

CACFP Input Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Date: August 19, 2026

CACFP Engagement Update

TDA provided an update on current and future stakeholder engagement efforts for the CACFP Input Workgroup. TDA recognized the group for their recent feedback, which led to revisions to forms, guidance, and policy materials, with the majority of the submitted recommendations incorporated. For future iterations, TDA plans to implement a predictable annual policy release cycle and develop a structured process to obtain stakeholder input on specific areas of future policy updates and considerations.

ESC Support Survey Results

TDA presented results from the Education Service Center (ESC) support survey, in which Contracting Entities were asked to provide feedback about their experiences with ESC training and technical assistance. The key findings focused on the following areas:

- Strong ratings were received in the areas of credibility, customer service, and compliance support.
- Opportunities for improvement were identified in training accessibility and operational technical assistance.
- Respondents indicated a preference for additional virtual training opportunities and more convenient training schedules.

The workgroup members were invited to provide feedback on how to increase survey participation and identify topics best suited for virtual training.

MegaCon 2027 Planning

TDA facilitated a discussion on planning for MegaCon 2027. Topics discussed included (1) developing thematic training tracks with program-specific breakout sessions; (2) focusing on practical, application-based learning opportunities; (3) including topics like procurement, financial management, prior written approvals, allowable costs, budgeting, financial sampling tools, administrative reviews, corrective actions, monitoring, and annual training requirements; and finally (4) creating peer-learning opportunities, best-practice sharing, and roundtable discussions tailored for different groups. TDA also sought feedback on the possibility of convening CACFP sponsors for a separate workshop/learning experience. Although TDA is still assessing options, the workgroup's feedback was very positive regarding this idea.

Open Discussion

The workgroup members discussed pending federal rulemaking related to meal patterns and monitoring requirements. TDA staff noted that the final federal rules have not yet been released and emphasized that information will be communicated to all Contracting Entities once they are available.