

**VIBRANT FUTURES
CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM
POLICIES**

REIMBURSEMENT

YOUR MENUS ARE DUE IN THE VIBRANT FUTURES OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE 5TH OF EACH MONTH. You may only use one claim reporting system. For example, you wouldn't submit part of the month on paper menus and then the rest of the month as an e-claim. Any menu received after the 5th of the month will be considered late, and your reimbursement may be delayed up to 60 days or forfeited. If the 5th falls on a weekend or a holiday, your menu must be in the office on the following work day. **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) checks, or a statement to those providers who have selected direct deposit, are scheduled to be mailed to paper claimers on the last working day of the month. KidKare users access their statements online.** If you have chosen direct deposit, your reimbursement is deposited the last working day of the month and should be available to you that day, unless otherwise specified by the Michigan Department of Education Child and Adult Care Food Program. If you want to begin direct depositing your reimbursement, close or change your account, the paperwork must be submitted to us on or before the 5th of the month to be valid for that month's reimbursement. You may change your direct deposit account a maximum of two times per year by submitting a new Direct Deposit Authorization Form to us by the 5th of the month.

MEAL/SNACK ATTENDANCE

Children's attendance at meals/snacks must be taken no later than the end of the day, unless you care for more than 12 children in a day, or you are on Corrective Action. If you care for more than 12 children in one day or are on Corrective Action, you must record attendance at the time that particular meal or snack is served to children; this is called Point of Service. Menus and attendance must be up to date and available at the time of a home visit. Home visits can be any time during your hours of operation. While planning and recording meals and snacks on your menu ahead of time is a good idea, attendance can never be checked beforehand. Only meals and snacks approved on your Home Application will be reimbursed. If you begin to serve a meal or snack not yet approved or your days/times have changed, you must contact your CACFP Specialist before submitting a menu with the meal or snack claimed.

If menus, meal attendance, or daily attendance are not recorded as indicated above, you will not be reimbursed. Children's daily attendance (Time In & Out) must be recorded on the menu for each child every day.

KIDKARE USERS

If you experience any problems or issues with KidKare, do the following; Login to KidKare. Click on Get Help in the lower left hand side of the screen. You are then directed to the KidKare Knowledge Base. There are lists of webinars, videos and articles to access. If you can't find an answer, there's a place to click to submit a ticket on the lower right hand side of the screen. If you are still unable to fix your problem, call your CACFP Specialist.

HOME VISITS

Federal regulations require we visit you at least three times a year. We must observe a meal/snack at your home during one of the two mandatory unannounced visits, and our third visit may be announced. If you claim weekends, suppers, or shifts, we may be required to visit you then and will try to incorporate the visit into one of the three. When someone else is in charge of your child care business in your absence, they must show the CACFP Specialist your menu/records on the home visit in order for you to be reimbursed. If you are not going to be home during your approved meal/snack times, you are required to notify your CACFP Specialist. If we do not receive notification, and we visit you, we are not able to reimburse you for that meal or snack.

Current Enrollment Forms must be presented to your CACFP Specialist on every home visit along with your CACFP Agreement, Home Application and menus. All records must be maintained for three years plus the current fiscal year, with the last 12 months readily available. A CACFP fiscal year runs October 1st through September 30th.

HOLIDAYS

If you care for children on these major holidays (New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas), you must include with your menu a note signed by the parents/guardians indicating children were in care on that day in order to be reimbursed for those meals/snacks.

MEAL TIMES/SHIFTS

If you have relatives in care, including your own children, who cause you to be over your capacity for a meal/snack, we cannot reimburse you for those related children. You can only claim over your licensed capacity if you are shifting. A shift occurs when you claim more than your capacity as a result of children arriving and leaving your home within a meal/snack service. You must submit an accurate Shift Form to us in order to be reimbursed for those meals/snacks. Your menu

must include all serving times. During meal service, children in care must never exceed your approved capacity whether they eat that meal or not.

MENU MATE

Providers have the opportunity to use Menu Mate supplied by Vibrant Futures. Failure to recall the last Menu Mate code on a Home Visit may result in extra visits or the loss of the use of Menu Mate. It could also result in Corrective Action and possible termination from the program.

