



## **QCC Nutrition Services Frequently Asked Questions**

### *CACFP, Farm to ECE and Training*

Created: 3/17/2020

Expired and irrelevant notices have been removed

**Last Updated: 2/3/2021** (Changes in red)

Due to the COVID-19 impact, we are regularly reviewing and amending our policies and procedures to provide guidance on serving meals to children during the public health emergency. This information will continue to be updated.

### **REIMBURSEMENT AND CLAIMS**

#### **Will claims be processed as usual or will they be delayed?**

We don't anticipate any delays in claims processing. Continue to adhere to claim submission requirements, and you will be paid according to the regular schedule.

#### **What if my program must close near the end of the month due to COVID exposure or for some other reason?**

If your program happens to close during the month and will not open back up for any reason, please submit your claim (online and/or by mail) as soon as possible for QCC to begin processing your claim.

#### **Will QCC help reimburse me for food I bought and spoiled later since my enrollment has dropped?**

No

#### **Can I still drop off my claim documents at the Atlanta office? Will someone be there to accept my claim?**

**MAIL:** Follow the procedures for mailing complete and accurate claim packets to the office. Make sure to use the correct address: 3 Corporate Blvd. NE, Suite 230, Atlanta, GA 30329

**DROP-OFF:** Our claims staff primarily works remotely from the office now. There is a drop box outside our main doors where you can leave claim documents. Please place your packet together in one envelope to ensure that everything stays together, and **sign the drop-off form located on top of the drop box. Notify your Program Coordinator that you have delivered your claim packet.**

## CLOSURES, CAPACITY AND PARENT ENTRY

### Should I remain open?

The decision to close or remain open during this uncertain time is one that must be made by each site in light of local circumstances and with the guidance of DECAL. At the time of the writing of the FAQ, Governor Kemp did not announce an enforceable closing of child care programs. Please read the latest information on the Bright from the Start website: [www.decal.ga.gov](http://www.decal.ga.gov) daily for the latest information.

The health and safety of your employees and the children in your care is a top priority for QCC and DECAL.

### Since schools are out and we follow the school schedule, do I need to let you know that we are closed?

Yes. A deviation of schedule is (1) closing your site for any amount of days, (2) discontinuing a meal or snack on any day, (3) changing your meal times (permanent or temporary) or (4) taking meals offsite for a field trip. **A deviation of schedule is susceptible to a noncompliance or serious deficiency finding and a loss of meal reimbursement. According to official policy, QCC must be notified of schedule deviation in advance.**

New information is available daily that may affect your business decisions. You must keep QCC informed of closures or other adjustments to your schedule or procedures. Contact your program coordinator in the QCC office. Since most staff are working from home be sure to leave a message if you do not reach anyone by phone, or you may send an email.

### Can we claim school age children who attend our program for care while they attend school remotely?

Yes. Complete the [School Age Certification for QCC Sponsored Sites](#) form and submit it to your Program Coordinator. You must ensure that all CACFP regulations are followed and that only meals provided by your program are claimed for reimbursement. Meals provided by the child's school, parent or any other source are not eligible for CACFP reimbursement.

### We are not allowing parents into the center. Is it okay for staff to sign children in and out?

#### Rule Suspension

DECAL is suspending the following rules in part in accordance with O.C.G.A. 38-3-51(d)(1). The suspension of the specified rules will apply until the Governor lifts the Public Health State of Emergency.

- **Restricting Access** – This suspension will give programs the option for restricting families’ access to parts of the program. Specifically, families may be restricted to the front door of the facility or the door of the classroom. The current rules are stated as follows:

- o **CCLC-591-1-1.22** - The custodial parent(s) of the child in attendance be permitted access to all child care areas of the Center and shall make his or her presence known to Center Staff prior to removing the child from the Center.

- o **FCCLH-290-2-3-.06** - The Parent(s) of a Child shall be permitted access to all child care areas of the Home at all times a Child is in attendance, unless otherwise ordered by a court of proper jurisdiction.

