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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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DATE: June 17, 2014  
TO: Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)  
Center-based Institutions  
FROM: Robin Holz, CACFP Lead Consultant - Centers  
Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services  
SUBJECT: Infant Feeding – Clarification on Requirement for the Center to Provide Solid  
Foods  
EFFECTIVE: Immediately

This memorandum supersedes part of the information in Memo CS-2005-14/IC-2005-10 *Changes Regarding Infant Feeding in the CACFP*, dated 9/1/2005. The memo stated when the parent/guardian of infants age 4 through 7 months indicate the infant is ready to have solid food, the center must supply at least one reimbursable item (formula or optional food listed in the meal pattern) at breakfast, lunch, and supper in order to claim the meal. The memo also stated that for infants 8 through 11 months, the center must serve all foods listed in the infant meal pattern and supply at least one reimbursable item (food or formula) in order to claim the meal.

#### **CLARIFICATION FROM USDA FOR CENTERS TO PROVIDE SOLID FOODS**

We have recently received clarification from USDA that when infants are ready for solids, centers must provide all other optional and/or solid foods listed in the infant meal pattern in order to receive reimbursement for the meal. If the parent provides any of the required or optional meal components (except breast milk or iron fortified formula) the meal cannot be claimed.

If the infant requires special food for a documented medical need the center may claim the meal if the parent provides the solid food and the center provides at least one optional or required meal component.

If the center's policies allow it, parents may provide extra foods that may be served in addition the required meal pattern, and the center can still claim the meal, as long as all required solid foods are provided and served by the center.

This information has been updated in Appendix C of the CACFP Administrative Manual (attached).

#### **REQUIREMENT TO OFFER IRON-FORTIFIED INFANT FORMULA NOT CHANGED**

The requirement remains for centers to document in writing they have offered at least one reimbursable infant formula (recommend using the CACFP enrollment form on p. C-17 of the CACFP Administrative Manual). Parents have the opportunity to accept or decline the formula offered by the center. If formula or breast milk is the only component required by the meal pattern (for infants 0-3 months and infants 4-7 months before solid foods are introduced), meals may be claimed if the formula or breast milk is provided by the parent. Parent-provided formula must be a reimbursable formula or an allergy/exception statement must be on file.

If you have questions, contact [robin.holz@iowa.gov](mailto:robin.holz@iowa.gov). (515)281-3484.

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