

CACFP UPDATE – FLUID MILK REQUIREMENTS — Effective June 8, 2026

The USDA has updated CACFP fluid milk requirements for participants ages 2 and older.

Updated Allowable Milk Options:

- Age 1: Unflavored whole milk only
- Ages 2–5: Unflavored whole, 2%, 1%, or fat-free milk
- Ages 6+ & Adults: Unflavored whole, 2%, 1%, or fat-free milk

Program Reminder:

Child Nutrition Programs of Southern California will continue to **allow ONLY unflavored milk for all age groups. Flavored milk is not permitted.**

Providers are not required to make any changes to current menus or milk service practices. Current service of 1% and fat-free milk remains compliant.

SUMMER IS HERE...

1. Remember to mark “**School Out**” when claiming school-age children for meals during the day. Or update the child’s calendar for longer vacation spans. Lunches will be disallowed if not documented
2. Remember to **call the office** in advance when you will be away from your home during a scheduled meal time, or when your child care home is closed.

PROGRAM YEAR 2026-2027 ELIGIBILITY RENEWAL APPLICATIONS—FOR PROVIDERS CLAIMING OWN/FOSTER CHILDREN OR WHO WANT TO QUALIFY FOR TIER 1 RATES

In July of every year, Providers are required to renew and update their Eligibility Application for own children, foster children, and any other residential (living in your home) children. Providers who currently have Parents/Guardians complete Parent Eligibility Applications are also required to have the Parents/Guardians renew and update their applications.

On July 1st, we will mail the PY 2026–2027 Eligibility Applications and instructions to Providers who currently have Eligibility Applications on file in our office. Please read all instructions carefully. Applications must be completed, signed, and dated in July to receive reimbursement moving forward and **must be received in our office on or before July 24, 2026.** Applications received after this date could result in **losing Tier 1 rates.**

If your Eligibility Application is misplaced or lost in the mail, Tiering Applications are available to print from our website.

If you qualify through a categorically eligible program such as CalFresh, CalWORKS, or FDPIR, you must submit a **current Notice of Action (dated June 2026 or July 2026) or a current approval letter on agency letterhead with your application.** If you do not have a current Notice of Action, contact your worker in June to request a Benefit Verification form (San Diego County) or Passport to Services form (Riverside County) to include with your PY 2026–2027 Eligibility Renewal Application.

July 2026 Reimbursement is normally issued in September 2026
Checks are issued within 5 Business days of receiving the funds from DSS
Checks for late claims are issued within 5 Business days of receiving the late run funds from DSS
