



National CSFP News

Message from Texas

Canned peaches and green beans. Macaroni and cheese. Powdered milk. Pantry staples like these now fill monthly CSFP food boxes distributed for the first time to low income seniors and others in two of the largest cities in the country, Houston and San Antonio.

For many years, Texans have suffered from one of the highest rates of food insecurity in the U.S. Yet prior to Hurricane Katrina, there was no active Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in the Houston and San Antonio metro areas – two of the most populous cities in the country, and respectively Texas’s first and third largest cities. Other Texas cities, Dallas and Laredo, have long had

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Seniors wait in line to sign up for the CSFP program launched last year in Houston.

caseloads.

Texas was awarded additional CSFP supplemental caseload funding in response to the large influx of Katrina evacuees from Louisiana. Houston (Harris County only) received a caseload of 8,500 and San Antonio received a caseload of 6,000. Staff at the food banks in both cities devoted many hours to registering clients and adjusting internal processes to create enough monthly CSFP boxes to meet the increased need. It was a tremendous challenge, but both food banks were able to reach their allotted caseloads without compromising services to their existing customers.

Antonio is uncertain. The supplemental caseloads were awarded for a six month period which was due to end by January.

“Receiving the food box was a blessing,” said Mary Jenkins, “and for it to stop would be a shame.” Mrs. Jenkins, age 61, and her disabled husband James got a monthly CSFP box filled with high quality, nutrient-dense foods, like those distributed to seniors and low income mothers and children who must often choose between buying food and paying for other basic necessities of day-to-day life. “It helps to relieve some of the stress of what monthly bills should be paid or not,” said Mrs. Jenkins.

Many Katrina evacuees who are eligible for CSFP have chosen to make Texas their home. Even without this new population, the need for programs like CSFP is critical, especially acute in large cities such as Houston and San Antonio.

The Houston and San Antonio Food Banks ask you to encourage Congress to maintain the supplemental caseload. Without the supplemental support provided by CSFP, many low-income seniors living in Houston and San

Submitted by: Houston Food Bank

FNS News

The CSFP is currently funded under a continuing resolution (CR) through February 15, 2007. On January 8, FNS issued tentative caseload and administrative grants, based on a total projected cash resource level for fiscal year (FY) 2007 of \$107.465 million, including cash carryover and recoveries. Total estimated resources available for FY 2007 are sufficient to support a tentative nationwide caseload level of 485,614 slots, a reduction of 6,999 slots from the 492,613 allocated nationally in 2006. Because many States did not fully utilize assigned caseload in 2006, a limited amount of additional caseload was allocated. However, since all projected resources available have been dedicated to assigning base caseload and a nominal amount of additional caseload for currently participating States, we could not approve caseload for new States with approved State Plans.

Final caseload and administrative grants will be allocated once Congress takes final action on the FY 2007 appropriation. For all currently participating States, administrative resources in addition to those provided under CRs are subject to apportionment by the Office of Management and Budget. We will keep you informed regarding the availability of such funds.

In FY 2006, Congress provided the CSFP with \$4 million in emergency supplemental appropriations to address the consequences of Hurricane Katrina. We offered the supplemental resources in the form of caseload, administrative grants, and commodities to the three CSFP Gulf States directly affected by Katrina, as evidenced by Federal disaster or emergency declarations—Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Based on each State's request and accompanying justification, FNS allocated a combined total of 24,577 supplemental caseload slots to these three States for use from July 1 through December 31, 2006. Administrative funds were allocated based on the prorated annual administrative grant per assigned caseload slot for each of FYs 2006 and 2007.

In December 2006, FNS extended the availability of unused FY 2007 supplemental administrative

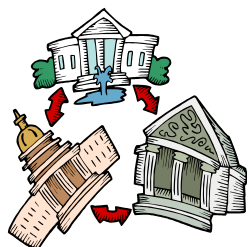
funds and commodities on-hand at the State level through March 31, 2007, or until such resources are expended, whichever occurs first. The extension allows each CSFP Gulf State with resources remaining after December 31 the opportunity to continue providing supplemental assistance to participants, and the additional time necessary to transition these individuals to other nutrition assistance programs for which they are eligible and not currently participating. It should be noted that FNS has not provided additional caseload, administrative funds, or commodities for use during this maximum three-month timeframe.

