

## Accommodating Children with Special Dietary Needs and Other Dietary Requests in the CACFP

REQUEST	DEFINITION	AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY	REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION
<b>DISABILITY</b>	Physical or mental impairment which limits one or more major life activities (i.e. breathing, eating, caring for one's self). <sup>1</sup>  <i>Ex. Life-threatening food allergies, metabolic diseases.</i>	<u>Must</u> accommodate children whose disabilities restrict their diets when the need is supported by a statement signed by a licensed physician or state licensed health care professional who is authorized to write medical prescriptions under state law.	The statement must identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The child's disability;</li> <li>✓ Explanation of why the disability restricts the child's diet;</li> <li>✓ The major life activity affected by the disability;</li> <li>✓ The food(s) to be omitted from the child's diet and the food(s) that must be substituted.</li> </ul> <p>May use: <a href="#">Eating and Feeding Evaluation Form</a></p>
	Claim meals when there is a medical statement on file and the agency follows its instructions (required).		
<b>OTHER SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS</b>	Medically certified other special dietary need.  <i>Ex. Non-life threatening food allergies, food intolerances.</i>	<u>May</u> provide food substitutions, at their discretion, when the need is supported by a medical statement signed by a recognized medical authority. <sup>2</sup>  A medical statement is not required if the agency substitutes another food item within the meal component (i.e. serve a banana when the child cannot have berries).	The medical statement must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ An identification of the medical or other special dietary condition which restricts the child's diet;</li> <li>✓ The food(s) to be omitted from the child's diet and the food(s) to be substituted.</li> </ul> <p>May use: <a href="#">Eating and Feeding Evaluation Form</a></p>
	Claim meals when there is a medical statement on file. If parent provides substitute, the agency must supply all other required meal components.		
<b>NON-DAIRY MILK SUBSTITUTION</b>	A non-dairy milk substitution <u>nutritionally equivalent to regular milk</u> <sup>3</sup> may be served at the request of a parent for a special diet without a medical statement.	The agency may provide a non-dairy milk substitution nutritionally equivalent to regular milk, or can allow the parent to provide a non-dairy milk substitution nutritionally equivalent to milk.	Written request from parent that identifies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The need for the substitution;</li> <li>✓ The name of the non-dairy milk substitution to be served;</li> <li>✓ Documentation to show the substitution is nutritionally equivalent to milk.</li> </ul> <p>May use: <a href="#">Parent/Guardian Request for Fluid Milk Substitution</a>.</p>
	Claim meals when the substitution is nutritionally equivalent to regular milk and the agency supplies all other required meal components.		
<b>LIFESTYLE CHOICE</b>	Parent requests foods be excluded or wants to provide food substitutions for lifestyle choice(s).  <i>Ex. Religious, vegetarian, organic.</i>	The agency may provide creditable food substitutions and serve the full meal pattern to a child, meals can be claimed. If parents provide substitutions, the child's meals cannot be claimed.	There is no documentation to support lifestyle choice requests.  <i>See Non-Dairy Milk Substitution information if request is only for a non-dairy milk.</i>
	Claim meals when the agency purchases and supplies creditable food substitutions and serves the full meal pattern. <b>When parents provide food substitutions the agency cannot claim.</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Refer to [Eating and Feeding Evaluation Form](#) for more information on, and examples of, disabilities.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to [Guidance Memorandum 12C](#) for a list of Wisconsin recognized medical authorities.

<sup>3</sup> Refer to [Parent/Guardian Request for Fluid Milk Substitution](#) for nutrition standards of milk.

## How to Handle Requests for Different Milks or Milk Substitutions

### Regular CACFP milk requirements:

- The agency purchases and supplies the milk.
- Children age 1: Whole milk is recommended but all milk fat types are okay to serve.
- Children age 2 and older: Fat-free (skim) or Low-Fat (1%) must be served.
- **Milk served may also be the fat-free (skim) or low-fat (1%) form of organic, lactose reduced milk, lactose free milk, buttermilk, or acidified milk.**

It is your agency's responsibility to know when meals can and cannot be claimed for reimbursement when you serve a beverage that does not meet regular CACFP milk requirements. The chart below will help you know what to do depending on the request, documentation on file, and who purchases and supplies the item (the agency or the parents).

In any situation, if you are unsure about claiming a meal for CACFP reimbursement, contact your assigned consultant.

REQUEST	AGENCY PURCHASES AND SUPPLIES	PARENT PURCHASES AND SUPPLIES
Organic	Claim meals.	Cannot claim meals without a medical statement on file to support serving parent supplied organic milk.
Serving a different fat content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole or 2% milk to children ages 2+</li> <li>• Any type of milk to infants (&lt; than 12 months)</li> </ul>	Cannot claim meals without a medical statement on file to support serving milk that is a different fat content.	Cannot claim meals without a medical statement on file to support serving parent-supplied milk that is a different fat content.
Lactose-Free or Lactose-Reduced Milk	Claim meals.	Cannot claim meals without a medical statement on file to support serving parent-supplied lactose free or lactose reduced milk.
Non-dairy milk substitution that <b>IS</b> nutritionally equivalent to milk for <b>lifestyle choice</b>	Cannot claim meals without a written request from the parent and documentation that the substitution is nutritionally equivalent to milk.	Cannot claim meals without a written request from the parent and documentation that the substitution provided by the parent is nutritionally equivalent to milk.
Non-dairy milk substitution that is <b>NOT</b> nutritionally equivalent to milk for <b>lifestyle choice</b>	Cannot claim meals because the non-dairy milk substitution is not nutritionally equivalent to milk.	Cannot claim meals because the non-dairy milk substitution is not nutritionally equivalent to milk.
Any milk substitution for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Disability</b> OR</li> <li>• <b>Medically certified other special dietary need</b></li> </ul>	Cannot claim meals without a medical statement on file to support serving any milk substitution for a disability or medically certified other special dietary need.	Cannot claim meals without a medical statement on file to support serving any parent-supplied milk substitution for a disability or medically certified other special dietary need.
	Agency must offer to purchase and supply the milk substitution when the need is due to a disability and supported by a medical statement; however, it is okay if parents choose to provide the item.	