



## ***2004 Award Winner***

*Enhancing Program Efficiency through Technology*

*Georgia Office of School Readiness Atlanta, Georgia*

Using current web based technologies, the 2004 award winner for “Enhancing Program Efficiency through Technology” created an online customer registration module for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) training.

Prior to implementing its *CNP 2000* module, the agency registered institutions and verified the fulfillment of training requirements manually.

Today, institutions can easily locate the *CNP 2000* online and register for any of the agency’s CACFP trainings and agency staff can register an institution for training while conducting a review or providing technical assistance.

The module ensures that institutions fulfill mandatory training requirements prior to completing an online renewal application, tracks training attendance by particular representatives of an institution, and enables the agency to ensure that program knowledge is sustained by an institution. These aspects have significantly improved the agency’s ability to effectively determine program compliance.

The 2004 award for “Enhancing Program Efficiency through Technology” is presented to Georgia Office of School Readiness.



## ***2004 Award Winner***

*Enhancing Program Efficiency through Technology*

*Head Start of Lane County Lane County, Oregon*

Using current web based technologies, the 2004 award winner for “Enhancing Program Efficiency through Technology” created an online database to ensure that it collects and maintains CACFP information and facilitates the efficient delivery of services to children and families.

WebCAF, or Web-based Child and Family Database, offers features that you would expect: simple data entry, user-friendly reports and forms and security. However, WebCAF provides several advantages over conventional databases:

- it enables users to connect via any Internet-ready computer;
- it was designed to meet the needs of program management and direct service staff and can therefore be used and understood by everyone in the organization; and
- it replaces paper files. Although certain information will always be maintained in paper form, WebCAF reduces the reliance on paper files for most daily work and monitoring.

The organization enhances this resource by providing menus, nutritional information, recipes, and procurement guidance online.

The 2004 award for “Enhancing Program Efficiency through Technology” is presented to Head Start of Lane County.



## ***2004 Award Winner***

***Innovative Training and Technical Assistance***

***Illinois Board of Education Springfield, Illinois***

Preparing institutions for pre-operational visits and assisting current institutions with meeting program requirements was the goal of our 2004 award winner for “Innovative Training and Technical Assistance.”

Each month, the agency offers free training to prospective and existing institutions at locations throughout the state.

Institutions are encouraged to include any staff member who actively manages their Program. Additionally, institutions that fail to comply with program requirements, as evidenced by an administrative review finding, or who have been designated seriously deficient in their management of the Program are required to attend.

Implementing a flexible training schedule with an online registration process has enabled attendees to participate in trainings at their convenience. The sessions emphasize that institutions must be viable, capable, and accountable. In particular, participants study: Household Income Eligibility, application approval, menu planning and meal patterns, the seriously deficient process, and record keeping.

The 2004 award for “Innovative Training and Technical Assistance” is presented to the Illinois Board of Education.



## ***2004 Award Winner***

### ***Program Integrity***

*Texas Department of Human Services*

*Austin, Texas*

In considering its implementation of new program integrity rules, the 2004 award winner for “Program Integrity” was concerned about the difficulties that institutions could encounter when applying new monitoring standards.

As a result, the agency solicited institutions’ participation in developing its implementation strategy. Planning began with a survey of institutions to evaluate the effects of potential factors, including literacy levels, language barriers, and the geographic dispersion of facilities.

Based on survey results, a formula was developed to calculate the minimum number of monitors that would be required for an institution to fulfill program requirements. The agency then trained institutions on the new monitoring requirements and method for compliance.

The 2004 award for “Program Integrity” is presented to the Texas Department of Human Services.



## *2004 Award Winner*

### *Program Integrity*

*Council of Churches of the Ozarks Springfield, Missouri*

By coordinating efforts to train providers, increase parental involvement and conduct follow-up reviews, the 2004 award winner for “Program Integrity” significantly decreased inappropriate claiming.

At annual training sessions throughout the State, providers participate in conventional classroom activities as well as games designed to engage participants while they learn. In one session, providers match song titles to corresponding child care concepts, including serious deficiencies, recordkeeping, meal pattern guidelines, monitoring, program compliance, and appeals.

In implementing the serious deficiency process, the organization identified concerns related to enrollment forms, attendance, and meal claiming. They contacted parents to verify enrollment form data and conducted additional follow-up reviews of providers when program noncompliance was indicated. As a result, the organization improved its reporting process.

The 2004 award for “Program Integrity” is presented to the Council of Churches of the Ozarks.



## ***2004 Award Winner***

***Outreach and Community Partnerships***

***Foodlink Inc. Rochester, New York***

By collaborating with a variety of groups that offer established afterschool programs, our 2004 award winner for “Outreach and Community Partnerships” creates its *Kids Cafés*.

Through these cafés, the organization provides nutritious meals and offers educational and enrichment activities in safe, supervised environments. During the past year, the Program has grown by 400%.

Additionally, the organization develops programs that promote childhood health. In 2002, the organization began collaborating with the University of Rochester to develop a *Project Believe* program through the Healthy People 2010 Initiative. Over 1000 children participate in the program, which teaches children about health and nutrition, measures their actual physical health and encourages positive behavioral change.

This partnership has also connected pre-med students to children in the community to their mutual benefit. Future physicians gain practical experience serving low-income populations and children interact with positive role models, learn to trust those in the medical profession, and obtain and maintain good health.

The 2004 award for “Outreach and Community Partnerships” is presented to Foodlink, Inc.



## ***2004 Award Winner***

***Nutrition Education and Promotion***

*Iowa Department of Education*

*Des Moines, Iowa*

In developing a nutrition education kit for the early childhood audience, our 2004 award winner for “Nutrition Education and Promotion” solicited the participation of a variety of partners.

After receiving positive response, the agency partnered with other State agencies, universities, community organizations, CACFP sponsors and Head Start affiliates to research available materials, develop new resources, and design training.

This approach maximized the use of available funds while minimizing the duplication of effort.

The final kit includes previously available materials such as USDA’s *Menu Magic for Children*, and newly created resources such as the popular *Physical Activities and Healthy Snacks for Young Children*.

Training to demonstrate the use of the kit resources was accomplished through a “train the trainer” approach. Initially, the kit was provided to seventy-five trainers who were each expected to train a minimum of twenty-five CACFP participants. As training continues today, more than 2000 program participants have been trained.

The 2004 award for “Nutrition Education and Promotion” is presented to the Iowa Department of Education.”



## ***2004 Award Winner***

*Nutrition Education and Promotion*

*Tri-County Headstart of Michigan Paw Paw, Michigan*

The “Earthfriends” curriculum of our 2004 award winner for “Nutrition Education and Promotion” encourages children to make sound food choices not only for their own health, but also for the health of local farms and the planet.

Children and their families participate in an on-site gardening program, which includes lessons in recycling and composting. Produce is used in classroom cooking activities, which teach children and parents to prepare and enjoy fruits and vegetables, important steps in encouraging five servings a day.

Activities emphasize cooking as a valuable use of one’s time. Children enjoy cooking because it engages each of the senses; it also helps them develop language, reading and math skills.

Through its *Children of the World* program, food is also used as a focal point for discussing diversity. Each week, children eat a lunch featuring foods of a different culture and participate in activities related to that culture. Collectively, these activities teach children to identify similarities between cultures and appreciate differences. This approach to early childhood development enables the organization to meet the nutritional needs of its children while teaching the importance of diversity.

The 2004 award for “Nutrition Education and Promotion” is presented to the Tri-County Head Start of Paw Paw, Michigan.”