The National Warehouse multi-food storage and distribution contracts have been awarded to Paris Brothers, based in Kansas City, Missouri, which will handle the western States; Americold, based in Carthage, Missouri, which will handle the central States; and Americold, based in Syracuse, New York, which will handle the eastern States. These contracts are the culmination of a tri-agency, multi-year effort to modernize and improve the multi-food system. Recipient agencies will now be able to order online through the Electronic Commodity Ordering System (ECOS), with a far more flexible and efficient delivery system, resulting in vastly improved communications and customer service.

Over the next several months we will be repositioning the inventories and ECOS training will begin. One of the first steps in this process will be for the warehouses to contact each of their respective locations to negotiate delivery dates. This process should begin in the latter part of January and continue into February. Once delivery dates have been scheduled and inventories have been filled, ordering through ECOS is expected to begin. As this process moves toward completion, you will receive updates from your respective FNS Regional Offices regarding ECOS training, as well as additional information regarding the National Warehouse contracts.

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

Public Policy Update



Having been newly appointed as chair of the Public Policy Committee I find the learning curve to be a little like taking a drink of water from a fire hose. However, with help from Barb Packett, Katie Eyes, Marian Guinn and Marguerite Nowak, who are my fellow committee members and the real experts in this committee group, I feel much more comfortable. As the new year is upon us the Federal Government is still operating on a Continuing Resolution until February 15th, with speculation that it may be extended until the end of FY 2007. As Congress continues to work through the appropriations process the committee has asked them to provide funding to maintain the gulf states supplemental caseload to the

24,000 participants and to also bring on the 5 new states that have approved plans.

In light of the continuing resolution, USDA provided a tentative caseload assignment for the remainder of FY 2007. The caseload assignment of 485,614 slots is a reduction from the 2006 allocated caseload of 492,613 slots. As some states did not fully utilize their assigned 2006 caseload, this tentative assignment allocated slots to states that had requested additional caseload.

Ironically, as we continue to work through the FY 2007 issues we will soon be looking at what FY 2008 has in store for CSFP. On February 5th the President will be releasing his FY 2008 budget, at which time much of our attention and focus will switch to issues associated with that budget process. As always, I am sure we will be looking to all of you for help in contacting and educating your congressional delegates on the vital importance of this program. For if I have learned anything, it is that no matter how much we as an association/committee contact Congressional delegates, nothing speaks louder than the words of a constituent from their home state or district. I applaud all of you on the great work that you have done in the past and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Submitted by: Matt Gassen, NCSFP Public Policy Chair

Weld Food Bank CSFP Participants Thank Congress

Last February the Weld Food Bank worked to mobilize the community and specifically the CSFP clients to respond to the administration's proposed elimination of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Both the House and Senate took action to provide funding for the program and the latest CR continued funding into FY 07.

At this time we are providing the opportunity for those clients to send a note of appreciation to the legislators who lead the way and supported CSFP. Below is the sign on letter that will be available:

Last year when the administration proposed the elimination of CSFP I was very concerned. I appreciate your support of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and am thankful I can still get the food.



Freida, CSFP participant at the Weld Food Bank

*Submitted by: Leona Martens
Weld Food Bank Executive Director*

CSFP and Salvation Army Make Good Partners

In the center of the nation’s heartland is Grand Island, Nebraska with a population of approximately 46,000 residents. Recently Nebraska, along with many other states, experienced ice storms and tens of thousands of residents across the state were left without electricity for days and weeks. Many organizations and private companies donated food and goods to the Grand Island Salvation Army. Mark found himself flooded with more food than they could use. Mark called Jayne at the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and donated three pickup loads of food to CSFP. Food items included fresh fruit and vegetables, hoagie buns, frozen shrimp, fish, beef and turkey rolls, cookies, juice, frozen bread dough, and other numerous food items. These foods were distributed to CSFP participants along with their regular food package.




Jayne and Mark take a moment out of their busy schedules.

