

Tiering

Per Federal regulations, meals are reimbursed at either the higher Tier 1 rates or the lower Tier 2 rates.

Tier designation is determined by either the location of the family day care home, based on census and/or school data, or the provider's household income.

It is the responsibility of the CACFP sponsor to determine the correct Tier designation based on the most current census and school data, and most current income guidelines.

It is the responsibility of the CACFP sponsor to reanalyze the provider's tier designation upon receipt of updated census and school data and upon the expiration date of the provider's Tier 1 determination.

Providers may, at any time, request the sponsor reanalyze their Tier designation based on census, school, and/or income data.

1) Census

- At time of enrollment and, if Tier 2, reanalyzed annually upon receipt of updated Census Data from USDA. Usually Oct 1st.
- Valid for 5 years, then reanalyzed.

2) School Data

- At time of enrollment and, if Tier 2, reanalyzed annually upon receipt of updated Eligible School List from ESE. Usually April 1st.
- Valid for 5 years, unless a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school (4 years), then reanalyzed.

3) Income Eligibility

- At time of enrollment and at any time provider submits Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Form
- Approval gives Tier 1 rates to all children in the providers day care.
- Approval allows provider to claim her own children when they are eating with day care children.
 - Tier 1 providers do not need verification of income
 - Tier 2 providers must submit verification of income including,
 - Most recent 1040
 - Schedule C
- Approval allows provider to claim her own foster children, regardless of household income.
 - Tier 2 providers must submit verification of state placement of foster child.
- Valid until June 30th of current fiscal year.
- Tier 2 providers may choose to have parents submit Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Form
 - Verification of income is not required.
 - Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Forms may be submitted at any time.
 - Parent may submit application directly to sponsor or to the provider.
 - Provider receives the higher Tier 1 rates for only those children whose applications have been approved.
 - Valid until June 30th of current fiscal year.