



TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR  
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RYAN M. WISE, DIRECTOR

Date: April 19, 2016

To: Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Home Sponsors

From: Suzanne Secor Parker, Lead Consultant-Homes  
Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services

Subject: Allowable CACFP Administrative Cost: Thermometers

Effective: Fiscal Year (FY) 2016

Previously Home Sponsor organizations were not allowed to include thermometers (refrigerator/freezer or meat thermometers) as an administrative cost for CACFP provider training or for in-home educational event in the Home Sponsor CACFP budget.

The USDA Regional Office provided clarification regarding this cost. Thermometers are now considered an allowable CACFP cost because they are used for the benefit of enrolled participants (health and safety). If thermometers are planned as an actual training tool submit the CACFP Management Plan Part B. Section 1-D, Participant Training and Other Participant Support Costs in Prior Approval worksheet, and Line 8a, Nutrition Education Materials must be completed in the budget. Documentation of the item(s) planned for purchase must be submitted with the budget.

An educational or training element for providers must be included with these types of purchases as stated above. Simply handing a thermometer to a provider and saying this is to monitor your refrigerator/freezer temperature or to check cooked meat temperature is not sufficient. Educate the provider about proper temperatures (for cooling, freezing and cooking), where to place the thermometer in a refrigerator/freezer, when to check temperatures, and what to do if the temperature is not within a safe range. Leave literature about food storage safety or safe food cooking temperatures. This would be the expectation to make thermometers an allowable expense. Documentation of the educational/training must be maintained.

Thermometers **CANNOT** be purchased to be given to current or potential providers as a gift or an incentive for CACFP participation.

Starting with Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Home Sponsor organizations may include thermometers as a CACFP cost in the CACFP budget if provider training plans for the FY warrant the potential purchase.

The State Agency is responsible for reviewing, and determining whether the cost is reasonable, appropriate for intended purpose, and supported by documentation of the item(s). Costs must be approved in a revised FY2016 budget (or in a future FY budget) before the purchase is paid by the Home Sponsor organization and claimed on the monthly financial claim.

Call (515-281-3744) or email ([CACFP.Registration@iowa.gov](mailto:CACFP.Registration@iowa.gov)) if there are questions.

**Reference:** FNS Instruction FNS 796-2, Rev 4: VIII I 30 a (e)