

The background features a collage of stylized, flat-design graphics. In the top left, there are two blue pomegranates with small 'x' marks. A yellow banana is positioned below them. In the top center, there are several brown leaves on a thin stem. To the right, a large light green shape contains a brown circle, resembling a lime or a slice of citrus. Below that, there are pink and white striped curved shapes. In the bottom right, there is a large brown shape with two dark green leaves, resembling an apple. The overall color palette is soft and pastel, with accents of yellow, brown, green, and blue.

# CACFP— Stay Connected Quarterly Webinar

January 28, 2026

# Welcome!

Thank you for joining us today. We  
are happy you are here

# Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is committed to upholding privacy and confidentiality laws and policies that protect all virtual meeting participants. To address this commitment effectively, CDSS' Information Security & Privacy Office has blocked the use of AI applications during virtual meetings. AI applications include, but are not limited to, those used to record and take notes.

# Webinar Tips and Reminders

- Audience will be muted.
- Captions are enabled
- You can turn off captions at any point during the webinar by selecting Hide Captions from the Zoom control bar
- This presentation will be available on the web page along with other resources after the webinar
- Questions should be asked through the Q&A feature



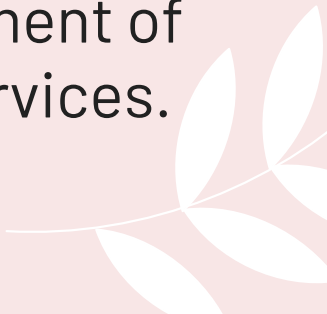
# Take a deep breath

We appreciate you taking time out of your busy, potentially stressful day to be here with us today!



# Hi!

I'm Jessie Rosales,  
CACFP Branch Chief at the  
California Department of  
Social Services.

A white graphic of a leafy branch, consisting of several oval-shaped leaves on a thin stem, located in the bottom right corner of the page.



**Thank you to the webinar production team!**

An illustration on the left side of the slide shows a hand with dark skin holding a glass of light green beverage with two orange slices and a green leaf. The background features soft pink and white abstract shapes and a grid pattern.

# Happy 2026! It's National Blueberry Pancake Day!

What are you most looking forward to  
from the CACFP Branch this year?

# Agenda

- CACFP News
- Engagement Updates
- Administrative Reviews and Fiscal Viability Appraisals
- Onboarding and Outreach
- Data at the CACFP





# CACFP News

Updates from our teams



01



# Federal Nutrition Policy (1)

- **NEW** Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2025-2030
  - Evidenced-based nutrition recommendations developed by US Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services, intended to promote healthy eating patterns
  - Updated every 5 years
  - USDA required to develop child nutrition standards that align with Dietary Guidelines for Americans
  - Any updates to the federal child nutrition programs' meal patterns expected through rule making process

# Federal Nutrition Policy (2)

- **NEW** Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025
  - New policy SP 01-2026, updates fluid milk requirements for school lunch
  - Allows whole and 2% milk to be served at school lunch; previously only fat-free and 1% milk
  - For CACFP, impacts operators per [7 CFR 226.20\[i\]](#), who opt to serve the NSLP meal pattern

# 2026 Live Nutrition Trainings

- **Meal Patten Crediting Academy**
- *New!* **Feeding Infants**
- *New!* **CACFP Meal Patterns**
- *New!* **Farm to CACFP Basics**
- *New!* **Grains Requirements**
- *New!* **Menu Planning**



# CACFP Annual Mandatory Training

CACFP operators are required to complete the training by June 30, 2026

CACFP Annual Mandatory Training (course CDSS-110) for program year 2025-26 is available on the CDSS Bright Track (BT) training platform

# Meet Our Certified Bilingual Staff



Karen Wedsted



Gustavo Roa



Cintya Loreto

Available to answer questions and provide technical assistance in Spanish in the chat!

