

Child Care & Nutrition, Inc.

Mini-Teddy Newsletter

CCNI • PO Box 138 • 324 N Norman Street • Ivanhoe, MN 56142

800-634-3359 • www.childcarenutrition.com

September 2017 Edition

2017-18 Daycare Provider Reimbursement Rates Announced

The USDA recently published the meal reimbursement rates. They are printed below and will be in effect from July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018.

	Tier I	Tier II
Breakfast	\$1.32	\$0.48
Lunch/Supper	\$2.46	\$1.48
Snacks	\$0.73	\$0.20

As provided for under the law, all rates in the CACFP must be revised annually effective July 1 to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, for the most recent 12-month period.

Do the CACFP reimbursements cover the cost of serving meals to children? We did some comparisons and this is what we found:

Total reimbursement per child (with new rates) for one day ranges from **\$2.16-\$5.65**. This range is based on the meals and snacks claimed and your tier determination.

Infant meals, using Parent's Choice Iron Fortified Infant Formula (milk based) cost \$0.50 per 6 ounce serving. An infant receiving formula-only meals & snacks cost approximately \$1.50 per day. When solid foods are added to meals such as iron fortified infant cereal and a fruit or vegetable, cost ranged from \$2.12-\$2.16 per day.

For children ages 1 through 5, we calculated the cost for two different days of menus consisting of all required components and the cost per day ranged from \$1.68-\$2.13. Visit our website to view the cost comparison spreadsheets.

We believe the CACFP reimbursement rates cover the cost of the meals served to children. It is mandated by state law to serve meals according to the CACFP meal pattern guidelines. In addition, if participating in the CACFP you receive free training, resources and free claiming options.

If I Receive CACFP Reimbursement Can I Claim My Meals as a Deductible Expense on My Taxes? ABSOLUTELY YES!

AND... if you receive the Tier II rates you can claim those meals on your taxes at the higher IRS approved rate for the year. Consult your tax preparer to find out the benefits of the CACFP. They should agree that you can ALWAYS claim meals served as part of your business expense no matter which tier rate you are reimbursed at.

Claiming Dates for September 2017

Claim received by noon on September 7
Payment will be sent on September 15

Claim received by noon on September 14
Payment will be sent on September 22

Claim received by noon on September 21
Payment will be sent on September 29

RE-Enrolling Children Coming Up

Renewal enrollments will be mailed at the end of August by bulk mail. If you do not receive your packet of enrollments by September 15, please call us and we will mail out another batch to you. Remember to re-enroll **all** the children, **including your own** income eligible children, and those who have just signed up so they don't expire at odd times next year.

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 Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; Fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Looking Ahead! October 1 Changes

Forms: CCNI staff has been working hard on revamping our paper menu forms and they are now ready to go to the printer! We will be mailing a packet to all paper claimers which will include 3 months worth of regular menus and 2 infant menus. If you know you will need more than that please let us know ASAP so we can be sure to get them to you on time. You should receive that packet between **September 18-29**. If you do not receive the packet by September 27, call our office and we will mail you out a supply.

Technical Assistance on Menus: As we have been reviewing menus, we have been sending out notices to let you know what you might want to change on your menu after October 1, 2017. We are trying to be as helpful as we possibly can and give you a lot of time to adjust to the changes. You may also be seeing technical assistance in Minute Menu or KidKare on your claim report. We hope they help!☺

KidKare Disappearing Foods: If you have created your own pre-planned menus in KidKare or Minute Menu please begin revising them to ensure they do not contain any non-creditable components with the new meal pattern guidelines beginning October 1. Any non-creditable components will disappear from your menus on October 1. This will result in an incomplete menu if you don't replace your non-creditable components with creditable components.

Whole Grain Lists: Providers have been asking us for lists of whole grain-rich products to refer to when shopping, but that is very difficult as companies change how their products are made all the time which means that a product that once was whole grain-rich may not be whole grain-rich the next time you purchase it. The only way to know for sure is to read the labels each time you purchase. If you are questioning a product, please contact the office and we will look into it to determine creditability. When determining creditability for cereals, WIC information lists those that are whole grain-rich.

So read the label. By law, food labels must list ingredients in order by weight. If “wheat flour” or “enriched wheat flour” is the first ingredient, the product is mostly white flour, meaning it is not a whole grain-rich product. A 100% whole-grain product will always list a whole-grain ingredient first on the label. You may also use a whole grain-rich product, which is at least 51 percent whole grain. The label may list more than one grain, but the whole grain must be first on the list of ingredients (or second, after water) and all other grains must also be whole or enriched.

Refer to our training handouts from this year's CCNI training. You must use whole grain-rich items at least once per day. Our new menus have the letters ‘WG’ printed in the corner on the grain line. Circle them when you use a whole grain-rich bread, cracker, cereal, noodle, rice or other grain product for the meal on your menus. Watch for updates on how to record whole grains for online claiming.

Dates to Remember in September!

September 1-15: You should be receiving Renewal Enrollment packets!

September 16: Dodge Center Conference hosted by Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network. Visit their website at <http://www.mccpin.org/> for more information.

September 23: All Day Conference in Marshall hosted by CCNI. See insert brochure!

September 18-27: Paper claimers will be receiving 3 months worth of menus and 2 infant menus.

September 30: Final date to be transferred to KidKare from Minute Menu.



Make the CCNI website your home page!

Go to www.childcarenutrition.com for updates, information, & other great resources!