

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is intended for parents or guardians of children enrolled in a child care center. _____ offers healthy meals to all enrolled children as part of our participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The CACFP provides reimbursements for healthy meals and snacks served to children enrolled in child care. Please help us comply with the requirements of the CACFP by completing the attached Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Form. In addition, by filling out this form, we will be able to determine if your child(ren) qualifies for free or reduced price meals.

1. **Do I need to fill out a Meal Benefit Form for each of my children in day care?** You may complete and submit one CACFP Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Form for all children enrolled in child care in your household only if the children in child care are enrolled in the same center. We cannot approve a form that is not complete, so be sure to read the instructions carefully and fill out all required information.
2. **Who can get free meals without providing income information?** Children in households getting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps) or Kentucky Transition Assistance Program (K-TAP) benefits can get free meals. Foster children, children in kinship care and children enrolled in Head Start are also eligible for free meals. Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free meals.
3. **Who can get reduced price meals?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown on this application. Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for reduced price meals.
4. **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 to qualify for meal benefits offered at the child care center.
5. **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. You also may include foster children who live with you.
6. **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 attached Income Chart, the center will receive a higher level of reimbursement. Once properly approved for free or reduced price benefits, whether through income or by providing a current SNAP, K-TAP case number, you will remain eligible for those benefits for 12 months. You should notify us, however, if you or someone in your household becomes unemployed and the loss of income causes your household income to be within the eligibility standards.
7. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you only get it sometimes.
8. **What if I have foster children?** Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court and are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income. Households may include foster children on the Meal Benefit Form, but are not required to include payments received for the foster child as income.
9. **How do I know if I have children participating in kinship care?** A Kinship caregiver is defined by 922 KAR 1:130 as the qualified caretaker relative of a child with whom the child is placed by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services as an alternative to foster care.
10. **We are in the military, do we include our housing and supplemental allowances 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 child feeding programs, no person will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

The participant in the day care facility may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls within the limits on this chart.

Income Guidelines for Reduced Price Meals Effective July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016		
Household Size	Reduced Price Meals	
	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Yearly</i>
1	\$1,815	\$21,775
2	\$2,456	\$29,471
3	\$3,098	\$37,167
4	\$3,739	\$44,863
5	\$4,380	\$52,559
6	\$5,022	\$60,255
7	\$5,663	\$67,951
8	\$6,304	\$75,647
For each additional family member add:	\$642	\$7,696

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve the participant for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the Social Security Number of the adult household member who signs the application. The Social Security Number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number for the participant or other (FDPIR) identifier or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a Social Security Number. We will use your information to determine if the participant is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the Program.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Institution Representative

Phone Number

If you have questions about the CACFP and its administration, you may contact Deanna Tackett, Division Director at 502-564-5625 or at the following address: School and Community Nutrition, Kentucky Department of Education, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40601