# Program Integrity Updates

- Administrative Reviews completed:
  - January 2025, 16 reviews had been completed
  - January 2026, 43 reviews have been completed
- Staff completing administrative reviews:
  - Program Year 2024-2025: 18 staff
  - Program Year 2025-2026: 38 staff
- 369 Financial Viability Reviews scheduled for completion in program year 2025-2026



02

# Engagement Updates

Presented by: Katie Klein



# **CACFP Satisfaction Survey**

# Satisfaction Survey Overview

- Officially launched in **Jan. 2025**
- Aim is to capture **critical feedback** from CACFP Operators to inform **program enhancements**
- Serves as a **performance measure** for CACFP Equity Plan goals
- Establishes **participant experience baseline** for CACFP Strategic Engagement Plan goals

# Satisfaction Survey Update

**1**

97 survey  
participants  
since launch

**2**

Feedback spans  
6 program  
touchpoints

**3**

First year data  
to establish  
baseline

# Administrative Review Process (1)

Participants stated the CACFP Branch's response to their needs was...

Respectful **70%**

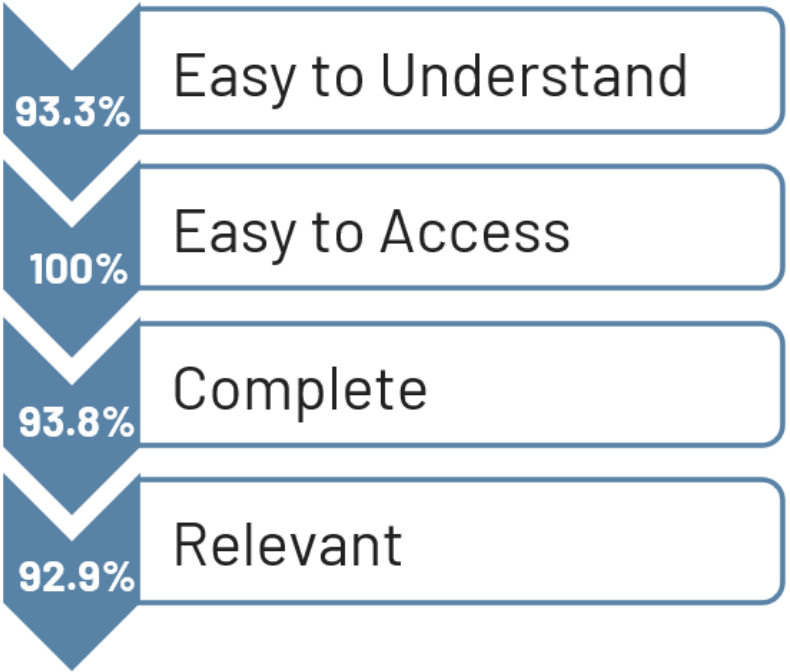
Consistent **65%**

Timely **60%**



# Administrative Review Process (2)

Participants stated information provided by the CACFP Branch was...



# Administrative Review Improvements



Addition of Fiscal Oversight Units

Streamlined Administrative Review Process

In-depth Fiscal Operations Training

# Application and Annual Updates (1)

Participants stated information provided by the CACFP Branch was...

66.7%

Easy to  
Understand

66.7%

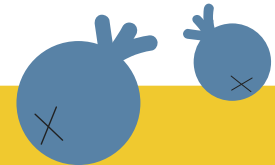
Easy to  
Access

66.7%

Complete

54.2%

Relevant



# Application and Annual Updates (2)

Participants describing their ability to complete requirements as easy or very easy:

**81.8%**

Bright Track Training Courses

**52.6%**

Menu Review and Approval

**50.0%**

Pre-Approval Virtual Visit

**60.0%**

Pre-Approval On Site Visit

# Program Administration Improvements



CACFP Interest Survey



Onboarding and Outreach Unit



Translated Resources



Language Needs Survey



CACFP Community Workgroup

The background features a light pink base with various stylized elements: a yellow banana in the top left, two blue pomegranates, brown leaves at the top center, a light green apple with a brown core in the top right, a large orange apple with two dark green leaves in the bottom right, and a blue abstract shape in the bottom right corner. A white curved shape is visible at the bottom left.

