



Dear Provider:

To qualify for Tier I reimbursement, or if you wish to receive reimbursement for meals served to your own children under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), you must complete, sign and return to us the enclosed Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Form.

**1. How do I qualify for the Tier I reimbursement for meals served to children enrolled in my home?** You must either (a) live in an area that is eligible based on economic need as determined by school enrollment or census data, or (b) establish economic need through the information provided on the enclosed Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Form.

**2. Who determines my eligibility as a Tier I day care home?** Our office will determine your eligibility status. We will use the information you provide on the Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Form. Make sure you complete and sign the form; report all household income (not just your family day care home business income); and provide appropriate records of your income. Return the completed form and other papers to your Sponsoring Organization.

**3. What kind of records should I submit with my Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Form?** If you operated a family day care home business last year, attach a copy of your most recent tax return, including Schedule C. If your recent tax return and Schedule C is no longer indicative of your income, then you may submit documentation of your current income and expenses. To do so, include payment statements for work and other forms of income. The papers you send must show the name of the person who received the income, the date it was received, how much was received, and how often it was received.

**4. How do I get reimbursed for meals served to my own children?** You are required by law to complete this Meal Income Eligibility form if you wish to claim meals served to your own children. Even if you live in an area identified as one of economic need, or you have already been classified as a tier I home, you must complete this form. Our office may verify the income information you submit.

**5. If I do not live in an area of economic need or don't want to submit the Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Form, what are my options for reimbursement?** You will receive lower rates of reimbursement for meals served to children enrolled in your family day care home.

**6. Will the information I give be verified? Maybe. What if I disagree with the decision about the information I complete on this form?** You should talk to your Sponsoring Organization.

**7. Who should I include as members of my household?** You must include everyone in your household (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends who live with you) who shares income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children who live with you.

**8. How do I report income information and changes in employment status?** The income you report must be the total gross income listed by source for each household member received last month. If last month's income does not accurately reflect your circumstances, you may provide a projection of your monthly income. If no significant change has occurred, you may use last month's income as a basis to make this projection. If your household's income is equal to or less than the amounts indicated for your household's size on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines Chart, you will receive a higher level of reimbursement. Once properly approved for free or reduced price benefits, whether through income or proof of benefits as supported by a current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamp), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) case number, you will remain eligible for those benefits for a period not to exceed 12 months. You should, however, notify us if you or someone in your household becomes unemployed and the loss of income during the period of unemployment causes your household income to be within the eligibility standards.

**9. May I fill out a form if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens.

**10. What if I have foster children?** Foster children are eligible for free meals regardless of their personal income or the income of the household with whom they reside. Households wishing to apply for such benefits for foster children

should contact your Sponsoring Organization. Additionally foster children may be included as members of the household for determining the eligibility of other children in the household for free and reduced priced meals.

**11. We are in the military. Do we include our housing allowance as income?** If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative and you receive the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance, do not include these allowances as income. Also, in regard to deployed service members, only that portion of a deployed service member's income made available by them or on their behalf to the household will be counted as income to the household. Combat Pay, including Deployment Extension Incentive Pay (DEIP) is also excluded and will not be counted as income to the household. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.

In the operation of the CACFP, no person will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

If you have other questions or need help, call your Sponsoring Organization.

Sincerely,