

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

Tiering

The tier level of each Family Day Care Home (FDCH) determines the rate of reimbursement the home receives for meals served. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring organization to correctly “tier” each of their providers.

There are four tiering classifications

- **Tier I** day care homes receive the **high** meal reimbursement rates for all children. The provider either lives in a low-income area, as determined by school or census data, or is determined to be a low-income family based on their submitted Provider Income-Eligibility Application.
- **Tier II High** day care homes receive the **high** meal reimbursement rates for all children. The provider is not low-income and does not live in a low-income area, but all the children are determined to be low-income, based on their submitted Tier II Family Income-Eligibility Applications.
- **Tier II Low** day care homes receive the **low** meal reimbursement rates for all children. Neither the provider nor any of the children are determined low-income, nor does the provider live in a low-income area.
- **Tier II Mixed** day care homes receive a combination of **high and low** meal reimbursement rates. The provider is not low-income and does not live in a low-income area, but one or more of the children are determined low-income based on their submitted Tier II Family Income-Eligibility Applications.

Determination of Tiering Level

Tiering is determined by school data, census data or income-eligibility applications.

- **School Data—Used to Qualify Tier I Homes**
 - The Area Eligibility list is used to determine if any schools (elementary, middle or high school) that serve the family day care home address have a rate of at least 50% of enrolled children eligible for free or reduced-price meals (at or below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines).
- **Census Data—Used to Qualify Tier I Homes**
 - Census block groups (CBG) are the geographical units used to assess eligibility for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). For a day care home to be



eligible, 50% or more of the children in a CBG must be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Census data can be accessed on the [USDA CACFP and SFSP Area Eligibility Mapper](#) or the [Share Our Strength Averaged Eligibility Map](#).

- **Provider Income-Eligibility Application—Used to Qualify Tier I Homes**
 - A provider may complete a Provider Income-Eligibility Application to show that they are low income. Current versions of these forms can be found on the [Family Day Care Home Providers/ Sponsors webpage](#), under Tiering Resources.
- **Family Income-Eligibility Application—Used to Qualify Tier II High and Tier II Mixed Homes**
 - A provider may choose to have all or some of the families of the children in care complete Family Income Eligibility Applications to set the tiering rate of reimbursement. Current versions of these forms can be found on the [Family Day Care Home Providers/ Sponsors webpage](#), under Tiering Resources.

Resources

- ✓ [Tier 1 Using School Data Reference Sheet](#)
- ✓ [Tier 1 Using Census Data Reference Sheet](#)
- ✓ [Tier 2 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