# Multilingual Resources at the CACFP

# Multilingual Resources

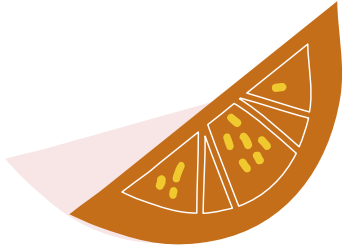
- Operator Pamphlet

- Spanish
- Chinese
- Vietnamese
- Korean
- Tagalog

- Family and Participants Brochure

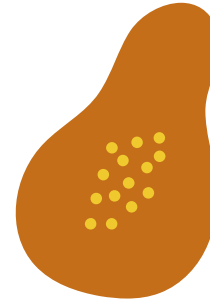
- Spanish
- Chinese
- Vietnamese
- Korean
- Tagalog

# Survey Administration Updates



## Data Visualization

Developing data visuals and reporting process to be shared on our web pages



## Outreach Plan

Developing partner outreach plan for collecting Meal Recipient feedback

# Satisfaction Survey



We want to hear from you!



# **CACFP Community Workgroup**

# Community Workgroup Overview

- Implements **goal 4** of the CACFP Strategic Engagement Plan, creating a structured avenue for **building relationships and collaborating with Operators** to enhance the CACFP
- Vision: CACFP Branch and partners use a **collaborative governance approach** to **co-create recommendations** for program improvements

# Community Workgroup Guiding Priorities



**Shared vision** for program access and comprehensive support



**Enhance** channels of communication



**Co-create** recommendations and best practices



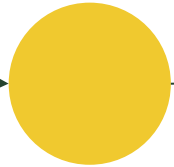
**Evaluate impact** of program changes

# Timeline and Next Steps (1)

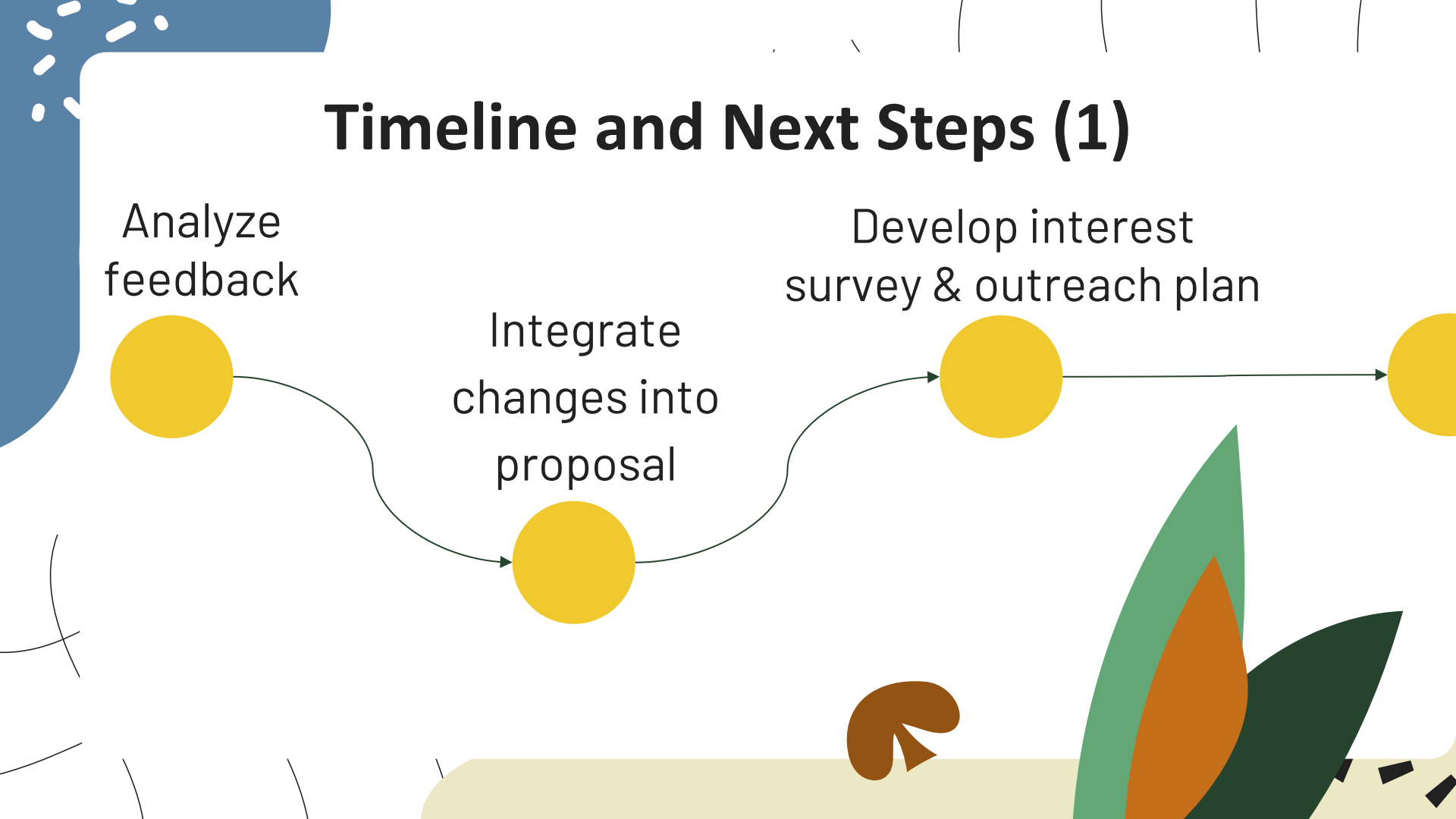
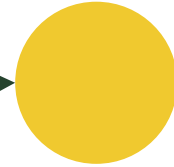
Analyze  
feedback



