



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Consumer  
Service

Mountain  
Plains  
Region

1244 Speer Boulevard  
Denver, CO  
80204-2581

Reply to  
Attn of: CACFP- 675

MAY 31 2002

Subject: Obligations of Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes (FDCH) to Offer Infant Meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

To: STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS – Colorado DPHE, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri DH,  
(Special Nutrition Programs) Montana DPHH, Nebraska, North Dakota,  
South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming

This memorandum clarifies that child care centers and FDCHs participating in CACFP must offer Program meals to all eligible children who are enrolled for care in their facilities. We are providing this explanation to ensure that all children, including infants, who are enrolled for child care have access to CACFP meals.

A facility may not avoid this obligation by stating that the infants are not “enrolled” in CACFP, or by citing some logistical or cost barrier to offering an infant meal. Decisions on offering Program meals must be based on whether the child is enrolled for care, not whether the child is enrolled for CACFP. Section 226.2 of the CACFP regulations defines an enrolled child as “a child whose parent or guardian has submitted to an institution a signed document which indicates that the child is enrolled for child care.”

As long as the infant is in care during the meal service period, the facility must offer the infant a meal that complies with Program requirements. As with all children in CACFP facilities, an infant’s parent or guardian may decline what is offered, and supply the infant’s meals instead. The key factor is that the infant must be provided access to CACFP meals.

This memorandum supercedes our memorandum CACFP-504-4, which indicates that a child care center or FDCH may choose not to provide meals for infants in their care. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the CACFP staff at (303) 844-0359.

*Darlene Sanchez*  
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