The Buzz

August 2024

NEW LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE CACFP: EARLY CHILDHOOD NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT ACT & ENHANCEMENT ACT

Summary of the Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act
Introduced by Representatives Bonamici (D-OR) and Molinaro (R-NY)

This new legislation aims to enhance the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) with several key provisions:

- *Extra Meal Reimbursement: Adds an additional meal for CACFP reimbursement.*
- *Annual Reimbursement Determination: Aligns family child care providers' reimbursement rates with child care centers, using the "food away from home" index in the Consumer Price Index.*
- *Review of Serious Deficiency Process: Requires the Secretary of USDA to review the CACFP Serious Deficiency Process.*
- *Advisory Committee on Paperwork: Establishes an Advisory Committee to reduce or eliminate required paperwork through improved technologies and practices.*

Click HERE to review bill

Benefits:

- *Improved Access: For-profit centers can remain eligible for the entire year, avoiding disruptions based on fluctuating family or school incomes.*
- *Better Operator Experience: Streamlines administrative processes and reduces paperwork burdens.*
- *Enhanced Reimbursement: Allows providers to claim an extra meal, reducing out-of-pocket costs and ensuring reimbursement rates are more closely tied to food costs.*

Summary of the Child Care Nutrition Enhancement Act
Updated: Nov 16, 2023

A new bill, the Child Care Nutrition Enhancement Act, has been introduced in the U.S. Senate. This bill aims to improve the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) by:

- *Increasing funding by 10 cents for all eligible meals and snacks in CACFP-participating programs.*
- *Eliminating the tiering process for family child care programs, so they receive a single rate.*
- *Allowing family child care providers to claim meals and snacks served to their own children for reimbursement.*
- *Ensuring fair payment rates by calculating family child care payments the same as child care center payments.*

Action Needed:
Support this legislation by contacting your U.S. Representative and Senators to express the importance of CACFP and the benefits it provides to children and care providers.

Here are the rates for the new fiscal year.
You will notice this increase in the reimbursements for July in September.

DAY CARE HOMES	BREAKFAST		LUNCH AND SUPPER		SUPPLEMENT	
	TIER I	TIER II	TIER I	TIER II	TIER I	TIER II
CONTIGUOUS STATES	1.66	0.60	3.15	1.90	0.93	0.26

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THE BEE ZONE

Avocado Rice Cakes

- 16 (8 g each) rice cakes
- 2 cups avocado, mashed
- 1/2 lemon, juiced
- 2 cups cherry tomatoes, sliced or diced

1. In a bowl, mix avocado and lemon juice.
2. Spread 1/8 cup of avocado and then add 1/8 cup of tomato onto each rice cake.
3. Sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Two rice cakes provide 1/2 oz eq. grains and 1/2 cup vegetables.

Recipes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Get ready to sharpen those provider skills! We will be posting our annual training on our website.

Mark your calendars—the deadline to submit your quiz is September 30th, 2024.

We will send a link through a Constant Contact notice. Please be on the lookout for that.

The Spanish training will be posted in mid-August.