Also, review the following DECAL document for guidance:

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/documents/attachments/SupportsforEarlyLearningProgramsCCSOpenSuggestionsandRules.pdf>

**May I claim more children and exceed my licensed capacity for any meal or snack service?**

**No, you may not exceed your licensed capacity.** Exceeding your licensed capacity and not following ratio guidelines is putting the health and safety of children at risk. Contact your Child Care Service Licensing Consultant for more information about ratios.

**My center shut down temporarily. Do I need to complete paperwork until we reopen?**

If your center is closed, it is expected that you report that information to your Nutrition Program Coordinator and/or Consultant so QCC will have a record of it. If you are not serving meals, there are no CACFP records you would be expected to maintain for the time period in which the facility was closed.

**Will we be able to use CACFP funds if we must close?**

CACFP organizations may only use CACFP funds to operate their meal service program. Funds are only to be used on allowable CACFP costs while the meal service is in operation. The organization must have a process in place to utilize its non-CACFP funding sources in the event of a temporary or unexpected closure.

## FOOD AND PURCHASING

**Which milk can be carried over from one month to the next?**

DECAL has recently published guidance for sponsors about reclaiming meals due to milk shortages. QCC worked closely with both DECAL and Minute Menu to ensure that milk quantities are calculated correctly based on the updated guidance. Center Sites have been notified through email of the new milk procedure.

- You may carry over no more than the maximum amount of milk purchased during the last five (5) calendar days of the previous month.
- When there is a milk shortage QCC will disallow meals beginning with snacks served with milk first, followed by breakfast meals, and if necessary, followed by lunch and/or supper meals. QCC will also issue a notice of noncompliance with the program meal pattern.
- Due to continued flexibilities in FY2021 for the new meal patterns, meals will NOT be reclaimed for the 1-year old age group if enough whole milk is not purchased/served. However, QCC will issue a notice of noncompliance with the program meal pattern.

The entire memo may be read here: [Reclaiming Meals due to a Milk Shortage \(v.3\) - October 28, 2020](#)

### **We are having difficulty finding milk. Will we lose reimbursement for these meals without the right type of milk?**

Yes, but there is a way to avoid losing reimbursement. You may encounter shortages of food or supplies in your area. **You may be able to make substitutions for milk and food components with permission from DECAL and/or the USDA.** It requires a waiver we must request on your behalf.

### **How should milk be properly handled and distributed?**

It is required that you maintain milk at the appropriate temperature of 40 degrees or less. Additionally, you need to ensure you have appropriate holding facilities to keep the milk at the right temperature. If you are sending milk home, the easiest way to provide it is in individual servings.

### **Is it allowable to freeze milk and use it after the expiration date?**

Although unopened milk is safely stored in the freezer at 0°F for up to three months, freezing milk is not recommended. Freezing milk, specifically high fat milk (whole milk), causes changes that will deteriorate the texture, preventing it from being used as fluid milk. Additionally, the CACFP Crediting Handbook provides guidance that foods past the expiration date are not creditable. Therefore, if the milk expires, the milk will need to be discarded even if it has been frozen.

### **What milk substitutions are allowed?**

The meal pattern for milk served to children 2 years and older is either lowfat (1%) or non-fat (skim). Be sure to look for skim milk before requesting a waiver for milk substitutions. Shelf-stable milks are allowable milks to serve without a waiver.

When experiencing a shortage of cow's milk, non-dairy alternatives may be used. However, alternatives must be nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk. Requiring non-dairy alternatives to be nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk ensures children receive

vital nutrients needed for growth and development. Alternatives served to children ages 1-5 must be unflavored due to the higher sugar content of flavored varieties.

