

Strengthening Child Nutrition Programs

Through Public Investment in Workforce, Infrastructure, and Operational Excellence

Established by Congress **in 1989** through the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act, the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) is the only federally funded national center dedicated to applied research, education and training, and technical assistance for child nutrition programs.

ICN partners with USDA to translate policy into action by offering research-based education and trainings nationwide, providing school nutrition professionals with certificates that align with USDA's Professional Standards requirements.

By enhancing professional credibility and career growth, ICN's certificates strengthen local child nutrition programs, building a qualified workforce that delivers healthier outcomes for America's children.

Three Key Impact Areas:

- Empowering America's Child Nutrition Workforce
- Advancing Nutrition Excellence for Children
- Optimizing Program Efficiency and Accountability

USDA funding enables the Institute to deliver technical assistance, research, and workforce development resources—free of charge—to child nutrition professionals across all 50 states and 6 U.S. territories.

iLearn is ICN's centralized learning hub, providing accessible, high-quality training nationwide. It equips child nutrition professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed, anytime, anywhere.

270

Opportunities for self-paced online learning courses and live webinar trainings.

338,141

Certificates issued in 2025, supporting annual training requirements.

499,785

Registered child nutrition professionals nationwide advancing their professional development and career growth.

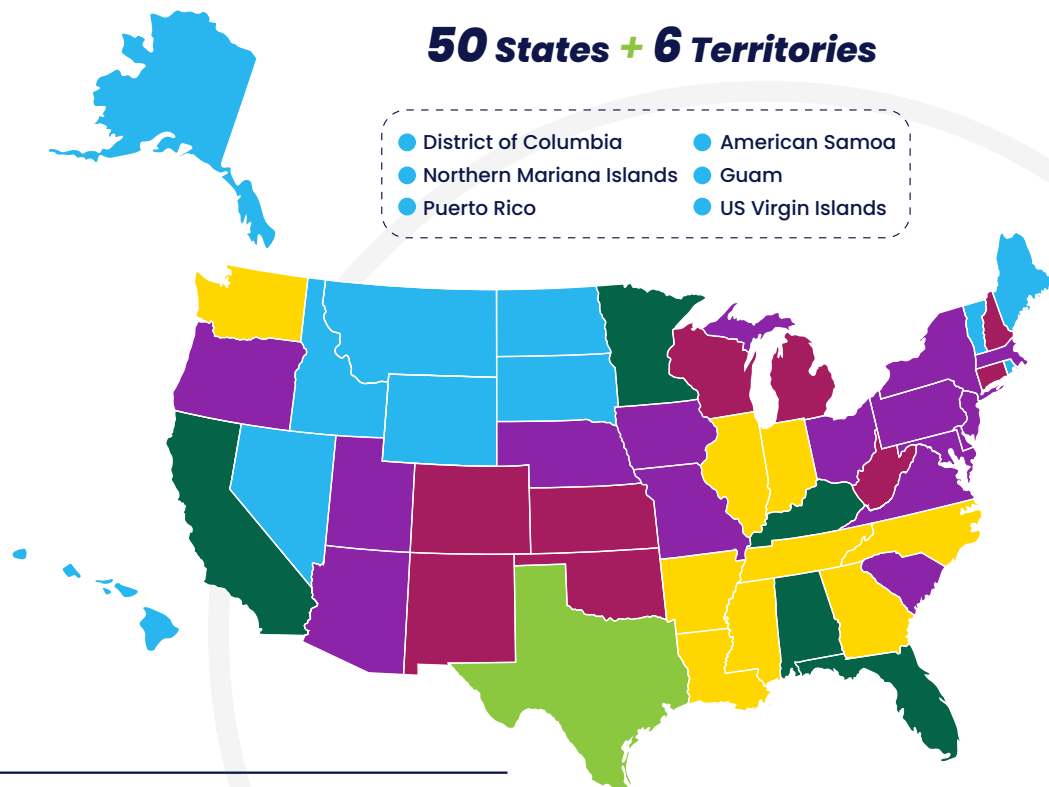
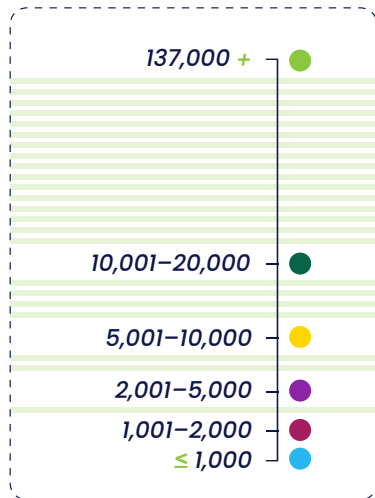
7,402 learners earned certificates through face-to-face training in 2025.

Key ICN Training Topics.

- Administration
- Culinary and Menu Planning
- Nutrition and Operations
- Communications and Marketing
- Financial Management and Procurement
- Food Safety
- Human Resources and Leadership
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

2025 Professional Development Certificates by State and Territory

50 states + 6 Territories



Participating in ICN's Leadership Training affirmed my commitment and strengthened my confidence that I am the right leader for School Food and Nutrition Services.

THE TRAINING GAVE ME THE CONFIDENCE I NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT MY IDEAS and pursue the SMART goals developed in each session. I'm grateful to our trainer and the ICN team for their expertise and unwavering support throughout the experience. I look forward to participating in more ICN training opportunities in the future.

Executive Assistant Child Nutrition Director, Louisiana



Our staff regularly uses ICN resources and training, which have played a key role in their professional growth and success.

SEVENTEEN MANAGERS FROM MY COUNTY HAVE EARNED CERTIFICATIONS THROUGH ICN PROGRAMS, and I've helped guide 60 colleagues to take advantage of these valuable opportunities. As a result, **OUR ENTIRE TEAM NOW QUALIFIES FOR THE ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BONUS**. TheICN.org is an outstanding resource, and we deeply appreciate the dedication and support of the Institute.

Child Nutrition Director, Maryland



The ICN Child Nutrition Archives preserves the historical and professional legacy of child nutrition programs. Through a comprehensive archive of **150+** manuscript and artifact collections, **41** curated photo collections with over **3,207** images, and **251** oral histories, the archives continues to serve as a vital national reference and educational tool.

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Institute of Child Nutrition

* Cumulative Numbers

The statistics in this document highlight the Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) impact throughout the **2025 calendar year**.