CHILD ENROLLMENT FORMS

A Child Enrollment Form for every child in your care must be on file at the Vibrant Futures office. You will not be reimbursed for children whose enrollment forms are received **after** the receipt of the monthly menu in which they are claimed. **Suggestion:** It is a good idea to have the Enrollment Form completed at your home immediately by the parent. Paper claimers retain your copy (yellow), give the parents their copy (pink), and send the top white copy to Vibrant Futures. KidKare claimers print the online Child Enrollment Form, have the parent make any changes, sign the form and send to Vibrant Futures. Keep a copy for yourself and give the parent a copy.

Children must be enrolled for the meals you claim. You will only be reimbursed for those meals checked on the Child Enrollment Form. Enrollment Forms must be filled out completely **by the parent or guardian**. Please be sure to double check each Enrollment Form before you fax, email or mail it to us. If the information on an Enrollment Form(s) changes or you have made an error, please notify us. If there are significant changes, send in a new form. You will need a new/updated form every October for any children you wish to continue being reimbursed for; this includes your own children, if you are income eligible to claim them. You will not be reimbursed after September 30 for any children who do not have a NEW Enrollment Form.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Collection of Data – Parents should be completing the Ethnicity and Race at the top of the Child Enrollment Form. This data is used to ensure that your home is not discriminating against children based on their Ethnicity or Race. If the parent does not complete this section, the provider must determine an Ethnicity and Race, based upon a visual assessment.

As part of the CACFP your home must comply with all civil rights issues. Families must not be discriminated against based on their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

To comply with the Civil Rights Act you need to put the following Non-Discrimination Statement in your Handbook or any other print materials you give to the parents in your care. The USDA non-discrimination statement below contains important information on what forms of discrimination the USDA prohibits. It also provides information on how a parent/guardian or provider would file a civil rights complaint of discrimination.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](https://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer), (AD-3027) found online at: <https://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Paid for with USDA funds.

Also, be sure to show diversity and equal opportunity in all photos and graphics you use on your website and other print materials. Please contact our office if you ever need assistance or have question(s) on what is considered reasonable accommodations.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) developed a free Civil Rights on-line course. To register and take the class, visit www.michigan.gov/cacfp, scroll down to the training section, and click on Civil Rights E-Learning Course.

PROVIDER INCOME ELIGIBILITY STATEMENT

You may be reimbursed for your own children until their 13th birthday if you meet income guidelines and have an approved Provider Income Eligibility Statement on file with us. If you are a Tier I Home, based on area eligibility, no

income documentation is required with the Provider Income Eligibility Statement for approval. If you are a Tier II Home, income documentation must be submitted with the Provider Income Eligibility Statement for approval. If income eligible, at least one day care child must be present and claimed in order to be reimbursed for your own children. This means your child must eat at the same time as another day care child to be reimbursed. If you claim your own children, be sure to submit a Child Enrollment Form for them.

If you are a Tier II Home and have no children of your own under thirteen years of age, you may submit a Provider Income Eligibility Statement with the required income documentation for approval to receive Tier I Rates.

A new Provider Income Eligibility Statement and the required income documentation must be on file at the Vibrant Futures office every October. Parent fees must be included as income. You **may** need a new Provider Income Eligibility Statement if you move and already have one approved within the Fiscal Year (October 1 – September 30).

HOUSEHOLD INCOME ELIGIBILITY STATEMENTS

If you are a Tier II Home, you may request Household Income Eligibility Statements from Vibrant Futures for the families in your care. It is your responsibility to call your Specialist and request the number of Income Eligibility Statements you need mailed to you and distribute them to your families in care. The statement is completed by the parent/guardian and submitted to Vibrant Futures. We are not permitted to let you know if it is approved, or any other information included on the statement. In addition, we cannot tell you if the statement has been returned, as it is the Parent's/Guardian's choice to mail it back to Vibrant Futures.

APPROVAL OF INCOME ELIGIBILITY STATEMENTS

Reimbursement for child(ren) listed on a Household and/or Provider Income Eligibility Statement is retroactive to the 1st of the month that the statement is approved. Example: If we receive a statement on August 29th, and we do not approve it until September 5th, reimbursement may begin September 1st if the statement is approved. If it is approved on August 29th, reimbursement may begin August 1st.

LICENSED/LICENSE-EXEMPT RELATED CHILD CARE CHANGES

To avoid loss of reimbursement, please notify your Specialist immediately if you move, your license expires, your capacity changes, you go from a Family Home to a Group Home, a Group Home to a Family Home, your license number changes, or you stop providing License-Exempt Related Child Care. **We cannot reimburse you until the necessary paperwork is completed.**

If you are a Licensed Child Care Provider and moving, the following steps must be taken in order for reimbursement to continue:

1. Contact the Child Care Licensing Division at 1-866-685-0006.
2. Process the necessary paperwork for a new license for your new address. If your license is closed, you cannot be reimbursed.
3. Inform your Vibrant Futures CACFP Specialist of the address change.

