

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services	Policy
	MT CACFP 2002-4 Rev 2
	Section: All Institutions
Child and Adult Care Food Program	Subject: Food Allergies and Intolerances
	Date Revised: 5/1/2011

## FOOD ALLERGIES AND INTOLERANCES

The safety of participants is the first and highest priority of the CACFP and of meal services in all institutions and facilities.

1. Participants in the CACFP who have food allergies or intolerances or dietary modifications due to disabilities must have documentation in which certain named foods will or may cause harm to the participant and/or if it requires change in the CACFP meal pattern.
2. The food allergy or intolerance or food modification due to a disability must be documented. Institutions must use the CACFP form titled *Medical Statement to Request Special Meals or Accommodations* (located on the State agency CACFP website, [www.bestbeginnings.mt.gov](http://www.bestbeginnings.mt.gov)) or documentation from a physician or recognized medical authority. The documentation must include the foods to be omitted along with a list of acceptable food substitutions. The list of acceptable food substitutions must be provided by a recognized medical authority. Current documentation must be on file for all participants with food allergies and intolerances and for all dietary modifications/restrictions of a medical nature and must be kept confidential, complying with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). If the parent or guardian rejects the requirement for confidentiality and requests that information about the dietary restriction for the participant be communicated to others in the child care facility, then the child care facility must follow the parent or guardian's written and signed instructions for this communication.
3. Whenever reasonably possible, the child care facility must obtain and serve the substitute food to the participant. When the substitute food is very high in cost and would impose undue hardship, or when the substitute food is a medical food prescribed by a physician and is available only through a pharmacy, then the facility may ask the parent or guardian to supply it.