

TX-UNPS

Implementation Overview



USDA Foods

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 modules 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 requires CEs to adapt to the new system and the changes it brings. A series of emails will be sent to provide you with helpful information. Add foodandnutrition@TexasAgriculture.gov to your email contacts to ensure you receive this information. The TX-UNPS Project Website, <http://TXUNPS.TexasAgriculture.gov> is another great resource for project updates and information. Visit the TX-UNPS Project Website and bookmark or add it to your favorites. Reading the emails and visiting the website will be valuable assets in your TX-UNPS transition.

Timeline

The following timeline is designed to give you an overall picture of the development, testing and implementation process. 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.

Development - Mid-November to late December. Contracts, Surveys and Entitlement pieces are scheduled to complete the development phase first.

System Integration Testing (SIT) - Early December to late January. TDA verifies dropdown menus, text boxes and buttons and tests the FDP modules with other systems that TX-UNPS will have to 'talk' to in order to complete certain tasks. This testing can result in further development which in turn can lead to another round of testing.

User Acceptance Testing (UAT) - Mid-December and into late February. TDA staff will test the system and look for bugs or functionality issues. This part of testing happens right before implementation. This testing can also lead to further development and more testing.

Training for Contracting Entities (CEs) - Mid-January

Request Module Implements - Early February

Processing Module Implements - Early February

Survey (brown box/Processing) Module Implements - Early February

Brown Box/Process requests due in TX-UNPS - Mid-March

Realistic Expectations

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 expected parts of the process.

The FDP modules are 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 also important to remember that TX-UNPS is a tool and you may 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.

CEs have a voice!

TDA has been working with external stakeholder groups that are representative of the different groups affected by TX-UNPS FDP modules implementation. Although it would be great to include all of our CEs in the external stakeholder groups, it just isn't practical. However, you can go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SQKN93S> and take the survey designed to give you a voice and a chance to ask questions. Some of the questions collected will be posted as FAQs on the TX-UNPS Project Website.