Mark said that with recent government cutbacks and the limited number of participants that the CSFP is allowed to serve, the ability to establish partnerships with outside agencies and community partners is more crucial now than ever. He also said that this is something that Jayne has made a priority when it comes to serving her CSFP participants. One good example is the excellent relationship between CSFP and the Grand Island Salvation Army. By establishing and maintaining a good partnership with the Salvation Army, Jayne is the first one called when donated items exceed the Salvation Army’s ability to store and maintain. This excess in items then becomes the benefit of the CSFP participant. The end result for having a positive attitude and maintaining excellent community partnerships is a benefit for the community and something that we as human service agencies staff should all strive to do.

Jayne noted that the CSFP participants are always very happy when they see that the Salvation Army has made food donations to the Grand Island CSFP distribution site!!

Submitted by: Mark Merritt, Salvation Army Director & Jayne Waite, CSFP Specialist

Upcoming Conference Reminder

<p>See you soon</p>		<p>What: CSFP National Conference When: February 26 –March 1, 2007 Where: Washington, D.C.—Washington Plaza Hotel</p>
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<p>Food for Thought.....</p>	<p>"It takes everyone working together and flying in the same direction to achieve common goals".</p>	
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CSFP 2007 Caseload Announced

State	2007 Tentative Total Caseload
New Hampshire	7,619
New York	31,068
Vermont	4,005
District Columbia	7,121
Pennsylvania	14,600
Kentucky	15,652
Mississippi	6,996
North Carolina	1,249
South Carolina	3,705
Tennessee	13,721
Illinois	14,463
Indiana	4,358
Michigan	78,430
Minnesota	14,071
Ohio	15,892
Red Lake	102
Wisconsin	5,051
Louisiana*	66,206
New Mexico	16,950
Texas	15,923
Colorado	18,844
Iowa	3,781
Kansas	5,763
Missouri	9,374
Montana	6,783
Nebraska	13,770
North Dakota	2,799
Oglala Sioux	725
South Dakota	2,812
Alaska	2,277
Arizona	16,625
California	53,827
Nevada	5,982
Oregon	1,418
Washington	3,652
TOTALS	485,614

**Due to the disruption and continued negative impact of the 2005 hurricanes, Louisiana's 2007 base caseload equals average monthly participation over the two previous FY's, and includes the same proxy participation figure applied to the State's base caseload calculation in 2006.*

CSFP State-by-State Participation August Fiscal Year 2006

Average program participation through the month of August, FY 2006 was 462,594*. By category, average participation through the month of August, FY 2006 was 4,566 infants, 29,058 children, 6,836

women, and 422,134 seniors. Seniors comprised approximately 91.3 percent of all CSFP participants. Total participation for August, FY 2006 was 462,796. This participation total for August, FY 2006 represents an increase of 2,465 participants from August, FY 2005. Each State's average participation through August for women, infants, children and seniors is detailed below. In addition, each State's total participation for the month of August only is detailed below. Finally, included are each State's caseload assignments for 2006**.

State	August 2006	Average Participation	2006 Caseload
New Hampshire	6,780	6,925	7,247
New York	31,927	31,616	31,018
Vermont	3,735	4,042	4,270
District Columbia	6,907	7,111	7,625
Pennsylvania	14,464	14,986	14,600
Kentucky	15,705	15,838	15,652
Mississippi	7,010	7,128	6,996
North Carolina	1,198	1,257	1,277
South Carolina	3,808	3,669	3,705
Tennessee	13,370	13,788	13,964
Illinois	13,593	14,568	15,410
Indiana	3,873	4,361	4,440
Michigan	77,147	80,303	78,380
Minnesota	14,107	14,427	14,021
Ohio	11,986	12,537	12,398
Red Lake	105	106	102
Wisconsin	5,091	5,267	5,001
Louisiana***	62,122	47,385	78,763
New Mexico	16,935	17,296	16,950
Texas	13,165	12,456	12,378
Colorado	19,301	18,990	20,856
Iowa	3,486	3,813	3,876
Kansas	5,155	5,588	5,763
Missouri	9,188	9,779	9,374
Montana	6,756	6,886	6,733
Nebraska	12,576	13,066	13,222
North Dakota	2,732	2,895	2,799
Oglala Sioux	666	623	651
South Dakota	2,812	2,857	2,812
Alaska	1,977	2,469	2,277
Arizona	15,087	15,909	16,572
California	50,483	54,959	53,777
Nevada	5,834	5,850	6,034
Oregon	1,440	1,529	1,368
Washington	2,275	2,311	2,302
TOTALS	458,157		492,613

*Due to rounding, the sum of the average WIC and the average elderly population for each State in FY06 may not equal the total average participation for each State. No states in 1st or 2nd caseload cycles.

