

The CHAT

February 2026



February is

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Did you know more than 23,000 children experience cardiac arrest outside of the hospital each year? Learn CPR today so you can be ready and become a part of the Nation of Lifesavers. Because no one, especially our most precious ones, should face a life-changing moment alone.

Click the link to learn more! <https://www.heart.org/en/american-heart-month>



American Heart Association.



SAVE THE DATE! National Wear Red Day is Friday, February 6, 2026. Get ready to GO RED in support of women's cardiovascular health by wearing red, sharing information and resources, and donating to support research and education.

Click the link to learn more!

<https://www.goredforwomen.org/en/get-involved/give/wear-red-and-give>



Office of Children and Family Services



Regulation Review Food Allergies

CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN IN THEIR FACILITIES, WHICH INCLUDES ALLERGY AWARENESS. ALLERGIES HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CREATE A LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION. ANAPHYLAXIS (A SEVERE, LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIC REACTION) MUST BE TREATED RIGHT AWAY. BY LEARNING ABOUT ALLERGIES AND PREVENTING ANAPHYLAXIS, CHILD CARE PROVIDERS CAN SAVE LIVES.

IN 2019 NEW YORK STATE ADOPTED NEW LEGISLATION CALLED ELIJAH'S LAW. ELIJAH'S LAW IMPACTS ALL CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND REQUIRES THEM TO FOLLOW STATE FOOD ALLERGY GUIDELINES TO PREVENT, RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO LIFE-THREATENING ANAPHYLACTIC REACTIONS.

Click this Link to Learn More! <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/elijahs-law.php>

DID YOU KNOW? 

1 in 13 children have food allergies.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

DID YOU KNOW? 

Most fatal food allergy reactions are triggered by food consumed outside of the home.

Source: Food Allergy Research and Education

DID YOU KNOW? 

Every three minutes, an allergic reaction to food sends someone to the emergency room.

Source: Food Allergy Research and Education

GFDC 416.12 (ai, aj)
FDC 417.12 (ai, aj)

(ai) Individual children's food allergies must be posted in a discreet location visible only to caregivers.

(aj) Caregivers must take steps to prevent a child's exposure to the foods to which the child is allergic.

SACC 414.12 (w, x)
DCC 418-1.12 (am, an)

(w, am) Individual children's food allergies must be posted in a discreet location visible only to staff.

(x, an) Staff must take steps to prevent a child's exposure to the foods to which the child is allergic.

INDIVIDUAL ALLERGY AND ANAPHYLAXIS EMERGENCY PLANS FOR CHILDREN KNOWN TO HAVE FOOD OR OTHER ALLERGIES THAT INCLUDE CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS OF ACTION TO TAKE WHEN AN ALLERGIC REACTION OCCURS

CACFP & Nutrition



GOT "HANGRY" KIDS? MY FOOD PROGRAM SHARES SOME TIPS TO HELP! TO READ THE ENTIRE BLOG, USE THIS LINK:

<https://www.myfoodprogram.com/the-link-between-nutrition-and-behavior-in-young-children/>

ON JANUARY 14, 2026, THE WHOLE MILK FOR HEALTHY KIDS ACT, SIGNED BY PRESIDENT TRUMP, WAS PASSED INTO LAW. THE BILL CHANGES REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (NSLP) TO NOW ALLOW CHILDREN TO BE SERVED WHOLE AND REDUCED-FAT MILK WHICH WAS NOT ALLOWED BEFORE.

ALTHOUGH THE WHOLE MILK FOR HEALTHY KIDS ACT CURRENTLY PERTAINS ONLY TO SCHOOLS, THE USDA ANNOUNCED A PRESS RELEASE AND PLANS TO PROPOSE A RULING THAT WILL "ENSURE SCHOOLS AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS CAN BEGIN OFFERING WHOLE MILK AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE."

THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO CHANGES IN THE CACFP.

TO READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CACFP ASSOCIATION (NCA), USE THIS LINK:

<https://www.cacfp.org/2026/01/14/whole-milk-for-healthy-kids-act-signed-into-law/>



