

## “Offer versus Serve” in the Adult Meal Pattern

All of the required meal pattern components must be offered with each meal except for the snack. At the discretion of the adult day center or facility, participants may be permitted to decline a certain number of items without the price or reimbursement for the meal being affected. This provision is called “offer versus serve.” The “offer versus serve” option allows participants to decline individual meal components.

The “offer versus serve” option can be used at breakfast, lunch, or supper meal services. Note that “offer versus serve” is not available for snacks because only two components are required. Facilities that use the “offer versus serve” option must ensure that each participant is served a reimbursable meal. A staff person should verify that meals that are served comply with minimum component requirements.

If a facility uses the “offer versus serve” option, a participant can refuse a different number of components at each meal service:

- Breakfast includes four components—grains/breads (two servings), fruit/vegetable, and milk. **A participant can refuse one item.**
- Lunch includes six components—meat/meat alternate, fruits/vegetables (two servings), milk, and grains/breads (two servings). **A participant can refuse two items.**
- Supper includes five components-- meat/meat alternate, fruits/vegetables (two servings), and grains/breads (two servings). **A participant can refuse two items.**
- Snacks/supplements includes two different components chosen from the following: milk, grains/breads, fruits/vegetables, and meat/meat alternate. ). **A participant must accept both items.**

Centers or facilities may claim three feedings per participant per day—two meals and one snack or on meal and two snacks.