

Reimbursement of Infant Meals in the Child Nutrition Programs

- PURPOSE:** To clarify the reimbursement eligibility of meals served to infants.
- SCOPE:** All institutions and facilities participating in the School Nutrition Programs (SNP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).
- DESCRIPTION:** The child nutrition programs reimburse childcare centers, family day care homes, emergency shelters, schools, and residential childcare institutions for the costs of serving nutritious meals-- including the costs of preparation and clean up of meals--to infants. USDA has revised program policy to recognize the non-food related cost of serving infants by allowing reimbursement for meals containing only infant formula, whether supplied by the caregiver or by the parent.

Reimbursable meals for infants may contain either breast milk or iron-fortified infant formula, or both, supplied by the caregiver or by the parent. However, to receive reimbursement, the caregiver must always offer the infant a complete, developmentally appropriate meal. Because USDA is recognizing the labor involved in serving meals to infants, the meal must be served and fed to the infant by the caregiver.

Source: USDA, School and Community Nutrition Programs, Policy #03-16
USDA, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Policy #03-13