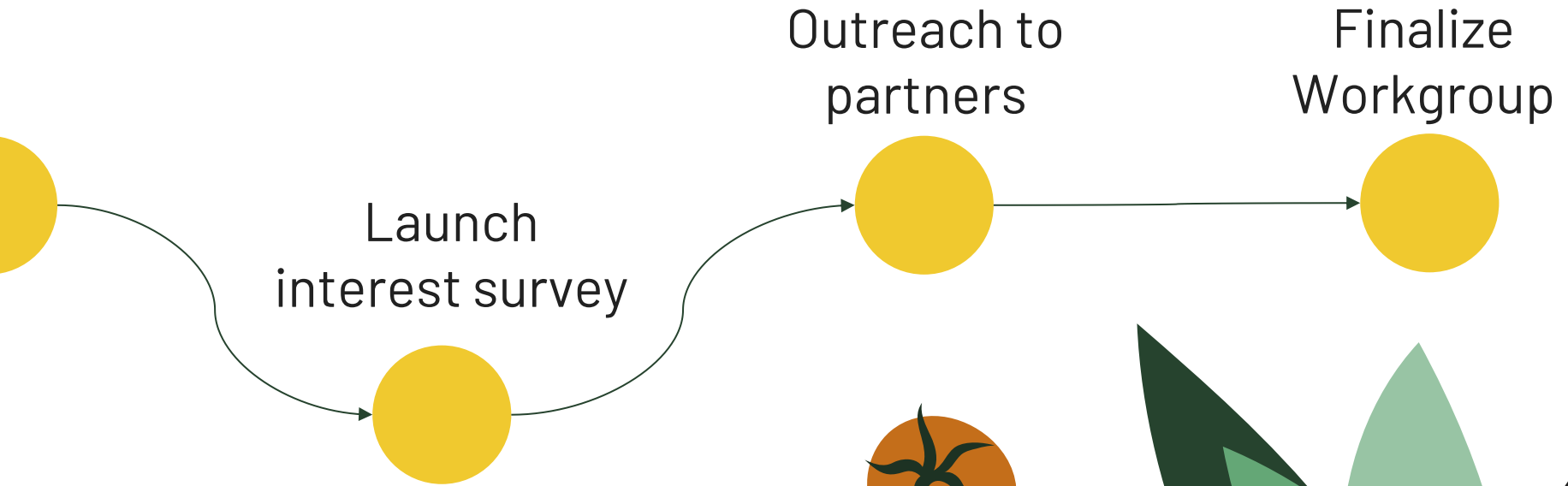
Integrate  
changes into  
proposal



Develop interest  
survey & outreach plan



# Timeline and Next Steps (2)



**03**

# **Administrative Reviews and Fiscal Viability Appraisals**


Presented by: Stefanie Callori



# Background and Definition

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published the Child Nutrition Program Integrity Final Rule on August 23, 2023
- Amends regulations at 7 *CFR*, 226.7(b) and 7 *CFR*, 226.10(c)
- Codifies requirement for an annual reconciliation of bank account activity and requires accounting of reported actual expenditures with CACFP payments

# Streamlined Review Process



Sponsoring organizations must have at least one month of bank account activity reviewed annually

Sponsors of unaffiliated centers also must have additional review of how they are retaining administrative costs for the whole year

Operators requiring an Administrative Review (AR) **AND** a Fiscal Viability Appraisal (FVA) review completed simultaneously during the review process will have both

Operators **NOT** requiring an AR this program year will be contacted independently to complete the FVA process



# **CACFP Reviews: Requirements & Best Practices**

# Documentation and Recordkeeping

## Best Practice

- Preparing for the review with an organized system (build-a-box, receipt files)

## CACFP Requirements

- Thorough and accurate recordkeeping
- Proactive compliance by emphasizing accurate documentation (invoices, payroll, attendance)
- Documenting food substitutions and diet restrictions

# Training and Operational Procedures

## CACFP Requirement

- Maintaining clear procedures and ensuring consistent staff training



# Program Integrity

## Best Practice

- Utilizing USDA resources like the Food Buying Guide to ensure meal patterns are met

## CACFP Requirement

- Implementing strong financial controls

# Continuous Communication



## Best Practice

- Communicating with CDSS reviewers and specialists frequently

## CACFP Requirement

- Ensuring CNIPS contact information is current



04

# Onboarding and Outreach

Welcome the new team!

