

April 3, 2020

Dear Child Care Provider,

During this public health emergency, we want to assure you that the Child Nutrition Program of Southern California (CNPSC) is here to support you. The USDA and the California Dept. of Education (CDE) have provided waivers for the CACFP that will relieve some of the stress of trying to ensure meals are in compliance.

Meal Pattern Flexibility: This waiver allows for meal pattern flexibility as you experience food and beverage shortages. We remind you to do your best to meet the meal pattern; but at this time, you are approved to provide meals that do not meet requirements due to food shortages at the stores. Example: you were not able to purchase milk for lunch. You will receive reimbursement for that meal. Please make reasonable attempts to fulfill the meal pattern requirement and make substitutions if possible.

"Grab & Go" Meals for Children: You are now able to prepare meals for your enrolled children even if they are staying home with their families. Parents/guardians can pick up meals to take home. These meals can be claimed on the food program using the usual record keeping practice; however, additional documentation with the parent/guardian signature is needed for verification. This documentation must be sent to CNPSC at the end of each month for the meals to be reimbursed. CNPSC will conduct random parent surveys regarding receipt of grab & go meals.

Only claim meals for children in your care that are served a meal. If a child is not present for a meal/snack, and a parent/guardian has not picked up a grab & go meal, then the child cannot be claimed/recorded for reimbursement.

Meal Time requirements for child care providers have been waived. The normal meal times/spacing requirements have been suspended and can now be more flexible to accommodate the need to serve meals at different times. This waiver allows providers to continue to make meals available to enrolled children that might not otherwise have access to nutritious meals.

We will continue to keep you informed with changes to the Nutrition Program. Please notify us if you have temporarily closed your child care. Child Nutrition Program of Southern California has suspended all in-home site visits until we have further guidance from USDA. Thank you for serving nutritious meals to the children in your care.

Joan LaRocque
Director

Child Nutrition Program of Southern California

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