**Acceptable** non-dairy or cow's milk alternatives include:

- Low-fat or fat-free lactose-reduced, buttermilk and acidified milk
- Goat milk, sheep milk, buffalo milk (must be pasteurized)
- Soy milk (calcium and vitamin D fortified)

**Unacceptable** non-dairy or cow's milk alternatives include:

*(These are examples and do not represent a comprehensive list.)*

- Juice
- Almond milk
- Rice milk
- Almond milk "plus"
- Cashew milk
- Coconut milk
- Water
- Hemp milk
- Oat milk
- Whole grain drink
- Flax milk
- Calcium-fortified orange juice

Yogurt may not be substituted for fluid milk for children of any age. This is because milk provides a wealth of nutrients growing children need, such as vitamin A and D, and comparable quantities of these nutrients are not currently found in commercially available yogurts.

If cow's milk and acceptable non-dairy alternatives on the above acceptable list are served, no special approvals or waivers are required. However, if cow's milk or acceptable non-dairy alternatives are not available, you may submit a waiver request for meal pattern flexibility. Approvals would be based on a reasonable and justified need (e.g., public health emergency).

### **How do I request this waiver?**

To request a waiver, complete this form:

<https://qualitycareforchildren.wufoo.com/forms/q1fa98rb0fmir6m/>

After completion of the form with the type of substitution you will make, you will receive **conditional approval** for the substitution. After review, QCC will approve or deny the waiver request. If the substitution is not approved, you may not be reimbursed for those meals.

### **Whom do I call about meal pattern substitutions and purchasing issues?**

Contact Compliance Manager Caitlin Vadini for more information on this waiver at [caitlin.vadini@QCCGA.org](mailto:caitlin.vadini@QCCGA.org) or call 404-479-4253,

**Is there a food service management company (FSMC) that could help me with vended meals temporarily during this COVID-19 pandemic?**

Yes. A FSMC can help a center that is struggling to find food components and keeping a full-time experienced cook. Choosing a FSMC requires informal procurement by most facilities (total projected annual cost under \$250,000 or less) and formal procurement for some (total projected annual cost over \$250,000). If you desire to find a FSMC to serve your community, you may get quotes from 2-3 vendors of your choice. DECAL has a *Vendor List* on their website (<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Procurement.aspx>).

To follow proper procurement procedures, review and use our *Procurement Guidelines and Form for Kitchen Equipment, Food Service Management Companies and Food Distributors* on our website ([www.qualitycareforchildren.org/forms](http://www.qualitycareforchildren.org/forms)).

If you are in metro Atlanta, **The School Gourmet** is a Farm to Early Care and Education partner with QCC. The School Gourmet has a goal to serve child care centers and afterschool programs with high quality Scratch Made meals using harvested produce from and close to Georgia. For quotes and a taste test, call 404-371-4566 or email [info@eatgourmetexpress.com](mailto:info@eatgourmetexpress.com).

**Can you explain the waivers by the USDA to address the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Starting Saturday, March 20, 2020, the USDA released a series of CACFP-related waivers that will allow CACFP operators flexibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The directions below are for facilities under QCC's sponsorship:

- **Waiver #1: CACFP Meal Times for Homes, Centers and At-Risk Afterschool Programs** – USDA recognizes that in this public health emergency, waiving the meal service time requirements will support streamlined access to nutritious meals. **As a result, meal service times may vary in the CACFP during the public health emergency.**
  - During this period, it is expected that sites under QCC's sponsorship who vary their meal service times do this to improve services to children. There is no requirement to request permission.
  - This is effective immediately as of March 20, 2020 and remains in effect through June 30, 2021, or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier. QCC requests that all of its sponsored sites contact us immediately to make us aware of any changes to meal times.

