

Family Child Care Homes in the CACFP

Purpose

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally-funded, State-administered program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks served to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating child care centers, family child care homes, and adult day care centers. In Vermont, CACFP is administered by the Vermont Agency of Education Child Nutrition Programs. The CACFP provides cash reimbursements to eligible family child care homes that serve nutritious meals and snacks to children in their care.

Why Operate CACFP at Family Child Care Homes?

- Provides funding to supplement the cost of healthy meals and snacks.
- Teaches children at an early age healthy eating habits that have long-term benefits.
- Gives parents and caregivers confidence in knowing that you are invested in the health and well-being of their children.
- Offers guidance in menu planning and recipe ideas.
- Offers technical assistance to ensure your Program succeeds.
- Distributes ready-to-use information for families to encourage healthy eating in and out of the childcare setting.

Eligibility Requirements

- Family child care home providers can only participate under an agreement with an eligible Day Care Home (DCH) Sponsoring organization.
- Must be registered with or licensed by the Vermont Department of Children and Families (DCF).
- Child care is offered within the provider's residential home.

Meal Pattern Requirements

- Meals and snacks served to infants, ages birth through 11 months, must meet the requirements set forth in the CACFP Infant Meal Pattern, including specific meal components and portion sizes.
- Meals and snacks served to children, ages 1 through 12, must meet the requirements set forth in the CACFP Child Meal Pattern, including specific meal components and portion sizes.

Reimbursement System

Family Child Care Home providers are reimbursed based on provider income, area eligibility, Census data, or participant eligibility. This will determine whether the family child care home

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will qualify as a Tier I, Tier II Mix or Tier II provider and will receive the respective reimbursement rates.

Family Child Care Home providers can be reimbursed for up to two meals and one snack or two snacks and one meal per participant per day. Reimbursement is determined by the type of meals served (breakfast, lunch/supper, or snack) and the number of participants eligible for free, reduced price, or paid meals determined by their household income.

Tier I Providers

Providers can qualify for Tier I by provider income, being located in an attendance area (area eligibility) of school where at least 50 percent or more of the children are eligible for free or reduced price meals, or Census data. Tier I providers are reimbursed for all meals and snacks at the Tier I rate, which is the highest rate of reimbursement.

If Tier I providers have their own children in care, they must submit income documentation supporting they qualify for free or reduced-price meals in order to receive reimbursement. Income documentation, such as tax returns, pay stubs, etc. will be required to support the information submitted on the income eligibility form. Providers may also only claim meals served to their children if other children are present and participating in meal service.

Tier II Providers

Providers who do not qualify by provider income, Census data, do not reside in an area eligible location, and do not want to collect income eligibility forms from participants can elect to receive Tier II rates for all children in care. All meals and snacks will be reimbursed at the Tier II rate, which is the lowest reimbursement rate. However, the State provides an additional reimbursement for Tier II providers to increase the rate closer to Tier I rates in order to support Day Care Home (DCH) Sponsors.

Tier II providers who have their own children in care cannot receive reimbursement for the meals served to these children.

Tier II Mix Providers

Providers who do not qualify by provider income, Census data, and do not reside in an area eligible location can elect to collect income eligibility forms from households of enrolled children to collect reimbursement based on participant eligibility. Meals and snacks would be reimbursed at both Tier I and Tier II rates based on individual participant eligibilities. Childcare subsidy invoices can also qualify each household for Tier I rates.

Tier II Mix providers who have their own children in care cannot receive reimbursement for the meals served to these children.

Recordkeeping Requirements

- Daily Attendance Documentation
 - Enrollment Forms
 - Income Eligibility Forms or Childcare Subsidy Invoices (if applicable)
 - Dated Menus
 - Point of Service Meal Counts
 - Training Documentation
 - Copies of Monitoring Review Forms
- All documents must be maintained for 3 years, plus the current year (4 years)

Breakfast Example:

- Fluid milk: Fat-free milk
- Grain: Whole-wheat bread
- Vegetable or fruit: Watermelon chunks



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.