

Child and Adult Care Food Program Reference Sheet for Family Day Care Homes

Tier I Homes Using Census Data

Family Day Care Homes (FDCH) located in low-income areas are eligible to receive reimbursement for meals served at the higher Tier 1 rate enrolled children. Census Block Groups (CBG) or tracts are the geographical units used to assess census eligibility for the CACFP. For a daycare home to be eligible, 50% or more of the children in a CBG must be eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

If a potential CACFP daycare home is determined not to be area eligible, but is located immediately adjacent to an eligible area, this home may still be eligible based on census using a weighted average. With State Agency approval, the daycare home would be considered area eligible if, when averaged, the percentage in the "referent" CBG and up to two additional adjacent CBG is at least 50%, provided that each individual CBG is at least 40% eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Sponsors may use [USDA's CACFP and SFSP Area Eligibility Mapper](#) or [Share Our Strength-No Kid Hungry Averaged Eligibility map](#). The Share our Strength site calculates averaged eligible CBGs, while averaged eligibility needs to be calculated manually when using the USDA site. Current data must be used. Please note, USDA issues new census data annually in October of each year, while there is a lag time for the Share our Strength Map to be updated with the USDA data. Eligibility using census data is good for five years.

USDA CACFP and SFSP Area Eligibility Mapper

- Updated every October-this is the most current data.
- Does not calculate averaged eligible census block groups.
- Sponsors using averaged eligibility to tier a provider **need** state agency approval.

Share Our Strength-No Kid Hungry Averaged Eligibility map

- Census information may not be up to date.
- Calculates averaged eligible census block groups.
- Sponsors using averaged eligibility to tier a provider **do not need** state agency approval.



Determination of Tier I Eligibility Using Census Data:

[USDA's CACFP and SFSP Area Eligibility Mapper](#)

1. Enter a street address, city, state, and zip code into the search bar and hit "Enter".
2. The location will appear in a colored block. Use the legend to determine if the area is eligible:
 - **Yes-** The percentage of children living in poverty is 50% or greater. The provider qualifies for Tier 1 by census. (Pink)
 - **No-** The percentage of children living in poverty is less than 50%. The provider does not qualify for Tier 1 by census. (Blue)
 - When address searched falls into a CBG with at least 40% Free and Reduced-Price eligible children, a weighted average with one or two adjacent block groups may be used to meet the 50% area eligible threshold. In order to use an "Averaged Eligible" block group to determine eligibility using the USDA website, the [Tier 1 Approval Request Form](#) must be used. The Tier 1 approval request form must be approved by OSPI before the provider may be reimbursed at the Tier 1 rate.
3. Include a screen print of USDA's CACFP and SFSP Area Eligibility Mapper showing the Tier 1 eligibility in the provider's file. If you have submitted an Approval Request form to OSPI for an averaged eligible provider, keep a copy of the approval email from OSPI in the provider's file. If the date does not appear on the screen print or the email approval, a date stamp is required.

Share Our Strength-No Kid Hungry Averaged Eligibility map

- Determine the census tract and block group for the provider's address.
- Search the [Share Our Strength Averaged Eligibility Map](#).
 1. Enter a street address, city, state, and zip code into the Averaged Eligibility Map search bar and hit "Enter".
 2. A detailed map will appear with a highlighted square around the entered address. Use the census map key to determine if the area is "Eligible", "Averaged Eligible" or "Not Eligible".

- **Eligible-** The percentage of children living in poverty is 50% or greater. The provider qualifies for Tier 1 by census.
- **Not Eligible-** The percentage of children living in poverty is less than 40%. The provider does not qualify for Tier 1 by census.
- **Averaged Eligible-** The percentage of children living in poverty is 40% or greater. The provider qualifies for Tier 1 by census with a weighted average (see below).

3. Include a screen print of the Averaged Eligibility Map provided by Share Our Strength in the provider's file. If the date does not appear when you print it, a date stamp is required.

Sponsors must annually inform Tier II daycare home providers that the provider may ask for a reclassification to be considered when new census data becomes available each year and that reclassification may be made at any time for Tier II homes. If a daycare home is currently classified as Tier II, but the CBG data demonstrates that the home is now Tier I, the sponsor may immediately change the status of that home to Tier I and pay the higher rate of reimbursement for the current and subsequent months. A reclassification to Tier I status is good for five years, at which time eligibility for this classification will need to be reconfirmed. Retroactive reimbursement at the higher Tier I rates will not be provided for any previous month.

Resources

- ✓ [Tiering Overview Reference Sheet](#)
- ✓ [Tier 1 Using School Data Reference Sheet](#)

References

- ✓ [CFR 226](#)

Acronym Reference

- CACFP – Child and Adult Care Food Program
- CBG – Census Block Group
- CFR – Code of Federal Regulations
- CNS – Child Nutrition Services
- FDCH – Family Day Care Homes
- OSPI – Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- USDA - United States Department of Agriculture