

CACFP Reimbursement of Breast Milk at Center or Day Care Homes

Did you know that as an early childhood center or home caregiver you may receive reimbursement when serving an infant breast milk, infant formula, or a combination of both? To receive reimbursement, the center or home caregiver must serve and feed the infant a developmentally appropriate meal. The following are eligible for reimbursement:

- **If a parent provides expressed or pumped breast milk the meal is reimbursable.** A baby zero to 6 months of age may be fed solely breast milk as breakfast, lunch, and a snack. As long as the baby is offered the minimum amount of breastmilk required by the CACFP, you can claim it as part of a reimbursable meal even if the baby does not drink all of it. The minimum amount of breastmilk for babies zero to 6 months at breakfast, lunch, supper, and snack is 4–6 fluid ounces. The minimum amount of breastmilk for babies 6 through 11 months is 6–8 fluid ounces at breakfast, lunch, and supper, and 2–4 fluid ounces at snack. **Some babies may regularly drink less than the minimum amount of breast milk required. In this case, you may offer less than the minimum amount of breast milk at each feeding as long as more breast milk is offered later when the baby is hungry.**
- **Giving a baby both breastmilk and infant formula in the same meal or snack is creditable in the CACFP.** Be sure to feed the baby the breast milk first, and then the infant formula.
- **You may claim reimbursement of meals when a parent breastfeeds at your child care site.** This includes meals when the baby is only drinking breast milk. Parents do not need to provide a written request for the meal to be reimbursed. If a parent breastfeeds at your child care site, you may claim that milk as part of a reimbursable meal as long as you provide all other required food components.
- **For children age one year and older, breast milk can be used to meet the CACFP fluid milk component of a meal.** As a CACFP provider, you will still receive reimbursement for meals and snacks when a child receives breast milk after one year of age. A written request from the parent is not required.
- **The Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine recommends a storage time of 5-8 days in very clean conditions for refrigerated breast milk.** Accordingly, in an effort to follow current scientific recommendations, the length of time a center or day care home



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may keep refrigerated bottles of fresh breast milk is 5-8 days in very clean conditions from the time it was collected. Bottles of fresh breast milk must be stored in a refrigerator kept at 39 degrees Fahrenheit or below. This policy supports breastfeeding practices and increases flexibility for centers and day care homes.

Payment Chart

Category	Breakfast	Lunch/Supper	Snack
Category A (Free) child	1.79	3.31	0.91
Category B (Reduced) child	1.49	2.91	0.45
Category C (Paid) Child	0.31	0.31	0.08

For more information consult the USDA's Guide "Feeding Infants in the Child and Adult Care Food Program" available at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/feeding-infants-child-and-adult-care-food-program>.