Public Policy & Legislation Committee

# **NEWSLETTER**

"STAYING INFORMED, SHAPING THE FUTURE!"



September 2025

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## Capitol Advisors (CAG)

#### **Back-to-School Success**

• CSNA was well represented at the Secretary of State's Back-to-School event! Betty Crocker, PP&L Chair, and the Lodi team served up a tasty Korean-inspired beef cold bowl, while Janice Carter, President-Elect, and Sneh Nair, Vice President, engaged attendees at a busy, welcoming table. Big thanks to the Beef, Cattle & Dairy Councils for their support!

#### **AB 1264**

• The bill defining "ultra-processed foods" has been refined to focus more on ingredients instead of whole products. With feedback from CDE, CSNA leadership, members, and vendors, the language has improved for SFAs.

#### Legislative & Fiscal Outlook

- California is in a solid funding position compared to other states. Key dates:
  - **Sept. 12**: Last day for legislators to send bills to the Governor for the first year of the legislative session (barring any rule waivers).
  - o Oct. 12: Governor's deadline to act on bills.
- Revenues are slightly above projections (+0.5%), and school meals remain a top priority at the state level.

# **CDE Update**

#### KIT 2025 - 160 Million "What's Next"

• The competitive grant is expected in spring of 2026.

Because of the scoring process, approvals may take longer than in past rounds. Funding will remain focused on three areas: kitchen infrastructure/training/food, recruitment & retention, and a Marin County-UC Berkeley study for legislative reporting.

#### **Ultra-Processed Foods**

- CDE is working with the State Board of Education, CASBO, the State PTA, unions, and others to shape recommendations. Survey results have already been shared with CSNA leadership and members, with strong support from Capitol Advisors.
- A report is due to the Governor by Oct. 1, 2025.

#### Training on the Horizon

• Procurement training webinars are coming soon on the Cornerstone platform. In-person sessions are still under review pending funding.

#### **MAHA Commission**

SNA

- MAHA Strategy Report released on September 9, 2025, outlining over 120 initiatives aimed at reversing the childhood chronic disease epidemic through executive actions, research, education, and public-private collaboration.
- SNA <u>released a response</u> welcoming the report and calling for funding to implement the MAHA strategy.

#### **Ultra-Processed Foods (UPF)**

- SNA submitted an official comment letter on **September 8, 2025**, The submission was informed by:
  - o Over **2,000 stakeholder poll responses**
  - Listening sessions with state agencies, industry, and operators
- SNA emphasized the need for a scientifically sound and operationally feasible definition that supports under-resourced schools and protects access to culturally relevant, nutrient-dense foods. SNA launched a model comment campaign for members to customize and submit personal comments.

#### **Hill Visits & Funding Opportunities**

• SNA continues to **shop legislation** to secure **dedicated funding for locally sourced food**, a critical investment to support the goals of the MAHA Strategy. These efforts aim to expand scratch cooking, improve access to whole foods, and strengthen farm-to-school partnerships.

### CDSS-CACFP

#### **Annual Renewal Reminder**

• CACFP application packets were due by 8/31. Thanks to everyone who submitted on time! Questions? Email CACFPInfo@dss.ca.gov.

#### Training & Resources

- CACFP Meal Pattern Crediting Academy for updates and guidance: CACFPTraining@dss.ca.gov
- USDA updates on sugar limit requirements shared via listsery (8/13)

#### **Adult & Child Participant Resources**

- Serving Adult Participants in CACFP webinar recordings available in English and Spanish
- Training worksheets also available in both languages
- Sample Meals Posters for Adults and Children (6–12 & 13–18) visual guides for tasty, healthy meals, in <u>English</u> and <u>Spanish</u>



CSNA 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference
Pasadena: October 29-November 1, 2025
Legislative Action Conferences (LAC)
Sacramento: April 12-14, 2026

### <u>CalSNA PP&L Webpage</u>

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