

**North Coast Opportunities, Inc.
Rural Communities Childcare**



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**RURAL COMMUNITIES
CHILD CARE**

Child Care Food Program (CCFP)

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What is the purpose of the Child Care Food Program?

The purpose of the Child Care Food Program is to improve the health and eating habits of the children in a family child care home. At the same time, the Food Program helps to offset the rising cost of food served and subsequently, the cost of child care to parents.

Where does the money come from?

The Child Care Food Program is a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service through the California Department of Education.

Who May Participate?

All licensed family child care providers in Lake and Mendocino Counties are eligible to enroll in the Child Care Food Program sponsored by North Coast Opportunities, Inc. / Rural Communities Child Care.

Who qualifies?

All children in care through age 12 are eligible to participate in the CCFP. Migrant workers' children through age 15, children with disabilities through age 18 and foster children through age 12 also qualify. Provider's own children through age 12 may also qualify if the provider is income eligible, please contact your local R&R for details.

What type of record keeping is involved?

Child Care Meal Count Records and Menus are to be completed daily for each child enrolled in care. These forms are submitted monthly to our Clearlake Office for reimbursement. Child Care Food Program enrollment applications are required for each family and renewed annually each October. Providers who claim their own children or foster children are also required to renew their applications yearly.

How does it work?

The Child Care Food Program offers family child care providers reimbursement at a flat rate for the meals and snacks served to children in their care. Providers will be reimbursed for up to two meals and one snack or two snacks and one meal per day per child.

What are the Rates of Reimbursement?

Annually, rates are determined by the State Department of Education. The actual cost of providing food will be more than these amounts. For the 2025-2026 program year the rates are as follows:

<u>Meal</u>	<u>Tier I</u>	<u>Tier II</u>
Breakfast	1.70	0.61
Lunch/Dinner	3.22	1.94
Snack	.96	.26

What foods need to be served?

Food served must meet minimum quantities appropriate to the age of the child. To qualify for reimbursement, meals served to children over age 1 need to include food from the following components (1) milk, (2) fruit, (3) vegetable, (4) meat or alternate, and (5) bread/grain.

Meal	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Breakfast	X	X*	X*	X**	X**
Lunch/Dinner	X	X	X	X	X

Snacks Any two of the five categories

There are separate requirements for serving infants birth to 1 year

* May have fruit or vegetable

** May substitute meat/alt up to 3x per week for bread/grain

Are there other benefits to the Child Care Food Program?

Staff are always available to assist you and answer your questions about the Child Care Food Program and other child care related issues. Staff offer nutrition information, training and support as needed and visit your child care home during meal service three times per year.