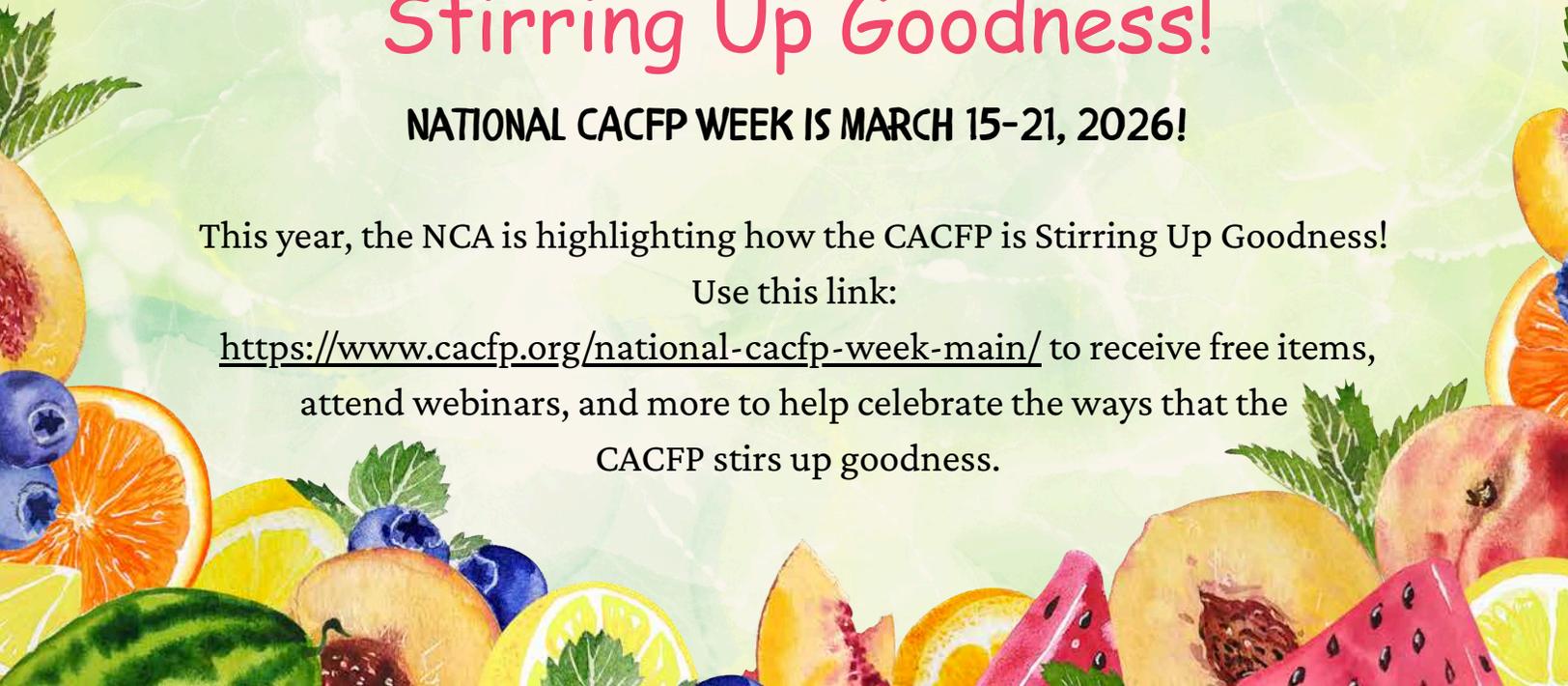
Stirring Up Goodness!

NATIONAL CACFP WEEK IS MARCH 15-21, 2026!

This year, the NCA is highlighting how the CACFP is Stirring Up Goodness!

Use this link:

<https://www.cacfp.org/national-cacfp-week-main/> to receive free items, attend webinars, and more to help celebrate the ways that the CACFP stirs up goodness.



Business & Community

ATTENTION!

In a joint effort with the Empire State Family Child Care Collaborative, we are offering support and guidance techniques that will help sustain the daily operations of in home family daycare programs. We can help you create a business plan which includes budgeting, time and space allocation, insurance needs, retirement plans, child care management systems and overall business sustainability.

For more information on how you can access these valuable programs, please contact our Business Specialists:

MEG RODGERS

716-661-9430 EXT. 2286

MRODGERS@CHAUTOPP.ORG

LORI STEWARD

716-661-9430 EXT. 2260

LSTEWARD@CHAUTOPP.ORG

Chautauqua
Opportunities, Inc.
Presents

COMMUNITY
conversations

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026
5:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

COMMUNITY

SERVICES

Featuring 2-1-1

2-1-1 is a FREE confidential service connecting individuals with community services to assist with their specific needs.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ENTERED IN A PRIZE DRAWING!

Do you need assistance with

- Individual or Family Counseling
- Substance Abuse Support Groups
- Health Services
- Food Pantries/Food Deliveries
- Emergency Housing
- Disaster Response/Recovery
- Child Care Services
- AND MUCH MORE!

Click this Zoom link to join

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88566086329?pwd=sgoRSBBhYUY3N4rW7sjYkt1vdBMHIZ.>

Meeting ID: 885 6608 6329

Passcode: 404760

Or scan the QR Code



Grants

The Quality Care Materials Grant for child care providers is to purchase materials that directly enhance the quality of care in their programs. This may include educational toys, sensory materials, classroom furnishing, or professional resources that support developmentally appropriate practices. The goal is to strengthen learning environments and promote high standards of care across early childhood settings.

*Quality Care
Materials Grant*

*Caring Beyond
Limits Grant*

We recognize that many providers face challenges in meeting the diverse developmental needs of children due to limited resources and specialized training. In response, we are launching a shared services model in Chautauqua County that equips early childhood providers with hands-on, developmentally appropriate strategies and materials tailored to your program and the individual needs of the children you serve.

**CLICK THIS LINK TO APPLY
FOR THESE GRANTS!**

GRANT APPLICATION

Child Care Advocacy



Early Childhood Program Standards

Parents, guardians, and educators are at the center of a child's life and dictate the trajectory of their early development. NAEYC provides resources, tips and ideas for families and educators to expand childhood education and development.

- Relationships
- Curriculum
- Teaching
- Assessment
- Health
- Teachers
- Families
- Community
- Physical Environment
- Leadership/Management



To learn more about each of the above standards click this link

https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/position-statements/position_statement_ec_standards.pdf

PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

CASINO

Night

Details Coming Soon!



Resources



The Chautauqua Child Care Council

works to foster collaborative relationships in order to build a strong responsive child care support system meeting the needs of all of Chautauqua County's families, child care providers, businesses and communities.

Share The Chat with your employees and your families!

The Chautauqua Child Care Council is a division of Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.