Presented by: Lourdes Robles

# Onboarding and Outreach Vision



Our vision is to ensure that organizations have a clear supported path into the CACFP through person-centered processes and targeted outreach to increase program access.

# Onboarding & Outreach Team Members



**Lourdes  
Robles**



**Harminder  
Pooni**



**Tara  
Carroll**



**Raquel  
Parra**

# Key Functions

Strategic outreach to increase program reach



Program Onboarding



Eligibility support and technical assistance



Connection to program resources

# Upcoming Onboarding Resources



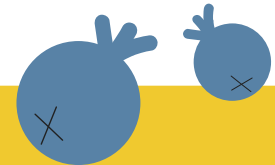
Creating an  
Onboarding  
Manual



Updating the  
How to Apply /  
Onboarding  
CDSS Webpage



Translating  
Interest Survey  
to Spanish



# Please let us know your thoughts!

## **Onboarding**

What resources or information would have been helpful to have during your CACFP onboarding process?

## **Outreach**

What resources would be helpful to have to increase program outreach in your community?

# Feedback Board



<https://tinyurl.com/yx6a3fvp>

# 2026 National CACFP Week

This year's theme is  
Stirring Up Goodness!

**March 15-21, 2026**

Look out for emails regarding  
National CACFP Week  
announcements and activities.



# 2026 National CACFP Week Posts!

Share your pride in being part of the CACFP community.

Please post a **Menu Feature** by sharing a picture of a CACFP-approved recipe or snack on Instagram, X, or Facebook.

To learn more about the Menu feature please go to [CACFPWeek.org](https://CACFPWeek.org)

# Previous National CACFP Week Posts



**For more National CACFP Week  
information and resources:**

**[https://www.cdss.ca.gov/cacfp/news-  
events/cacfp-week](https://www.cdss.ca.gov/cacfp/news-events/cacfp-week)**

A stylized illustration of a hand holding a drink with lemon slices and green leaves. The hand is brown and is holding a glass filled with a light green liquid, ice cubes, and two lemon slices. There are several green leaves around the glass. The background is a light pink color with some abstract shapes and a yellow circle containing the number 05.