- **Waiver #2: Non-congregate Feeding in CACFP** - Child Nutrition Program meals must be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed by participants on site. However, USDA recognizes that in this public health emergency, waiving the congregate meal requirements is vital to ensure appropriate safety measures for the purpose of providing meals and meal supplements. **Therefore, meals do not have to be served in a congregate setting. Enrolled children at centers and homes may take sack meals and snacks (Grab-and-Go meals) that meet the CACFP meal guidelines home. All At-Risk participants may also take meals and snacks home.**
  - Sites sponsored by QCC must inform us that you are participating in non-congregate (Grab-and-Go) feeding prior to beginning service by contacting your Nutrition Program Consultant (monitor).
  - Your child care program is not required to be open for the purpose of child care to provide Grab-and-Go meals.
  - Meals are only for enrolled children at child care centers and homes. Enrollment is not required for official At-Risk Afterschool Sites.
  - Proper documentation must still be kept using official QCC/Minute Menu/Kid Kare forms and software only.
  - Duplicate meals must not be distributed to any child.
  - See “Waiver #5” for related details.
  - See “Waiver #4” for meal pattern flexibility.
  - Meals should be distributed in clean, new, disposable packaging – no recycling of containers.
  - This is effective immediately as of March 20, 2020 and remains in effect through June 30, 2021, or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.
  
- **Waiver #4: Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in CACFP** – In this public health emergency, appropriate safety measures are necessary. **Therefore, you are not required to serve meals that meet the meal pattern requirements during the public health emergency.**
  - QCC expects and strongly encourages every family child care home, center and emergency shelter under its sponsorship to maintain and meet the nutrition standards for each Program to the greatest extent possible.
  - Sites sponsored by QCC **MUST use the online waiver form to inform us of their effort and proposed substitutions:**  
<https://qualitycareforchildren.wufoo.com/forms/q1fa98rb0fmir6m/>.  
 (Programs without internet capability may call our Compliance Manager at 404-479-4253.)

- This waiver is effective as of March 25, 2020 and remains in effect until June 30, 2021 or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.
- **Waiver #5: Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children – CACFP sites may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their children.**
  - See “Waiver #5” for non-congregate feeding requirements.
  - Distribution of meals does not require the CACFP site to be open for the operation of child care or afterschool care. CACFP sites will receive reimbursement for these meals even if closed due to COVID-19 closure.
  - Meals are distributed only to parents or guardians of eligible children.
  - **QCC sites must have accurate documentation of meals taken:**
    - Documentation of the names of parents or guardians who took the meals and the names of the enrolled\*\*\* children the meals are for (e.g. sign-in sheets, parent notes dropped into a basket, documentation recorded by staff, etc.) - **Do whatever you can to prevent parents from using shared writing instruments.**
    - Number of meals and snacks taken
    - Duplicate meals are not distributed to any child.
      - \*\*\* At-Risk Afterschool Programs children do not have to be enrolled but must be age eligible.
  - Bundle meals to serve multiple days of meals at one time to limit exposure and maximize resources.
  - Proper food safety protocols must be utilized. These meals should contain printed instructions regarding reheating and refrigeration.
  - Family child care homes and centers can claim no more than two meals and one snack or two snacks and one meal per participant per day.
  - Claim no more than one meal and one snack under the At-Risk Afterschool Program.
  - This waiver is effective as of March 25, 2020 and remains in effect until June 30, 2021 or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

### **How do I submit a waiver request?**

If you would like to utilize any of the USDA nationwide waivers approved to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus, please complete the applicable Waiver Request Form located at <https://www.qualitycareforchildren.org/forms>.

Once your waiver form(s) is/are submitted, please allow QCC adequate time to process the information and respond with either an approval or denial of each request.

## **How can I learn more about Grab-and-Go Meal Service?**

QCC has posted several resources at <https://www.qualitycareforchildren.org/forms> in the COVID-19 section. For additional guidance and advice, please contact your Nutrition Program Consultant (monitor) for more details.

## **What is an example of a non-congregate setting?**

There are different variations. We've seen some facilities provide meals that are packaged in a to-go box at their existing site that has already been approved. It's a complete unitized meal that the child picks up and takes home. Another option would be to provide meals at the door so that no one enters the facility.

