

Definition of Family Day Care Homes

PURPOSE: To put into policy format the definition of the “family day care home” for the purposes of participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

SCOPE: Family day care sponsors and providers participating in the CACFP.

DESCRIPTION: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has redefined the “family day care home” for the purposes of participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

Program regulations at 226.2 clearly state that, “Day care home means an organized nonresidential child care program for children enrolled in a private home, licensed or approved as a family day care home and under the auspices of a sponsoring organization.” To participate in the CACFP as a day care home, day care must be conducted in a private home setting.

A CACFP eligible day care home is one that operates in a private residence. A private residence is a property:

1. Where a licensed provider lives;
2. Where a licensed provider cares for children in someone else’s home; or
3. Where a provider cares for children in a licensed, unoccupied residential facility.

USDA recognizes the right and responsibility of State and local agencies to license homes as they see fit, however, not all such licensed facilities are eligible for CACFP benefits. Commercial properties such as churches, schools, retail establishments, etc., are not eligible to participate in the CACFP as a family day care home. It is the responsibility of the family day care home sponsoring organization to monitor the USDA requirement as a recipient of Federal funds in administering the family day care component of the CACFP.

In addition, the family day care provider may claim only one home on the CACFP. In instances where a provider has more than one home, only one home may be claimed on the CACFP under the provider’s name.

The above was effective October 1, 1994.

SOURCE: Child and Adult Care Food Program 1994 Policy Memorandums 3 and 4; School and Community Nutrition Program Policy Memorandum dated August 9, 1994.