GENERAL

You may claim up to two meals and one snack, or one meal and two snacks per child per day.

You may be reimbursed for day care children until their 13th birthday and your own children until age thirteen, if income eligible.

If you are a Tier 2 provider, you may ask us for a reclassification to be considered when new Census Data becomes available each year in February, and that reclassification may be made at any time. Please note that Vibrant Futures checks all Tier 2 homes for possible area eligibility which includes looking at new School Data and Census Data when new School Data is released by the Michigan Department of Education every February/March.

Keep a supply of menus and Child Enrollment Forms. If you are a Tier II Home, keep a few Household Income Eligibility Statements on file for new families in your care. Please be sure to ask your CACFP Specialist for any forms you need on your home visits to keep our mailing costs to a minimum. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING THE FORMS YOU NEED.**

The Vibrant Futures CACFP will not enter into an Agreement with a provider if they have had non-compliance/serious deficiency issues with other CACFP Sponsors and may choose not to renew with existing providers who have been on Corrective Action.

Vibrant Futures Child and Adult Care Food Program Guidelines for Non-Compliance

A Family Child Care Home Sponsor must initiate action to terminate the Agreement of a child care home for cause if the child care home has committed one or more serious deficiencies. A Provider once determined deficient will be asked to send a Corrective Action Plan to the Sponsor. The request will be sent by Certified Return Receipt mail (or the equivalent private delivery service) and by regular mail, by facsimile or email. If the notice is undeliverable, it is considered to be received five calendar days after being sent to the addressee's last known mailing address, facsimile number or email address. Once the plan is received, and accepted, a temporary deferral is sent, then a follow up visit is conducted and the Provider is either found to be in compliance, or an intent to terminate participation from the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is sent Certified Return Receipt to the Provider. A Provider has the right to appeal an intent to terminate participation from the CACFP.

If the same serious deficiency is cited in less than 30 months or 8 visits, the sponsor must propose to terminate. If thirty months or eight visits pass and the same deficiency is cited for the same Provider, a new serious deficiency must be started.

Termination: A period of up to seven years during which a Provider cannot participate in the CACFP. The Provider's name is placed on a National Disqualified List. Additionally, the Provider will not be able to participate until all funds owed to the CACFP are paid in full. Reasons for termination may extend beyond a fiscal year.

A Provider could be terminated from the CACFP according to the United States Department of Agriculture for any of the following serious deficiencies, but not limited to:

- Submission of false information on the application.
- Submission of false claims for reimbursement.
- Simultaneous participation under more than one Sponsoring Organization.
- Non-compliance with CACFP meal patterns.
- Failure to keep required records.
- Conduct or conditions that threaten the health or safety of a child(ren) in care or the public health and safety.*
- A determination that the child care home has been convicted of any activity that occurred during the past seven years that indicated a lack of business integrity. A lack of business integrity includes fraud, antitrust violations, embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, receiving stolen property, making false claims, obstruction of justice or any other activity indicating a lack of business integrity as defined by the Michigan Department of Education CACFP or the concealment of such a conviction..
- Failure to participate in CACFP training.
- Any other circumstances related to non-performance under the Provider/Sponsoring Organization Agreement. This includes being over capacity more than once.

* When the serious deficiency constitutes an imminent threat to the health or safety of children, the Sponsor must immediately suspend the Provider's participation using the suspension procedures in 226.16(1)(4). The Sponsor is also required to send in a complaint to the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), Bureau of Community and Health Systems, Child Care Licensing Division stating the health and safety violations.

Appeal Procedures

All Licensed and License-Exempt Related Child Care Providers (providers) who receive a notice of proposed termination, disqualification or suspension in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for cause have the right to appeal and request an administrative review appeal. An appeal is a process by which an impartial hearing official reviews information provided by the CACFP Family Day Care Home (FDCH) Sponsor and the provider to determine if procedures were followed and were within the federal and state laws, regulations, policies, and procedures governing the CACFP.

Purpose

The CACFP appeal procedures allow providers participating in the program an avenue for appealing the action of their FDCH Sponsor.

