

# FOOD PROGRAM Memo



APRIL 2020

The March claim payment will be deposited or checks sent by May 1st.

## WAIVERS

Over the past few weeks 4-C CACFP has sent out several notices regarding CACFP guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Copies of all memos sent are on the 4-C CACFP website <https://www.4-c.org/food-program/2020-program-year-memos.html>.

**Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver** - allows childcare providers to supply meals for their enrolled children, to be eaten off-site, upon submitting a request to their Sponsor (4-C CACFP). Serving meals off-site may better enable you to supply meals to enrolled children while minimizing potential exposure to COVID-19. This waiver took effect March 20, 2020, and will remain in effect through June 30, 2020, or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is sooner.

Below are some clarifications from DPI on this process:

- Providers must take steps to keep cold foods at or below 40°F and hot foods at or above 150°F while transferring meals to families - keep in refrigerated or freezer units/insulated coolers for cold foods and oven/insulated hot boxes for hot foods while holding meals for the family until pick-up or delivery time. Provide instructions to families on storing food below 41 degrees (or kept frozen, if applicable) and on heating foods to an internal temperature of 165°F.
- If the provider's enrolled children are receiving meals from another agency's meal program, providers should not send home and claim for the same meals supplied by another agency's meal program. This is considered "double claiming" of meals within the Child Nutrition Programs.

**Meal Pattern Waiver** - allows meal pattern flexibility to CACFP institutions and facilities experiencing disruptions to the availability of food products resulting from the impacts of COVID-19 public health emergency. This waiver is effective March 25, 2020, until April 30, 2020, or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is soonest.

Below are some clarifications from DPI on this process:

- Sponsors cannot approve waiver requests for all meal components at the same time in anticipation of potential shortages. Meal pattern flexibility waivers can only be approved for component(s) a provider is currently unable to purchase due to unavailability of food products, and not in anticipation of potential shortages of multiple components. Additional waiver request(s) will have to be submitted if the provider experiences unavailability of foods that credit towards a new meal component(s).
- Providers cannot serve non-creditable foods in place of creditable foods since some foods that are normally served cannot be purchased or are limited.

## ANNUAL RE-ENROLLMENT

A reminder that is that time of year for Annual Child Re-Enrollment. Information regarding this process was sent out to everyone at the beginning of the month. A copy of the email as well as the full document can be found on the 4-C CACFP website where the monthly memos are posted <https://www.4-c.org/food-program/2020-program-year-memos.html>.

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**PLEASE NOTE:** We acknowledge that the timing of this is less than ideal due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic. We understand that many child care providers are either temporarily closed or not operating in their normal capacity. All children currently enrolled in care expire on April 30th and need to be re-enrolled in order to submit a claim after that date. For those providers who are not currently providing care, you can get the paperwork ready for when you open again and submit it back to 4-C CACFP at that time. For those providers who have children not currently coming to care, you can get the paperwork ready for when they come back to care and submit it back to 4-C CACFP at that time.

## RESOURCES

There has been lots of information and resources shared from multiple sources in the recent past to try and help everyone with their child care program during the COVID-19 pandemic, so we couldn't possibly compile all of them here. Instead, what we listed below were common topics that have been requested from providers, especially as everyone has been adapting the types of food they buy and how they store it.

- ✓ **Basics for Handling Food Safety** – <https://cutt.ly/Wyog5QW>
- ✓ **Freezing and Food Safety** - <https://cutt.ly/vyohM8g>
- ✓ **Safe Defrosting Methods for Consumers** - <https://cutt.ly/lyoh6WV>
- ✓ **Food Product Dating** - <https://cutt.ly/SyoeO>

## THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding while we navigate this unprecedented situation. We appreciate family child care providers and all that they do!



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