

CACFP TRAINING Spotlight

DPI COMMUNITY NUTRITION TEAM

IN THIS HANDOUT:

CLAIMING INFANT MEALS

This handout provides information on requirements for serving infants in the CACFP, when infant meals can and cannot be claimed, and recording time of service infant meals and snacks.

Infants are defined as children ages birth through eleven months old.

This handout does not apply to Adult Care Centers.



Requirements for Serving Infants in the CACFP

Offer CACFP Benefits to Infants

Programs providing infant care must offer to supply the following to all infants, even when infant meals and snacks are not being claimed for CACFP reimbursement:

- One type of creditable iron-fortified infant formula (IFIF)
- Creditable developmentally-appropriate foods (iron-fortified infant cereal (IFIC), fruits, vegetables, meat/meat alternate, and grains)



Important Reminder:

Programs cannot require families to provide IFIF, IFIC, or foods for their infant. However, parents may decline the IFIF, IFIC, and foods offered by the program and provide their own.

Serve Meals that Meet CACFP Infant Meal Pattern Requirements

Meals and snacks must include all required components of the Infant Meal Pattern (according to the infant's developmental readiness) and creditable foods.

Meals and snacks must meet the [Infant Meal Pattern](#)

All required meal components in the minimum amounts are served (according to the infant's developmental readiness)

Foods served must be CACFP creditable

What Food Are Creditable?
Refer to [Foods for Infants](#) and [Crediting Infant Foods](#)



Grain items (ex. bread, ready-to-eat cereal, pancakes, waffles, etc.) are not part of the **Breakfast, Lunch, and Supper Infant Meal Pattern**. Infants eating table foods must be served IFIC, a meat/meat alternate, or both at these meals. Grain items can only be served as an extra item.

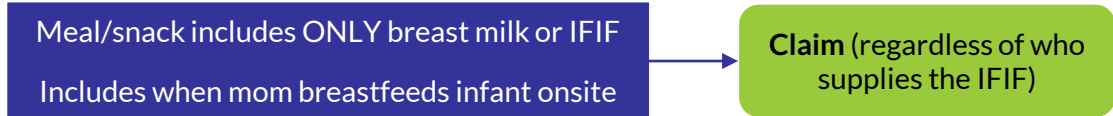


When to Claim Versus When Not to Claim

The flowcharts below show when infant meals and snacks can and cannot be claimed depending on what the infant is eating and who is supplying the meal and snack components.

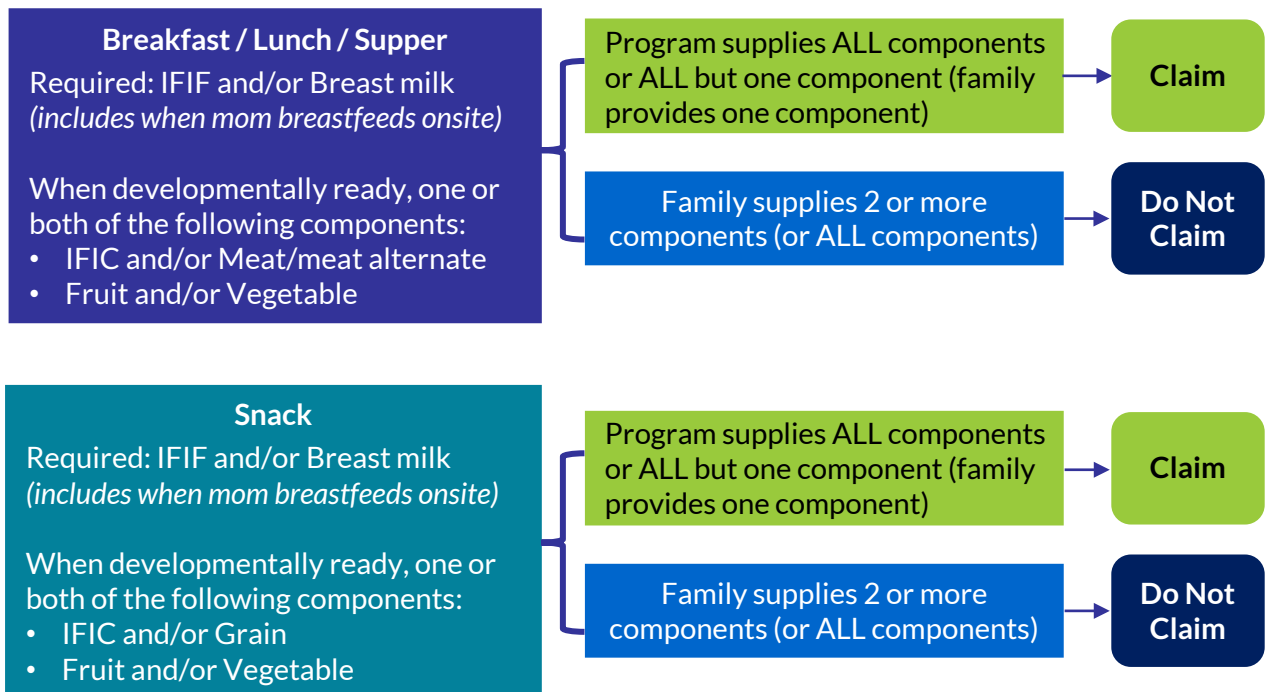
Infant Is Drinking Breastmilk and/or Formula Only

The CACFP infant meal pattern encourages serving only breastmilk and/or IFIF until the infant is 6 months.



Infant Is Developmentally Ready for Solid Foods

When an infant is ready to consume solid foods, including before 6 months, they must be offered to the infant. Creditable foods must be served.



Recording Time of Service Infant Meals and Snacks

Record meals and snacks on the [Infant Meal Form](#) (*Guidance Memorandum 12: Infants / Infant Meal Recordkeeping tab*) when the entire meal or snack is served, or immediately after.*

Do not record a meal or snack when non-creditable foods are served, an incomplete meal is served, and/or when the family provides 2 or more components.



When the components of an infant's meal or snack are not served at the same time, but during a window of time, record the meal after all components have been offered to the infant.

* Family daycare home providers must record infant meals as specified by their sponsor.