A provider may appeal (request an administrative review) when the FDCH Sponsor:

1. Proposes termination of the provider's program participation.
2. Proposes to disqualify the provider from future CACFP participation.
3. Suspends the provider's agreement for program participation.

Procedure

Notification, request, and procedure for hearing:

1. Whenever the FDCH Sponsor takes action that will affect the participation of a provider in the CACFP, the FDCH Sponsor will inform the provider in writing of the action and the ground which its decision is based. The FDCH Sponsor will advise the provider of their right to appeal.
2. Upon receipt of the notice detailing the action to be taken, the provider must submit to the FDCH Sponsor a written request for appeal postmarked no later than 15 calendar days from the date the notice was received by the provider. The appeal request must be sent to the FDCH Sponsor via certified mail. The address is as follows:

**Vibrant Futures
Attention: Shelly Vondale
233 Fulton Street East Ste 107
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-3262**

The FDCH Sponsor will forward the original copy of the appeal request to the hearing official via certified mail.

3. The provider may refute the charges by providing written documentation to the FDCH Sponsor in order for the request for an appeal to be considered. The documentation must be filed with the FDCH Sponsor within ten calendar days of the request for an appeal. The FDCH Sponsor will forward the information to the hearing official no later than five calendar days after the additional written documentation is received from the provider. The hearing official will review only the written documentation/record unless there are extenuating circumstances, as defined by the hearing official. The provider may select to have a written review, written review with in-person argument, or an in-person hearing. The hearing official will set the time and place for the review of the provider records and FDCH Sponsor records, if there is an in-person hearing.
4. In the case of an in-person hearing, failure of the provider to appear at a scheduled hearing will forfeit the provider's right to appeal.
5. The provider may represent him/herself, may be represented by another person, or may retain legal counsel.
6. Any information on which the FDCH Sponsor's action was based will be available to the provider for review. The hearing official will ensure copies of this information are available to the provider, if necessary.
7. The hearing official will make a decision based solely on information provided by the FDCH Sponsor, the provider, and on program regulations, federal and state laws, procedures governing the CACFP, and Provider/Sponsor Agreement.

8. The provider, the FDCH Sponsor's Chief Executive Officer, and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) must be notified in writing of the hearing official's final decision within 75 days from the date of the receipt of the request for appeal.
9. The provider may continue to operate during an appeal unless there is evidence of imminent threat or danger to the health or welfare of the children.
10. Providers continuing to operate while appealing will be reimbursed for any eligible meals served during the period of the appeal.
11. During the period of the review by the hearing official, the FDCH Sponsor will not take action to collect or offset an overpayment noted in the termination letter.
12. The decision by the hearing official is the final administrative decision. There is no further opportunity to appeal to MDE.
13. If the provider loses the appeal, the termination date of the agreement is the date of the hearing official's decision.
14. The provider will be placed on the National Disqualified List (NDL) for a period of seven years, or until such time as the FDCH Sponsor, in consultation with MDE, determines that the Serious Deficiency (SD) has been fully corrected. However, if any debt relating to the SD has not been repaid, the provider will remain on the list until the debt has been repaid.

Appeal Procedures – Notice of Suspension

Whenever a FDCH Sponsor suspends the participation of a provider for imminent threat to the safety or health of participants, the provider must be notified both verbally and in writing that CACFP participation has been suspended, that the Day Care Home is Seriously Deficient (SD), and the FDCH Sponsor proposes to terminate the provider's agreement for cause. The written notification must be sent by certified mail.

1. The notice must specify the SD found and state that the provider has the opportunity for an appeal of the proposed termination and disqualification from the CACFP.
2. The written notice must inform the provider that CACFP participation, including all payments, will remain suspended until a final decision is made by the hearing official.
3. The written notice must inform the provider that if the hearing official overturns the suspension, the provider may claim CACFP reimbursement for eligible meals served during the suspension.
4. The written notice must inform the provider that termination of the CACFP agreement will result in being listed on the National Disqualified List. The provider will remain on this list for a period of seven years or until such time that the FDCH Sponsor, in consultation with MDE, determines that the SD has been corrected. However, if any debt relating to the SD has not been repaid, the provider will remain on the list until the debt has been repaid.
5. The written notice must inform the provider that if the provider seeks to voluntarily terminate the CACFP Agreement after receiving the notice of the proposed termination, the provider will still be considered terminated for cause and the FDCH Sponsor will propose to place the provider on the National Disqualified List.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: <https://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.