## **Do we need to maintain daily attendance records while providing Grab-and-Go meals?**

CACFP program operators only need to maintain daily attendance records for eligible children attending the center. For those not in daily attendance, your program must have a plan for ensuring that you can maintain accountability and program integrity. This includes implementing processes to ensure that meals are distributed only to parents or guardians of eligible children and that they do not distribute duplicate meals. This could be done by checking off participants picking up meals against enrollment records, using sign-in sheets, or other methods which result in accurate recording of eligible program participants, or their parents, receiving meals. You are still required to maintain daily meal counts and enrollment records.

## **Can CACFP sites that remain open implement the non-congregate and meal time nationwide waivers?**

The nationwide waivers to allow meal service time flexibilities and non-congregate feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs during the coronavirus pandemic do not require that a CACFP site be closed. Under these waivers, day care homes and centers that are still open can provide meal service on site to participants in attendance. They can also arrange meal service pick-ups and/or provide meal delivery for participants temporarily not in attendance. If the CACFP program determines there is a need and it is logistically feasible to implement these options, it can do so for all or part of its participants. Please note that as indicated in SP 14-2020, Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks: Questions and Answers #3 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/covid-19/meal-service-during-novel-coronavirus-outbreaks-qas>), CACFP programs may provide meal delivery only to enrolled children, due to confidentiality and logistical requirements.

## **Can CACFP programs deliver meals?**

Yes. If the CACFP program determines there is a need and it is logistically feasible to deliver meals directly to homes, it may do so with QCC approval and adherence to all Federal confidentiality requirements. If applicable, any meal service times would also

have to be waived, per the Meal Service Time nationwide waiver. To request approval, CACFP programs can indicate that they intend to deliver meals on the [CACFP Grab and Go Meal Service Request](#). Delivery could be completed by mail or delivery service, or hand-delivered by CACFP staff, volunteers, community organizations, or others. This option is only available to CACFP programs that provide care for enrolled children.

### **What funding is available for meal delivery?**

There is no additional reimbursement for home delivery or mobile meals delivery. Delivery costs could be paid with non-program funds such as State or local funds, or private donations.

### **What are the requirements for initiating home meal delivery for a household?**

CACFP programs must first obtain written consent from households of enrolled children (this could include email or other electronic means) that the household wants to receive delivered meals. In addition, CACFP programs should confirm the household's current contact information to ensure meals are delivered to the correct location.

It is critical that CACFP programs protect the confidentiality of children and their households throughout this process. The National School Lunch Act and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) 4 do not authorize release of household contact information for children without first obtaining the written consent of the child's parent or guardian. The CACFP program must make the first contact about meal delivery with the households of enrolled children, and must notify them if contact information will be shared with an external organization, for example, a local non-profit that will provide meal delivery. Once the CACFP program receives written consent from the parent or guardian to release contact information, the information may be shared with other organizations involved with meal delivery.

### **Do home-delivered meals need to be shelf stable?**

No. The type of meal offered will depend on the resources and capacity of the Program operator. Those that can prepare ready-to-eat meals and have the capacity to deliver meals daily in a way that meets State or local food safety requirements may do so.

### **Does the child participant need to be present for home meal delivery?**

No. If the CACFP program has obtained the household's written consent to deliver meals and has verified the current address, the child participant does not need to be present at the time of delivery. If the meals are shelf stable, no one need be present, if the address has been verified. Please consider State and local food safety requirements and best practices.

### **Under the current nationwide waivers allowing non-congregate feeding and no meal time restrictions due to COVID-19, may Child Nutrition Programs provide food items in bulk, either through pick up or home delivery, without additional waivers?**

Under current statutory and regulatory authority and in conjunction with recent COVID-19 waivers allowing non-congregate feeding and no meal time restrictions, when providing multiple meals at one time, programs may provide bulk items as long as individual meals are easily identifiable as a reimbursable meal. When implementing such a delivery mechanism, programs:

- Must include the required food components in the proper minimum amounts for each reimbursable meal being claimed;
- Must ensure that food items are clearly identifiable as making up reimbursable meals;
- Are strongly encouraged to provide menus with directions indicating which items are to be used for each meal and the portion sizes;
- Should consider whether households have access to refrigeration, stoves, microwaves, etc., when providing food that requires refrigeration or further preparation, such as reheating; and
- Should ensure that only minimal preparation is required, and that food is not provided as ingredients for recipes that require chopping, mixing, baking, etc.

