

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM FAMILY CHILD CARE

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a US Department of Agriculture (USDA) program designed to improve the nutritional status of children in child care centers and family child care homes throughout the country. The State Department of Education administers the program in Maryland. All registered family child care providers in Maryland are eligible to participate.

The CACFP provides cash reimbursement for nutritious meals and snacks served to children under the age of 13 in registered family child care homes. The provider's own children may also qualify depending on the family's income. Once on the program, providers receive a monthly reimbursement check for the meals and snacks served which meet the USDA requirements. Providers may claim up to two meals and one snack per child per day.

In order to be eligible for reimbursement, the meals and snacks served must meet standards set by the USDA. All participating providers receive training in nutrition and child care and assistance in starting and operating a food service program. Participating providers are required to keep certain records, including monthly menus of the meals and snacks served, and monthly attendance sheets which log the dates, meals served and hours when the children were present in the home.

Family child care homes are grouped into two tiers for the purposes of meal reimbursement. The following is a brief description of the tiering and reimbursement structure:

Tier I –

- A. To qualify for Tier I, a family child care home must be located in:
 - 1. An area served by a school enrolling elementary students in which at least 50% of the total number of children enrolled are certified eligible to receive free or reduced price school meals; or,
 - 2. A geographic area in which at least 50% of the children residing in the area, as determined from census data, are members of households whose incomes meet the income eligibility guidelines for free or reduced price meals;

-OR-

- B. To qualify for Tier I, a family child care home must be operated by a provider whose household meets the income eligibility guidelines for free or reduced price meals.

Tier II –

- A. All family care homes not meeting the criteria for Tier I are eligible for Tier II.
- B. A Tier II home enrolling a child from a family whose income meets the income eligibility guidelines for free or reduced price meals may be reimbursed for that child's meals at Tier I rates. The meals of all other children enrolled in the home would be reimbursed at the Tier II rates.

Reimbursement rates for family child care providers effective July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004 are:

	<u>Tier I</u>	<u>Tier II</u>
Breakfast	\$0.98	\$0.37
Lunch	\$1.80	\$1.09
Snack	\$0.53	\$0.14

Family child care providers can only participate in the program under a sponsoring organization. In order to find out the sponsoring organization in your county, or for further information, please contact:

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