CACFP Input Workgroup Quarterly Call Meeting Minutes

Date: November 3, 2026

CACFP Training Needs Assessment and State Training Plan

The TDA Training Team outlined plans for a statewide CACFP training plan in 2027, designed to address operators' experience, responsibilities, compliance needs, and preferred training formats. Early-2027 listening sessions will gather input from CACFP sponsors and independent sites, ESC specialists, and TDA Food and Nutrition Division staff. Attendees could volunteer via a meeting sign-up form. Feedback may shape 2027 conference and training activities or inform long-term training development. TDA clarified that ESCs remain the primary source of required training and discussed allowable costs and training availability.

Federal Fraud Whistleblower Incentive Program

TDA Compliance Administrator provided an informational update regarding a recently announced federal fraud whistleblower incentive initiative. The program may provide incentives for successful reporting of fraud involving certain federally funded programs. TDA staff noted increased public records activity following the announcement and encouraged participants to be aware of potential inquiries related to program operations. This item was presented for awareness only. No action was taken.

Policy Guidance Feedback Process

TDA Policy Team proposed a process for gathering stakeholder feedback on new substantive CACFP policy guidance and major form revisions before publication. Drafts would be sent to Input Workgroup members, who could collect input from other CACFP operators and submit consolidated feedback via an online form. TDA would review the feedback, consider changes, and communicate revisions. Staff noted that federally mandated changes may require immediate implementation, preventing advance stakeholder review.

Open Discussion

Representatives of the CACFP Sponsor Association expressed willingness to assist with future training planning and stakeholder outreach efforts. A workgroup member reported attending a national CACFP conference and shared that another state agency is exploring creation of a similar stakeholder input workgroup. Positive feedback regarding Texas's workgroup model was noted.