#### **What documentation is required when providing multiple meals at a time during COVID-19?**

When providing multiple meals at a time, programs must continue to maintain documentation and menu records that show the served meal components. Programs must keep supporting menu documentation, such as labels, recipes, and manufacturer specifications in accordance with CACFP regulations.

#### **Can neighborhood representatives or community members pick up meals on behalf of various households?**

No. Only the actual parent or guardian of the eligible child may pick up meals. Programs requesting to utilize the parent pick up waiver will be required to demonstrate that controls are in place to ensure that only parents or guardians pick up meals for eligible children and adults and that they are not receiving duplicate meals.

#### **Will meal pattern waivers affect a program's responsibility to make meal modifications for participants with disabilities?**

During this public health emergency, programs are not relieved of their obligation to provide meal modifications for participants with disabilities. When planning a non-congregate meal service, programs should consider how individuals who require meal modifications will be identified and served.

#### **May programs provide non-congregate meals at different locations that were not previously approved by DECAL?**

No. DECAL must approve all locations for distribution of meals.

## **Am I able to donate leftover perishable food items to my children during the public health emergency?**

Currently, DECAL and QCC are not aware of any flexibility allowing excess food (specifically perishable food items) purchased for the CACFP to be donated to program participants in the wake of unforeseen circumstances such as Coronavirus.

Because of unforeseen circumstances, occasionally there will be leftover food. All alternatives permitted by program regulations and state and local health and sanitation codes should be exhausted before discarding food. Options may include using leftovers in subsequent meal services or transferring food to other sites. Where it is not feasible to reuse leftovers, excess food may be donated to a non-profit organization, such as a community food bank, homeless shelter, or other nonprofit charitable organizations.

See: [https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP11\\_CACFP05\\_SFSP07-2012os.pdf](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP11_CACFP05_SFSP07-2012os.pdf)

## **Is the purchase of personal protective equipment or other supplies that are intended to prevent or reduce the spread of COVID-19 an allowable cost?**

Yes. Personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves and face masks) as well as cleaning and sanitary supplies are allowable costs during the current public health emergency, provided that such purchases are made in support of child nutrition program operations. All purchases must continue to meet the required criteria of being reasonable, necessary and allocable (refer to 2 CFR 200.404 and 200.405).

## **Given the fact that food costs have increased dramatically, will the meal reimbursement rate increase?**

We are not aware of any changes in the meal reimbursement rates. If the rates do change, we will communicate that information to you as soon we receive it.

## **How do I keep my meal sites safe?**

We know you are taking every precaution to protect the employees, volunteers and families at your meal sites. However, we would like to take a moment to remind you about the process to follow should you learn that an individual (be it a child, parent, or staff member) becomes ill and tests positive for COVID-19.

*Please **immediately**:*

- **cease** the meal service,
- **report** the case to your local health department,
- **contact** your QCC Program Coordinator, and
- **quarantine** the area and persons impacted according to the advice of your local health department official.

*If you need additional guidance, please visit the [CDC website](#).*

## MONITORING BY QCC

### **Will I still receive monitoring visits?**

Most onsite monitoring visits will be suspended through September 30, 2021. QCC program sites will receive offsite monitoring and technical assistance phone calls or video conferences in the interim. New programs will still receive a 30-day desk audit review.

### **Is QCC required to conduct pre-approval reviews for new CACFP centers and day care homes during the coronavirus pandemic?**

Yes, to ensure program integrity during the emergency response, QCC is still required to conduct pre-approval reviews for new institutions and facilities. However, through authority established by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), FNS granted nationwide waivers of onsite monitoring of new facilities for sponsoring organizations. QCC may conduct pre-approval reviews off-site using alternative methods.

