



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF FOOD AND NUTRITION
PO Box 334
TRENTON NJ 08625-0334

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lieutenant Governor

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Secretary

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP) 2026 MEAL BENEFIT FORMS

USDA CACFP Regulations require a current and complete CACFP eligibility application for all participants determined in the free, reduced or paid eligibility categories. Therefore, institutions must collect eligibility applications annually from each enrolled participant and ensure that eligibility and enrollment documentation is current, complete, and properly determined to receive correct reimbursement rates and proper payments. **Current** means that the eligibility application is signed and dated by parents, participants, or guardians within the last 12 months, documented on the current year eligibility application, and determined properly by the current household income scale on the back of each application. The parent, participant, or guardian's signature and date must be completed to verify that the forms on file are current. **Incomplete, outdated, and missing applications must be classified in the "paid" eligibility category, resulting in the lowest rate of reimbursement paid to your institution for those applications.**

Because the eligibility information is the basis for determining reimbursement rates, it is important that you establish step-by-step procedures for collecting, reviewing, determining, and maintaining household size and gross income documentation for each participant claimed as eligible for the free or reduced rate of reimbursement. It is your responsibility to ensure that this information is complete and that the application is properly determined in order to receive the correct reimbursement rate for each meal and proper payment. Failure to do so could result in incorrect rates of reimbursement, improper payments, and the assessment of an overclaim against your sponsorship.

For your convenience, we have also included the Spanish translation of the following Meal Benefit Forms:

- Meal Benefit Form Instructions
- Letter to Parent/Participants
- Meal Benefit Form – Eligibility Application
- Income Eligibility Guidelines

In addition to the electronic copy of the Spanish translation, Meal Benefit Forms are available in several other languages online and you may view and/or print these forms by visiting the following website:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/english-meal-benefit-income-eligibility-form>

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:**
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**
program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please call the Child and Adult Care Food Program office at (609) 984-1250.

Note: Failure to maintain current eligibility documentation for each participant will result in an overclaim to your sponsorship for any meals claimed for which proper documentation is not available.

2025 Meal Benefit Forms Instr.
5/20/2025