



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Administered State-Funded Program General Policy D-03 Nutrition and Food Programs

- ☒ OEC Child Day Care Contractors
 - ☐ OEC Competitive School Readiness Municipalities
 - ☐ OEC Priority School Readiness Districts
 - ☐ State Head Start Supplement
 - ☐ OEC Smart Start
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The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides cash assistance for nutritious meals and snacks served in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to infants and children (ages 12 and younger; children of migrant workers ages 15 and younger; and children of any age with disabilities) in public or private nonresidential licensed child care centers. Reimbursement is based on the income level of children in care. Cash assistance is available for up to two meals and one snack, or one meal and two snacks a day for each child. All meals and snacks must meet the requirements of the CACFP meal patterns for children and infants.

Child Day Care Contract providers are required to participate in CACFP. Request for a waiver of this requirement may be submitted to the Office of Early Childhood for the following reasons:

- a). The program can provide documentation that participation in CACFP presents a financial hardship to the program;
- b). The program can document that the CACFP program is incompatible with the needs of the enrolled families; or
- c). Greater than half of the families enrolled in the early care and education program receive services outside of the Child Day Care Contract.

If a waiver is granted, the Child Day Care program must comply with the recommendations from the *Action Guide for Child Care Nutrition and Physical Activity Policies* in order to ensure that children continue to experience nutritious meals provided by parents or other appropriate sources.

**For further information concerning this GENERAL POLICY please contact the OEC program manager.
If you're not sure who that is, visit: <https://www.ctoec.org/contact-us/>**