### **For portions of the review where direct observation is normally required, what alternatives could my monitor use to complete reviews offsite?**

In situations where direct observation normally occurs, such as observation of meal preparation, meal pattern components, verification of attendance, and food safety issues, examples of alternatives include monitors conducting alternative observation using video or photos and/or pictures of meal preparation and meal service. QCC may also conduct interviews with staff and program participants via telephone or video conference to verify information in photos.

## AT-RISK AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

### **Are at-risk afterschool centers allowed to continue serving meals and snacks during unanticipated school closures?**

Yes. At-risk afterschool centers may continue serving meals and snacks as part of the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of CACFP. When operating during unanticipated school closures, afterschool centers must continue to meet At-Risk Afterschool requirements, **including the requirement that programs must offer education or enrichment activities**. On days when schools are closed, at-risk afterschool centers that normally offer a snack and supper after school may instead choose to offer either lunch and a snack, or a breakfast and a snack. These meals and snacks would be reimbursed through CACFP at the free rate.

**Are educational or enrichment activities required for the At-Risk Afterschool Meal programs during the public health emergency?**

Yes. The USDA nationwide waiver for offering enrichment or educational activities ended on June 30, 2020. Therefore, At-Risk Afterschool Meal programs must offer a program that includes regularly scheduled and planned educational and/or enrichment activities in a structured and supervised setting.

If Grab and Go meal service is conducted, programs may use alternative methods to deliver educational and/or enrichment activities to participants.

**Do CACFP at-risk afterschool centers need to maintain daily attendance records?**

Through authority granted under the COVID–19 Child Nutrition Response Act (the Act) (H.R. 6201, Title II), FNS waived the requirements to serve CACFP meals in a congregate setting in COVID–19: Child Nutrition Response #2, Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs. FNS waived the requirements which require at-risk afterschool care centers to serve afterschool meals and snacks in a structured and supervised environment, with an educational or enrichment activity in COVID–19: Child Nutrition Response #3, Nationwide Waiver of the Activity Requirement in Afterschool Care Child Nutrition Programs, both dated March 20, 2020.

In states that elect to use these waivers, CACFP at-risk afterschool centers only need to maintain daily attendance records for eligible children attending the center, per 7 CFR 226.17a(o)(1) (at-risk afterschool centers may maintain sign-in sheets or, with state agency approval, other methods which result in accurate recording of daily attendance). At-risk programs that do not have children attending do not need to maintain daily attendance records. However, state agencies must have a plan for ensuring that program operators can maintain accountability and program integrity. This includes implementing processes to ensure that meals are provided for eligible children, and that they do not distribute duplicate meals. At-risk afterschool centers are still required to maintain daily meal counts under this authority.

**Can I claim reimbursement for meals served to children who did not typically attend my At-Risk afterschool program (e.g., siblings of enrolled children whose schools are closed due to corona virus concerns)?**

Yes, as long as the child is eligible to receive meals and all required records are maintained, which include but are not limited to, meal count records, attendance records, and menus. See CACFP Policy 18 for recordkeeping requirements.  
<http://www.dec.al.gov/documents/attachments/CACFPPolicy18.pdf>.

