

TX-UNPS Food Distribution Program (FDP) Implementation Overview

The Texas Unified Nutrition Programs System (TX-UNPS) has been implementing over the last year, in phases. The modules for the School Nutrition Programs (SNP) and Child and Adult Care Program (CACFP) have implemented and we are now in development for the final module for the Food Distribution Program (FDP).

This is an exciting step forward for nutrition program operation in Texas and TX-UNPS implementation has already brought numerous positive gains to our Contracting Entities (CEs) and to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Taking this step forward will require CEs to adapt to the new system and the changes it brings. A series of emails will be sent out to provide you with helpful information. Add foodandnutrition@TexasAgriculture.gov to your contacts so these emails don't get caught in your spam filter. The TX-UNPS Project Website is another great resource for project updates and information. Bookmark <http://TXUNPS.TexasAgriculture.gov> or add it to your favorites. Reading the emails and visiting the website will be valuable assets in your TX-UNPS transition.

External Stakeholder Groups

TDA has been conducting conference calls with external stakeholder groups selected to represent the various CEs affected by the FDP module implementation. Although, we welcome everyone's input it, isn't practical to include everyone in our external stakeholder conference calls. An email will be sent out with a survey designed to give everyone a voice and a chance to provide input.

Remember to Have Realistic Expectations

- As we move through this process, information about the system is gathered bit by bit. However, until the system completes testing all information is subject to change, including the timeline. Rest assured that the FDP module is on schedule and TDA has evaluated the most critical functions the system must perform and prioritized accordingly in order to mitigate any risk to you. The TX-UNPS project team will strive to provide you with as much information as possible, as early as possible. Remember to stay flexible and understand that each part of the process impacts the next step in the process.

- In an implementation of this size and scope it is normal to find bugs that need to be fixed and normal for some pieces to require ongoing adjustment after implementation. These are natural parts of the process.
- Because, the FDP module is still being developed, we will all have to work with 'unknowns' until the system is complete and has been tested. Even after implementation we will continue to learn new things about the system and how best to work with it.
- It is important to remember that TX-UNPS is a tool and you will need to develop your own business processes to use that tool. We will strive to include as much information as possible in the training videos and assist you in any way we can. Ultimately, you should be proactive in thinking about how you, as an individual, will need to adapt to this tool.

Training

Online videos, user manuals and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will be available to CEs as training resources. FAQs will be posted on the TXUNPS Project Website and updated as information is collected. The training videos and user manuals will be available closer to implementation.