. Remove from heat, add milk and return to a boil, stirring constantly. Boil and stir for 1 minute. Stir in meat and pour over peas. Arrange tomato slices on top and sprinkle with remaining bread mixture. Bake, uncovered, for 25 minutes.

Calories-550      Cholesterol-70 mg.      Sugar-9 g.      Calcium-240 mg.      Sodium-1330 mg.      Calories from fat-380  
Protein-19 g.      Iron-8 mg.      Total Carbohydrate-25 g.      Total Fat-42 g.      Saturated Fat-15 g.      Dietary Fiber-3 g.  
Vitamin A-300 RE      Vitamin C-15 mg.

*Recipe provided by Winnie Day, Nez Perce, Reubens, ID*

These recipes, presented to you by USDA, have not been tested or standardized.

U.S. Department of Agriculture ► Food and Nutrition Service