**Does not include supplemental caseload assignments for LA, MS & TX.

***Due to the disruption caused by the 2005 hurricanes, LA CSFP participation levels negatively impacted.

National CSFP News

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20-12-00

Winter Recipe Corner



Chili—Makes 4 servings

- *1 pound ground beef *1 onion, chopped *1/2 cup green bell pepper, chopped
- *2 cloves garlic, minced *1 (15.5 ounce) can tomatoes, cut up *1 (8 ounce) can tomato sauce
- *1 (15.5 ounce) can dark red kidney beans, rinsed and drained *2-3 teaspoons chili powder *1/4 teaspoon pepper
- *1/2 teaspoon dried basil, crushed

In a large saucepan, cook ground beef, onion, bell pepper, and garlic until meat is brown and onion is tender. Drain fat. Stir in undrained tomatoes, kidney beans, tomato sauce, chili powder, basil, and pepper. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes.

<u>Nutrition information for serving size:</u>	Calories: 420	Calories from Fat: 160	Total Fat: 27 g	Sugar: 9 g
Cholesterol: 70 mg	Saturated Fat: 7 g	Calcium: 100 mg	Iron: 5 mg	Sodium: 940 g
Total Carbohydrate: 42 g	Vitamin A: 600 RAE	Vitamin C: 42 mg	Dietary Fiber: 12 g	Protein: 30 g

Recipe provided by Better Homes and Gardens

Chicken Corn Chowder—Makes approximately 8 (1-cup servings)

- *2 tablespoons butter or margarine *1/2 cup finely chopped onion *3 tablespoons flour *3 cups tomato juice *1/2 cup milk
- *1/4 teaspoon pepper *2 cups cubed chicken or turkey** *1 can (15.5 ounce) can whole kernel corn, drained

**For 2 cups cubed, cooked chicken; in a medium saucepan, cook 1 lb. skinless, boneless chicken breasts or thighs, cubed, for 5 mins., until meat no longer pink.

In a large saucepan, over medium heat, melt butter or margarine. Add onion and cook until tender. Blend in flour. Gradually stir in tomato juice, milk, and pepper until smooth. Cook until mixture boils and thickens slightly, stirring constantly. Add chicken or turkey and corn. Heat through.

<u>Nutrition information for serving size:</u>	Calories: 156	Calories from Fat: 47	Total Fat: 5.2 g	Sugar: 5 g
Cholesterol: 38 mg	Saturated Fat: 2.5 g	Calcium: 37 mg	Iron: 1.4 mg	Sodium: 474 mg
Total Carbohydrate: 15 g	Vitamin A: 96 RAE	Vitamin C: 11 mg	Dietary Fiber: 1 g	Protein: 13 g

Recipe provided by Campbell's

Banana Oat Muffins—Makes 12 muffins

- *2 cups oat circles, crushed *1 1/4 cups flour *1/3 cup packed brown sugar *1 teaspoon baking powder *1 egg
- *3/4 teaspoon baking soda *1 cup mashed very ripe bananas (2-3 medium) *2/3 cup lowfat milk *3 tablespoons oil

Heat oven to 400 F. Spray 12 regular-sized muffin cups with cooking spray, or grease bottoms only of muffin cups. Mix cereal, flour, brown sugar, baking powder, and baking soda in a large bowl. Add bananas, milk, oil, and egg. Stir just until moistened. Divide batter among twelve muffin cups. Bake 18-22 minutes until golden brown.

<u>Nutrition information for each serving:</u>	Calories: 148	Calories from Fat: 40	Total Fat: 4.4 g	Sugar: 9 g
Cholesterol: 18 mg	Saturated Fat: .8 g	Calcium: 47 mg	Iron: 2.1 mg	Sodium: 173 mg
Total Carbohydrate: 24 g	Vitamin A: 59 RAE	Vitamin C: 4 mg	Dietary Fiber: 1 g	Protein: 3 g

Recipe provided by General Mills