



Empowering People, Enriching Communities

Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation

Jennifer Olson, Executive Director

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Join the Cheesiest Competition in the Ozarks!

Hello! You are cordially invited to be part of the ultimate celebration of comfort food, community, and cheesy creativity — OACAC's 6th Annual MO Mac & Cheese Fest! Back by popular demand, this flavorful event brings mac & cheese lovers from all over the region to sample delicious creations, support a great cause, and vote for their favorites. Thanks to generous supporters, 2025 featured more than 20 unforgettable mac & cheese dishes, a variety of food samples, live music, and fun for all ages. We're excited to continue growing in 2026!

When & Where?

Saturday, January 17, 2026

11:00 AM – 2:30 PM (VIP entry begins at 11:00, doors open to the public at 11:30)

University Plaza Convention Center, 333 S. John Q. Hammons Parkway in downtown Springfield, MO

OACAC's MO Mac & Cheese Fest is Southwest Missouri's premier mac & cheese showdown! Guests of all ages will sample varieties from local restaurants, groups, and creative chefs—then vote for their favorites. Think mac & cheese...

- ✓ Comforting and delicious
- ✓ As a pizza topping, in sandwiches, on a waffle
- ✓ With a twist and totally over the top

What are you competing for?

You bring the mac, and we bring the hype — plus some coveted awards:

- People's Choice Award – voted by event guests
- Kid's Choice Award – chosen by our pint-sized panel of young mac fans
- Judges' Choice Awards – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in two tasty categories:
 - Classic Mac: Traditional, rich, and cheesy
 - Out of the Box: Inventive, bold, and next-level

Proceeds benefit Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC), helping people live an optimal, empowered life, free from poverty in Southwest Missouri. By participating, you're directly supporting programs like Head Start, LIHEAP, Weatherization, Housing Assistance, and more.

Benefits of Participating

- Recognition on OACAC's website, social media, in the annual report, and during the event
- Bragging rights (and maybe a trophy!) for being crowned Mac & Cheese royalty
- The joy of helping your neighbors — while having a blast doing it

Continue reading...

Partners include



CSBG Neighborhood/Community Centers | Family Planning | Foster Grandparent Program | Head Start
Housing Assistance | Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) | Weatherization Assistance

Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, and Webster counties in SW MO

What You'll Provide

- Mac & cheese to serve 1,000 people
- Serving staff (or request volunteers by 12/10)
- Your best cheesy spirit — bring decorations, promo materials, or giveaways!

What We'll Provide

- 2oz sample cups, spoons, napkins
- Two tables with linens
- A beautiful venue
- Guests who are ready for a great event
- Marketing materials

For Non Mac & Cheese Vendors

Bring your samples, bring your fun! We're looking for vendors who compliment the event, such as samplers of cheese, crackers, sausage, and something sweet. We're also looking for fun for all ages.

Next Steps

We hope you'll be part of this unforgettable event which is sure to be a "gouda" time!

1. Complete and submit your MO Mac & Cheese Fest entry form by October 17, 2025 (see attachment)
2. Gather your team and start planning
3. Help spread the word by sharing the FB event, posting flyers, and inviting your fans

Note: All participants must follow Springfield-Greene County Health Department regulations. Can I answer any questions? Don't hesitate to reach out by phone or email. Thank you.

Warmly,

Lindsey Dumas-Bell

Communications & Development Director

☎ (417) 873-3375

✉ ldumas-bell@oac.ac

🌐 www.oac.ac

OACAC's 6th Annual MO Mac & Cheese Fest Vendor Registration

Please complete & submit by 10/17/25 to Lindsey at ldumas-bell@oac.ac. Questions? Call (417) 873-3375.

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Please check one:

- ☐ I'm entering as a restaurant
- ☐ I'm entering as a group
- ☐ I'm entering as a non-mac & cheese vendor

Your name _____

Name of restaurant/group/business _____

Full Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Tell us what you're bringing!

(You can enter more than one kind of mac & cheese and/or more than one category.)

- ☐ Classic mac - Name(s) _____
- ☐ Out of the Box – Name(s) _____
- ☐ Other _____

Please check all that apply:

- ☐ I am happy to display event materials at my place of business/with my group
- ☐ I will use chafing dishes and Sternos during the event
- ☐ I will need electricity (limited availability)

Guidelines

All participants must be set-up and ready by 10:30am, prior to the start of the event at 11:00am. Participants serving food must serve from a back table to a front table and maintain proper food temperature using a Sterno (preferred) or electric heating. Per City of Springfield, each vendor must have a current Springfield business license and follow Springfield-Greene County Health Department guidelines. If your business is outside of city limits, a license may be purchased for a nominal fee. <https://www.springfieldmo.gov/2171/Business-License-Applications>

Release and Indemnity Agreement: In consideration of the granting of the right to participate, entrants, participants and spectators, by execution of this form, release Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation, and their officers, directors, and any representative or workers, or property owners, or occupiers, or sponsors connected with the presentation of the MO Mac & Cheese Fest of and from any claims, injuries, losses, damages or judgments' that may be suffered by the entrant, participant, or spectator to his person or property and agree to indemnify the aforesaid parties and loss, liability, expenses, or payment resulting from such injury to person or property.