

Residential Foster Children

**PURPOSE:** To clarify the policy regarding foster children residing in family day care homes.

**SCOPE:** Child and Adult Care Food Program Sponsors

**DESCRIPTION:** A foster child is a ward of a court or welfare agency, who has been placed in residence in a private household. Since the court or welfare agency retains legal responsibility for such a child, the foster home is an extension of that agency and a foster child is considered a household of one, eligible for CACFP benefits. Thus, the provider's household income is not a consideration for eligibility of the foster child.

However, since a foster child living in a CACFP family care home is residing in that home, and is thus a residential child, the following conditions must be met in order for the provider to receive CACFP reimbursement for the foster child:

1. At least one non-residential child enrolled and receiving care in the provider's home must be in attendance and participating in the meal service.
2. The foster child must be officially enrolled and participating in the family day care home.
3. The foster child's presence in the family day care home must be in compliance with state or local family day care licensing standards.

**SOURCE:** Policy Memorandum<sup>4</sup>, FY 1993, United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service.