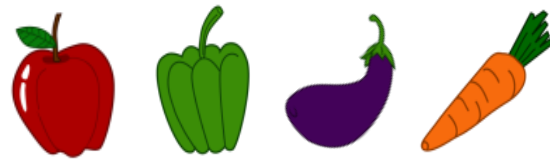


Healthier CACFP Award Application



C A C F P

**Child & Adult Care
Food Program**





Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

Table of Contents

General Information	pg. 3
Application Cover Sheet	pg. 4
Category 1: Menus Criteria	pg. 5-7
Category 2: Physical Activity Criteria	pg. 8-9
Category 3: Professional Development Criteria	pg. 10-11
Category 4: Nutrition and Wellness Environment Criteria	pg. 12-14
Category 5: Infant Care Criteria	pg. 15
Application Verification Form	pg. 16
Home Sponsoring Organization Verification Form.....	pg. 17



Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

General Information

What is it?

The Healthier Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Award is a recognition system that supports the wellness efforts of child care providers, center staff, and home providers (referred to as “caregiver” going forward) participating in CACFP. Caregivers going above and beyond the Program requirements by taking steps to improve the menus, physical activity, professional development, nutrition and wellness environment and/or infant care can apply for an award in one or more of these categories. Three award levels are offered: Honors, High Honors and Highest Honors.

Why is it important?

Child caregivers have an opportunity to positively impact children’s healthy development by encouraging children to develop healthy habits at a young age.

Am I eligible to apply?

Participation in the CACFP and compliance with CACFP regulations is required to be eligible for the award. Meeting the award criteria and receiving an award does not replace CACFP requirements. Applicants are required to be in good standing with the CACFP, defined as having completed and implemented all corrective actions from the most recent compliance review and having not been seriously deficient in the past two years, at the time of application. CACFP daycare centers, family daycare homes and At-risk programs are all welcome to apply.

How do I apply?

The program application includes criteria in five categories: Menus, Physical Activity, Professional Development, Nutrition and Wellness Environment and Infant Care. Applicants can choose which category(ies) they would like to apply for and at which level. Home caregivers should submit applications to the Home Sponsor for compliance verification (Home Sponsor signs the Home Sponsoring Organization Verification Form then sends the completed application and to the State Agency). Centers should submit applications directly to the State Agency for verification. Applications must include submission of the requested support documentation as listed in the “Evaluation” columns in the application. Instructions should be read carefully in each category to determine which criteria need to be met to achieve the different award levels. It is highly recommended that applicants utilize the Healthier CACFP Award Resource Book, which explains “why” for each criterion and provides guidance and tools to assist with implementing the criteria.

How am I recognized?

Winners are recognized with awards issued jointly by the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, and State agency that showcase the caregiver’s achievement. Award recognition includes an award certificate (one for each award category achieved) and a congratulatory letter to your organization. Contact your State Agency to find out more about any State-specific award incentives being offered to Healthier CACFP Award winners.

What is the award time period?

The expiration date for all awards is two years from the USDA issue date. The caregiver is welcomed and encouraged to apply for a higher level award at any time or to apply for an award again once their existing award nears the expiration date.



Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

Application Cover Sheet

Award level applying for:

☐ Honors

☐ High Honors

☐ Highest Honors

Application for (check all categories applying for):

☐ Menus

☐ Physical Activity

☐ Professional Development

☐ Nutrition and Wellness Environment

☐ Infant Care

Type of CACFP Provider:

☐ Daycare Center

☐ Daycare Home

☐ At-risk Program

Home Provider/Center Name: _____

Home Provider/Center Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Age Range of Children in Care: _____

Contact Person's Name & Title: _____

Contact Person's Phone Number & Email: _____

Date Submitted to State Agency: _____

State Agency

Approved by State Child Nutrition Director: _____

Signature

Date

Regional Office

Reviewed by: _____

Approved by Child Nutrition Director: _____

Signature

Date

Award Issue Date: _____

Award Expiration Date: _____ (2 years from issue date)



Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

General Criteria	Award Level General Requirements			Evaluation
	Honors	High Honors	Highest Honors	
All corrective actions from the most recent compliance review have been completed and implemented. Program has not been seriously deficient in the past two years.	√	√	√	State Agency to verify prior to submitting application to Regional Office
Category 1: Menus	Award Level General Requirements			Evaluation
MENUS for children over the age of one year				
Reimbursable meals meet the USDA requirements. All meals meet the CACFP meal patterns for 4 consecutive weeks.	√	√	√	Submit 4 consecutive weeks of menus for meals claimed.
Reviewed menus meet the criteria below:				
Variety of Fruits and Vegetables Served ¹				Describe fruit and vegetables on menu as canned, fresh or frozen. (i.e., may manually write “canned”, “fresh” or “frozen” on menu)
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables:				
- Fresh vegetables must be served each week at least: - Fresh fruit must be served each week at least:	2x/week	3x/week	4x/week	
A different fruit ² is served at each meal/snack over the course of a day.	√	√	√	Identify vegetable subgroups on menu (i.e., may manually write the subgroup on menu)
Vegetable Subgroups ³ :	√	√	√	
Dark green vegetables served once per week.	√	√	√	
Red and/or orange vegetables served once per week.	√	√	√	
Beans and peas (legumes) served once per week.	√	√	√	
Pre-fried ⁴ , breaded vegetables (i.e., tater tots, French fries, onion rings) are limited to:	≤ 2x/month	≤ 1x/month	Never Served	
If snack is served, at least 1 of the 2 required components is a vegetable or a fruit.	3x/week	4x/week	5x/week	

¹ Fruits and vegetables must be of appropriate texture based on the child's development to prevent choking.

² Fruit may be fresh, frozen, canned or dried. Dried fruit must have no added sweetener; canned fruit must be packed in juice or light syrup.

³ Includes but not limited to - Dark Green: broccoli, spinach, raw leafy greens. Red/Orange: carrots, red peppers, sweet potatoes, tomatoes. Beans and Peas: black beans, kidney beans, lentils, refried beans, pinto beans, navy beans, great northern beans (does not include green beans and green peas). <https://www.choosemyplate.gov/vegetables> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs>

⁴ Includes foods that are pre-fried, flash-fried, or par-fried by the manufacturer, such as tater tots, French fries or onion rings. Deep fat-fried foods (cooked by submerging in hot oil or other fat) that are prepared on-site are prohibited. Cooking methods such as sautéing or pan-frying is acceptable.



Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

100% Juice is limited to:	≤ 2x/week	≤ 1x/week	Never Served	Identify when served on menu
Milk Serve only unflavored milk to <u>ALL participants</u> . Low-fat (1% or less) and/or fat free (skim) are served to participants over 2. Only whole milk is served to participants between the ages 1-2.	√	√	√	Identify type of milk and age groups served on menu.
Grains Whole grain-rich foods ⁵ are served.	2x/day	2x/day (two different types of whole grain-rich foods must be offered each week)	All grains served must be whole grain-rich (three different types of whole grain-rich foods must be offered each week)	Identify whole grain-rich items on menus.
Sweet crackers (including graham crackers and animal crackers) are limited to:	≤ 1x/week	≤ 2x/month	Never Served	Submit documentation showing whole grain-rich criteria is met (policy memo: CACFP 09-2018)
Grain-based desserts ⁶ are never served as an additional food item that is not contributing to the reimbursable meal. (holidays and birthdays are exempt)	√	√	√	Submit recipe for homemade items.

⁵ Whole grain-rich criteria foods contain at least 50 percent whole grains and the remaining grains in the food are enriched, or are 100 percent whole grain. Refer to policy memo CACFP 09-2018 for detailed criteria https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cacfp/CACFP09_2018os.pdf

Different types of whole grain-rich foods include: whole-wheat bread, whole-wheat rolls, whole-wheat tortillas, brown rice, whole-wheat pasta, whole cornmeal, quinoa, or oatmeal.

⁶ Grain-based desserts are those items that are denoted with a superscript 3 or 4 in the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Exhibit A. The following foods are considered grain-based desserts: cookies, sweet pie crusts, doughnuts, cereal bars, breakfast bars, granola bars, sweet rolls, toaster pastries, cake, and brownies.



Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

Meat/Meat Alternates				
Higher fat meats and entrees that are processed and preserved ⁷ are limited to:	≤ 1x/week	≤ 2x/month	Never Served	Identify on menu if the items are homemade (i.e., may manually write "homemade" on menu).
Incorporate lean meats ⁸ , nuts/seeds, and/or tofu into menu.	√	√	√	Identify cheese types on menu (i.e., may manually write "low fat", "natural" or "reduced" on menu).
Serve only natural cheese and choose low-fat or reduced-fat cheeses.	√	√	√	
Incorporate seasonally and/or locally produced food into meals.	2x/month	3x/month	4x/month	Identify seasonal and locally produced items on menus. (i.e., may manually write "seasonal" on menu).
Non-creditable sweetened foods are limited ⁹ .	≤ 3x/week	≤ 2x/week	Never Served	Identify when served on menu

⁷ All meat or poultry products preserved by smoking, curing, salting and/or the addition of chemical preservatives. Processed meats and poultry include all types of meat and poultry sausages (bologna, frankfurters, luncheon meats and loaves, sandwich spreads, Viennas, chorizo, kielbasa, pepperoni, salami, and summer sausages), bacon, smoked or cured ham or pork shoulder, corned beef, pastrami, pig's feet, beef jerky, and smoked turkey/chicken products.

⁸ Examples include 95% lean cooked ground beef, beef top round steak or roast, beef tenderloin, pork top loin chop or roast, pork tenderloin, ham or turkey deli slices, skinless chicken breast, and skinless turkey breast.

⁹ Non-creditable sweetened foods are sources of added sugars, such as sweet toppings (e.g., honey, jam, syrup), mix in ingredients sold with yogurt (e.g., honey, candy, or cookie pieces).



Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

General Criteria	Award Level General Requirements			Evaluation
	Honors	High Honors	Highest Honors	
All corrective actions from the most recent compliance review have been completed and implemented. Program has not been seriously deficient in the past two years.	√	√	√	State Agency to verify prior to submitting application to Regional Office
Category 2: Physical Activity	Award Level General Requirements			Evaluation
	Honors	High Honors	Highest Honors	
Television, DVD and video watching and computer use is prohibited for children under the age of 2.	√	√	√	Submit written policy.
For children over two, screen time* of educational/movement material is limited to:	No more than 30 minutes/day	No more than 15 minutes/day	No more than 30 minutes/week	Submit written policy and submit copies of daily schedules highlighting screen time.
Moderate to vigorous physical activity is provided during each full day of care (8 to 9 hour day) for at least:	45-60 minutes	60-90 minutes	90-120 minutes	Submit written policy and submit copies of daily schedules highlighting moderate and vigorous activity.
Periods of inactivity (at one time), excluding nap time and meal times, are limited to:	≤ 30 minutes on 2 occasions/day; or ≤ 60 minutes on 1 occasion/day	≤ 30 minutes on 1 occasion/day	≤ 15 minutes at a time	Submit written policy and submit copies of daily schedules highlighting the periods of inactivity.
The physical activity provided during each full day of care (8+ hour day) includes: ○ Both indoor and outdoor activities, ○ Unstructured physical activity (free play), and ○ Structured physical activity (age appropriate activities guided by the caregiver)	√ At least 30 minutes At least 30 minutes	√ At least 45 minutes At least 45 minutes	√ At least 60 minutes At least 60 minutes	Submit written policy and submit copies of daily schedules highlighting the periods of inactivity.
Active play time is not restricted as punishment.	√	√	√	Submit written policy.

*Television, DVD, video watching, cell phone use (playing games) and computer use.



Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

Physical activity curriculums, which encourage a variety of basic movement and manipulative skills, are utilized at least weekly.		√	√	Submit written policy and copies of physical activity curriculums utilized.
Physical activity ideas and resources are sent home with parents at least monthly.			√	Submit a sampling of the parent correspondence (e.g., newsletter, email, social media, etc.) which contain this information.
Make drinking water freely available, both indoors and outdoors, throughout the day.	√	√	√	Submit written policy.
During outdoor physical activity, children have access to sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher. Follow State guidelines on sunscreen application.	√	√	√	Submit written policy.



Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

General Criteria		Award Level General Requirements			Evaluation
		Honors	High Honors	Highest Honors	
All corrective actions from the most recent compliance review have been completed and implemented. Program has not been seriously deficient in the past two years.		√	√	√	State Agency to verify prior to submitting application to Regional Office
Category 3: Professional Development		Award Level General Requirements			Evaluation
		Honors	High Honors	Highest Honors	
Director or Authorized Representative ¹ attended an online or in-person CACFP Meal Pattern training provided by a State Agency, Sponsoring Organization, or Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN)		√	√	√	Submit copies of training attendance records or training certificates.
Online or in-person trainings provided by USDA Food and Nutrition Service, USDA SNAP-Ed, State Agency, Sponsoring Organization, State Extension programs, ICN and/or Professional Organizations. Training topics may include: child wellness, nutrition, food safety and/or food allergies*					
Director or Authorized Representative¹ AND Lead Teachers and Other Staff²		6 hours/year	8 hours/year	10 hours/year	
		3 hours/year	4 hours/year	5 hours/year	
¹ Director or Authorized Representative is defined as the person who is authorized to receive reimbursement for the CACFP. This includes a Daycare Home Provider. ² Lead Teachers and Other Staff are defined as staff specifically involved in child wellness, including planning, preparing, and serving the CACFP meals. * Examples of acceptable online wellness trainings are listed on the following page.					



Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

Examples of online wellness training opportunities that may be used to meet criteria (this is not an all-inclusive list):

- CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays Webinar Series: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/cacfp-halftime-thirty-thursdays-training-webinar-series> (30 minutes each)
- ICN Online Trainings:
 - Food Safety in Child Care: <https://theicn.docebosaas.com/learn/public/course/view/elearning/20/food-safety-in-child-care> (4 hours)
 - Care Connection - Planning Cycle Menus in Child Care: <https://theicn.docebosaas.com/learn/public/course/view/elearning/51/care-connection-planning-cycle-menus-in-child-care> (2 hours)
 - CARE Connection - Planning Snacks as an Education Activity: <https://theicn.docebosaas.com/learn/public/course/view/elearning/52/care-connection-planning-snacks-as-an-education-activity> (1 hour)
 - CARE Connection - Serving Nutritious Foods in Child Care: <https://theicn.docebosaas.com/learn/public/course/view/elearning/53/care-connection-serving-nutritious-foods-in-child-care> (2 hours)
 - CARE Connection - Step-by-step Menu Planning in Child Care: <https://theicn.docebosaas.com/learn/public/course/view/elearning/54/care-connection-step-by-step-menu-planning-in-child-care> (4 hours)
 - Family Child Care FUNdamentals: <https://theicn.docebosaas.com/learn/public/course/view/elearning/57/family-child-care-fundamentals> (7 hours)
- Kansas Department of Education - Online Classes - KSDE Training Portal: <https://learning.ksde.org/moodle/login/index.php> A current list of online training classes is posted at www.kn-eat.org, Training.
- Iowa Department of Education – CACFP Wellness Courses: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/quick-links-nutrition/learning-tools-nutrition/cacfponline Trainings>
- Minnesota Department of Education: Introduction to Behavioral Economics for Child Care: <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Video/?group=Educ&id=059296> (1 hour)
- Smarter Mealtimes: <http://www.k12.wa.us/ChildNutrition/Programs/NSLBP/pubdocs/2015-11-20CreatingSmarterMealtimes.wmv> (1 hour)
- 2 Part Webinar: Smarter Mealtimes for Early Childhood Education Settings: <https://learn.extension.org/events/3133> (1 hour)



Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

General Criteria	Award Level General Requirements			Evaluation
	Honors	High Honors	Highest Honors	
All corrective actions from the most recent compliance review have been completed and implemented. Program has not been seriously deficient in the past two years.	√	√	√	State Agency to verify prior to submitting application to Regional Office
Category 4: Nutrition and Wellness Environment				
	Award Level General Requirements			Evaluation
	Honors	High Honors	Highest Honors	
Directions specific to this section:	All checked plus 6 additional	All checked plus 10 additional	All checked plus 15 additional	
Create a written policy outlining your commitment to creating a healthy nutrition and wellness environment for all children in your care.				
Complete the Smarter Mealtimes Scorecard at least once per year.	√	√	√	Submit completed scorecard(s).
Written policy is shared with parents and reviewed on an annual basis (or more often as needed).	√	√	√	Submit written nutrition and wellness environment policy containing all of the required elements to meet the specific award level
Implements age appropriate CACFP family style meal service including using size-appropriate serving utensils and the caregiver seated at the table with and eating the same food as the children.				
The daily schedule promotes a relaxed and adequate period for meals and snacks. Children have ample time to eat and practice social interaction skills such as having a conversation.				
Food is not used as incentive or punishment and children are not punished or rewarded for what they choose to eat. Food is not withheld as punishment and children are not forced to eat foods as a prerequisite to receiving an item or completing an activity.				
Children are instructed in hand washing techniques and both children and staff wash their hands before and after meals and snack.				





Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

Menus are available and shared for staff and parents. Children and parents have opportunities to provide input on the food and menus.			
Children are taught developmentally appropriate table manners.			
Nutrition education is woven into activities throughout the day and provided through standardized curriculum (i.e., Team Nutrition, MyPlate or state designed nutrition education curriculum). Visible nutrition education includes posters, books and pictures.			
Parents are encouraged to volunteer/participate in mealtimes and/or nutrition education activities.			
Children are given the opportunity to be involved in mealtime through age appropriate activities such as setting the table, preparing food and cleaning up after meals.			
Screen time is limited to no more than 30 minutes per week for children two and older and never during meal times. Zero screen time for infants/toddlers under two years old.			
Children have the opportunity to see, identify, taste and enjoy a variety of foods that are culturally significant and/or locally grown.			
The daycare center or home has a fruit, vegetable and/or herb garden (included pots or raised beds) and children get frequent access to working in that garden (e.g., planting, weeding, watering, harvesting, etc).			
Garden-focused nutrition education including hands-on activities (e.g., cooking, food preparation, taste testing, etc) is incorporated into curriculum.			
Parents are encouraged to bring non-food items for celebrations. Holidays are celebrated with mostly healthy foods or with non-food treats (e.g., stickers, crayons, etc).			





Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

Fundraising activities involving children and families support the healthy environment. If foods outside of the program meals/snacks are sold on-site, they are healthy and nutritious.

Food in vending machines, if present in your facility, are located in areas not visible or accessible to children.





Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

General Criteria		Award Level General Requirements High Honors	Evaluation
All corrective actions from the most recent compliance review have been completed and implemented. Program has not been seriously deficient in the past two years.		√	State Agency to verify prior to submitting application to Regional Office
Category 5: Infant Care Directions specific to this section:		Award Level General Requirements High Honors	Evaluation
Create a written policy outlining your commitment to creating a healthy infant care environment.			
Breastfeeding is encouraged and supported. Breastfeeding resources are promoted and available to parents.		√	Submit written infant care policy containing all of the required elements
Infants are offered a variety of solid foods that are the appropriate texture for their developmental readiness.		√	
Infants are always laid down to sleep on their backs.		√	
Breastfeeding mothers are accommodated with a separate area to breastfeed and/or pump breast milk. The separate area is a quiet, clean and sanitary place that is not a restroom.		√	
Infants are not exposed to screen time at all while in your care (includes television, computer and phone screens).		√	
Infants have an opportunity for “tummy time” multiple times throughout their day. Tummy time is defined as “placing a baby on her stomach while awake and supervised”.		√	
Caregiver reads to infants daily.		√	
Infants are taken outside daily (weather permitting) through walks, outdoor play or other activities giving them access to nature.		√	
Infants are fed on demand and not on a strict feeding schedule.		√	

*High Honors is the only award level for the Infant Care section.



Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

Application Verification Form

Please read the following and obtain the signatures listed below, as applicable*:

We attest to the accuracy of the information provided in this application. We agree to maintain the wellness excellence standards and procedures indicated in this application in accordance with our certification as Honors, High Honors, or Highest Honors awardees. Furthermore, we agree to cooperate with USDA and other organizations upon request to publicize our efforts.

Authorized Representative _____

Board President/Owner _____

Grant Director/Applicant _____

*If you are unsure which signature(s) must be included, please contact your State agency.

Please submit your completed application and documentation to your State Child Nutrition Agency. Home Providers must send the completed application and documentation to the Sponsoring Organization for review. The Sponsoring Organization must sign the Home Sponsoring Organization Verification Form prior to sending the completed application and documentation to the State Child Nutrition Agency.

Thank you for applying for the Healthier CACFP Award!





Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

Home Sponsoring Organization Verification Form

Please read the following and obtain the signatures listed below, as applicable*:

We attest to the accuracy of the information provided in this application. The Home Provider completed and implemented all corrective actions from the most recent compliance review and has not been seriously deficient in the past two years. Furthermore, we agree to cooperate with the State agency and USDA if additional documentation is requested to verify the application.

Principle/Director _____

Board President/Executive _____

*If you are unsure which signature(s) must be included, please contact your State agency.

Please submit your completed application and documentation to your State Child Nutrition Agency.

Thank you for applying for the Healthier CACFP Award!





Healthier CACFP Award Application

Recognizing Wellness Excellence in Child Care

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, familial/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

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 responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, this information is available in languages other than English.

To file a complaint alleging discrimination, please complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or 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:

mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

fax:

(202) 690-7442; or

email:

program.intake@usda.gov.

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