

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SUMMER MEAL

3E'S OF HEALTHY LIVING
EDUCATION, EXERCISE AND EATING RIGHT *Programs*

September 2024 Monthly Newsletter

USDA Offers Additional Guidance and Best Practices for Obtaining Racial/Ethnic Data

On Monday, August 26, 2024, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released memorandum [CACFP 12-2024](#), [SFSP 16-2024](#), Questions and Answers Related to CACFP 11-2021, SFSP 07-2021, Collection of Race and Ethnicity Data by Visual Observation and Identification in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program – Policy Rescission -Set 2.

TANS Update

As announced at MegaCon 2024, the Texas Department of Agriculture is happy to share we will all be transitioning from the Texas Unified Nutrition Program System (TXUNPS) to a new system in program year 2026 – the Texas Automated Nutrition System (TANS)! For the past decade, TXUNPS has served TDA's nutrition programs as a single integrated web-based application, but the time has come to upgrade. System users from the state, Education Service Centers (ESCs), and sponsoring organizations will soon begin using TANS to support the same nutrition programs through application process, claims, compliance, and more.

You may be asking, "Why do we need to change systems?" Well, the main challenges behind the change is that TXUNPS is a highly customized system managed by a vendor that runs on older technology so our ability to adjust or enhance the system is very limited and the changes that can be made are completed very slowly. These obstacles do not support operational efficiency or effective administration of the programs, so TDA

decided to find an alternative to TXUNPS.

Development on TANS is already underway, so you can expect a training schedule and more very soon. Bookmark, subscribe, and **stay tuned** to make sure you're ready to dive into the exciting new system!

2024 Turnip the Beet - Deadline Extended!

Thank you for serving nutritious summer meals to children across the Lone Star State and participating in Turnip the Beet to gain national recognition of your programs! We have extended the submission deadline to September 17, 2024. Please submit 2024 applications to Nutrition@TexasAgriculture.gov as soon as possible! Visit our **SquareMeals** page for more information.

Revised Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheet Series in English

The Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheet series has been revised to reflect the changes with the Final Rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs tip sheet series consists of seven tip sheets covering the five meal components: fruits, vegetables, meats/meat alternates, fluid milk, and grains (three separate tip sheets). The revised versions introduce the menu-planning flexibilities beginning July 1, 2024 and changes that will be implemented in the coming school years in a quick-reference format. Access the entire **tip sheet series** today in English! The Spanish series will be available online in September and print copies of both the Spanish and English tip sheets will be available at a later date!



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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