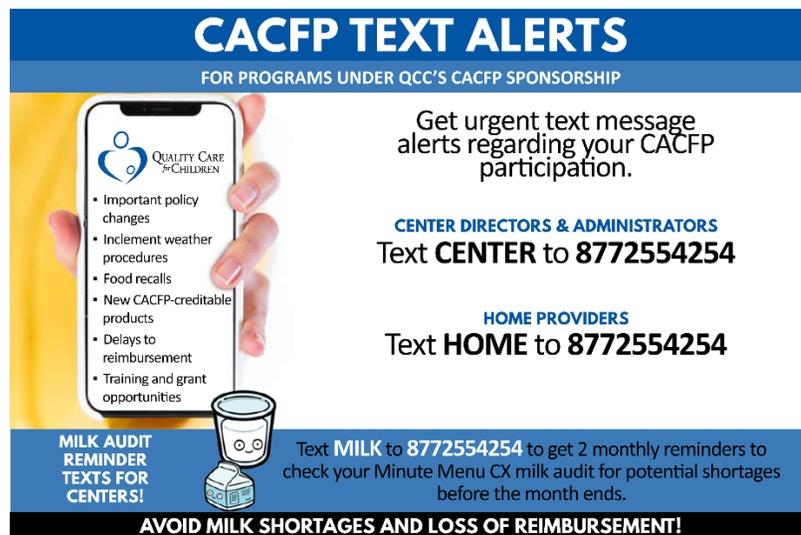
**COMMUNICATION BY QCC**

## How do I stay informed on all of the CACFP changes?

We will send emails as often as possible. Also, check our [COVID-19 Resources](#) for the latest updates as we expect additional guidance from federal, state and local authorities.

## Where can I find the latest information?

Be sure to sign up for our texting program if you haven't already for the most current information. Text **HOME** or **CENTER** to **8772554254**, depending on your program type.



**CACFP TEXT ALERTS**  
FOR PROGRAMS UNDER QCC'S CACFP SPONSORSHIP

Get urgent text message alerts regarding your CACFP participation.

**CENTER DIRECTORS & ADMINISTRATORS**  
Text **CENTER** to **8772554254**

**HOME PROVIDERS**  
Text **HOME** to **8772554254**

**MILK AUDIT REMINDER TEXTS FOR CENTERS!**

Text **MILK** to **8772554254** to get 2 monthly reminders to check your Minute Menu CX milk audit for potential shortages before the month ends.

**AVOID MILK SHORTAGES AND LOSS OF REIMBURSEMENT!**

This is an optional and complimentary service to QCC providers. Message and data rates may apply.

## CACFP ORIENTATION AND NUTRITION TRAINING

### Centers/ARAS/Shelters only: Will CACFP training sessions still be offered during this time?

Yes. QCC is currently offering monthly CACFP Orientation and Program Training sessions virtually.

### Centers/ARAS/Shelters only: What do I do if I have new staff that must attend orientation training?

We are still conducting our 2-day CACFP orientation training as scheduled. Trainings are conducted remotely. Visit [Center Orientation Training Calendar](#) - Updated 9/15/20 to find out when the next training is scheduled. Register for training at [CACFP Center Training](#).

### NEW Centers/ARAS/Shelters only: Do I need to attend orientation training?

For new applicants who wish to start CACFP, one person from your site must attend orientation training. This person should be the person who has ultimate responsibility

over CACFP at your site. You will receive an invitation to this training once your application packet has been received.

### **Are you still offering nutrition trainings?**

QCC is currently offering various nutrition trainings each month virtually. A list of all available remote trainings can be found by visiting [qualitycareforchildren.org/webinars](https://qualitycareforchildren.org/webinars), or by selecting the links below:

- [Nutrition and Health](#)
- [Farm to Early Care and Education \(FTECE\)](#)

## **FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION (ECE)**

### **Will I receive technical assistance?**

Yes, however, in-person technical assistance is suspended until further notice. All technical assistance will be done via phone or email.

### **How does this situation impact my Farm to ECE goals and action plans?**

The health, safety, and well-being of the staff, families, and children are priority. We understand that implementing Farm to ECE may need to be put on hold to insure a healthy environment. Please contact us to let us know if you will be closed.

### **Can I still make Farm to ECE mini-grant purchases?**

Yes, you can still make purchases during this time. You can either purchase yourself or send order requests to Gina. If you purchase items, please send invoices to Gina Cook to reimburse you as quickly as possible.

## **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

There are no funding opportunities currently available. QCC will notify you if additional funding becomes available in your area.

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mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

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