**05**

# Data at the CACFP

Presented by: Layla Burgan



# The CACFP StoryMap

A collaboration with  
University of California Agriculture  
and Natural Resources and CDSS  
Child Care Licensing Division

# Objective

- Look at Family Child Care Home (FCCH) participation
- See gaps in CACFP coverage where eligible FCCH are not currently participating



# Challenges

1

Keeping exact  
FCCH locations  
obscured for  
privacy

2

Adjusting for  
confounding  
variable of  
population  
density

3

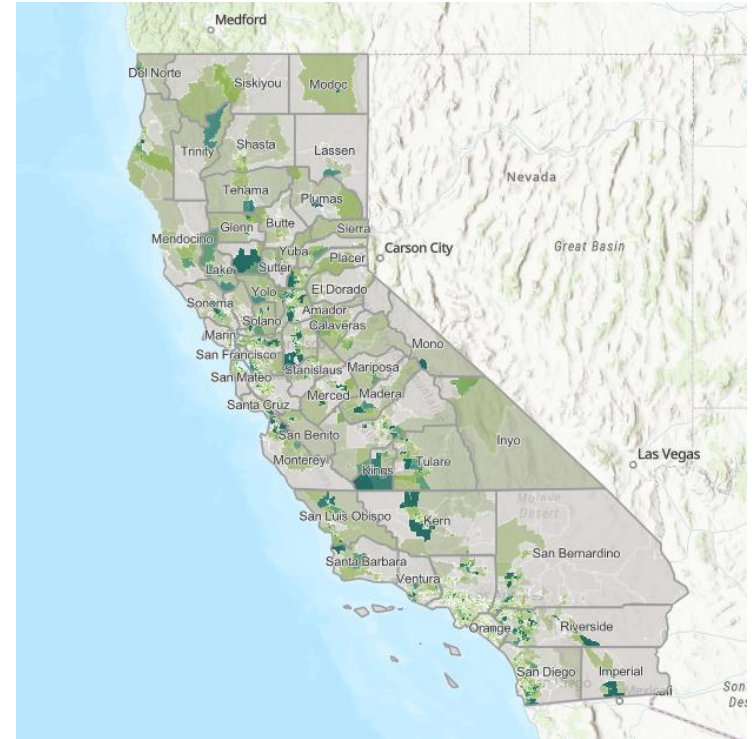
Determining  
other relevant  
factors to  
include in the  
map

# Data Sources

- CACFP Data on participating FFCH (called Day Care Homes within the program)
- CCLD Data on licensed day care homes in California
- USDA Data on food access and insecurity
- Census tract data for heat mapping by location

# Final Product

- Use of random jitter on latitude/longitude coordinates to obscure exact locations
- Use of census tract helps adjust for population factors



Still from the interactive map showing FCCH participation by census tract

# Explore the StoryMap

The story map can be found on our CACFP Website > Resources > Program Data and County Reports

We will drop the link in the chat too!



# **Poll Question #1**

Which of the following  
best represents the  
work of your  
organization?

# **Poll Question #2**

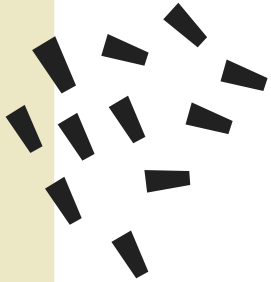
How satisfied were  
you with this  
webinar?

# **Poll Question #3**

Did you find the  
information  
shared during the  
webinar helpful?

# Poll Question #4

Will you join us for  
our next webinar?





# CACFP Mailboxes

Scan the QR Code for a list of  
CACFP Inboxes to contact  
with questions and technical  
assistance



# Save the Date!

**Join us for the next webinar:**

CACFP—Stay Connected

April 29, 2026

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.





# THANK YOU!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

