

# HOW TO OVERCOME OBJECTIONS TO FOOD PROGRAM

## PARTICIPATION

Information provided by Tom Copeland



### Financial Objections

- At \$.19 per snack it's not enough money to make it worthwhile for me.
  - One snack a day for one child for a year = \$49.40
  - Four children = \$197.60
  - If you spend five minutes a day of recordkeeping, you will earn about \$9.00 per hour if you care for four children
- I don't care for enough children to make it worthwhile for me to participate.
  - One child (breakfast, lunch, snack) at Tier II rates equals \$548.60 (based on five days per week)
  - One child (breakfast, lunch, snack) at Tier I rates equals \$1,141.40 (based on five days per week)
- I can make just as much money whether I am on or off the food program.
  - Not unless you raise your annual rates per child by \$548.60 (\$10.55 per week) or \$1,141.40 (\$21.95 per week)

### Recordkeeping Objections

- It takes too long to fill out all the paperwork.
  - If you are on Tier II and spend three hours per week on paperwork caring for one child, you will earn \$3.51 per hour. For four children you will earn \$14.06 per hour.
  - If you are on Tier I and spend three hours per week on paperwork caring for one child, you will earn \$7.31 per hour. For four children you will earn \$29.26 per hour.
  - The above numbers assume you are serving one breakfast, one lunch (or dinner) and one snack per day.

### Principal Objections

- I don't want to be receive welfare.
  - The food program is not welfare.
  - The goal of the food program is to ensure that all children receive nutritious foods.
  - All regulated family child care providers are eligible for the program.
- I don't want to ask parents to reveal financial information to sponsors.

- You can still receive Tier II reimbursement for families participating on the food program without having to ask parents for financial information.
- You may be eligible for Tier I based on school or census eligibility and would not require parents to reveal financial information.

## **Is it worthwhile to be on the food program?**

All regulated family child care providers are eligible to participate in the food program. You can receive reimbursement amount (Tier I) if you qualify by school or census area, based on your income or on income of parents.

If you don't meet one of these qualifications, you will receive a lower reimbursement amount (Tier II).

Another reason for staying on the food program or joining a food program is that many parents are concerned about the nutritional quality of the food providers serve their children. Parents can be assured that their children will receive nutritious meals or snacks.

Participation in the food program allows you to be reimbursed for something you already do – as a regulated child care provider you have to serve meals according to USDA guidelines. When you start on the food program, will find that it only takes a few minutes each day to record your meals and attendance. Experienced staff will help you with any nutrition questions you may have.

It is the food program's goal to deliver a high-quality program to you while giving you the tools to serve the children in your care the healthiest meals possible.