Letter to Parents (Nonpricing Program)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Merced Community College District CDC child care center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and serves meals at no separate charge to all enrolled children. The reimbursement received from the CACFP helps with our food costs, and therefore, enables us to keep our fees for care as low as possible.

Please help us comply with the requirements of the USDA CACFP. Please complete, sign, and return the attached meal benefit form (MBF) to the center as soon as possible. However, you are not required to submit the MBF to participate in the program. All children enrolled in our center receive their meals at no separate charge, but the determination of eligibility category affects the amount of funding received by our center. This information is necessary to receive the reimbursement for the meals we serve to children in our program. If your first language is not English, you have a right to ask us for written or oral translation of these materials free of charge in your native language.

If your household currently receives benefits under the CalFresh Program (formerly Food Stamps), the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKs), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), you only need to list your current CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR case number on the MBF. You must also have an adult sign and date the MBF.

However, if your household does not receive benefits under CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR, please complete the MBF and make sure you:

- Provide the names of all household members and their income by source; and
- Have an adult sign, date, and provide the last four digits of their Social Security number (SSN) or check the box Check here if no SSN (only if the adult does not have an SSN).

For All Households

The USDA defines a household as a group of related or unrelated individuals (not residents of a boarding house or an institution) who are living as one economic unit (i.e., sharing living expenses). Therefore, the income reported on the MBF must include the gross income of all members of your household by source.

The income you report must be the total gross income received last month, listed by source for each household member. If last month's income does not accurately reflect your circumstances, you may provide a projection of your monthly income. If no significant change has occurred, you may use last year's income as a basis to make this projection. If your household's income is equal to or less than the amounts indicated for your household's size on the attached Income Eligibility Guideline chart, the center receives a higher level of reimbursement for meals served to your child(ren).

Once properly approved for free or reduced-price benefits, whether through income or proof of benefits as supported by a current CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR case number, your child(ren) will remain eligible for those benefits for 12 months.

Foster Children

For households with foster children, please contact us for additional information.

Confidentiality of Information on the Meal Benefit Form

We will use the information on the form to decide the level of reimbursement our center is eligible to receive. We will place the MBF in our food program files and keep the information confidential. Only upon your request will we share the information on your form with officials of other child nutrition, health, and education programs so they can use it to determine benefits for those programs.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions or need assistance in filling out the MBF, please contact:

Center Representative:

Lydia Padron, Program Director

Phone Number:

(209) 386-6633

Income Eligibility Scale

Effective from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Centers Reduced-price and Day Care Home Tier I Scale

Household size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly
1	$29,526	$2,461	$1,231	$1,136	$568
2	$40,034	$3,337	$1,669	$1,540	$770
3	$50,542	$4,212	$2,106	$1,944	$972
4	$61,050	$5,088	$2,544	$2,349	$1,175
5	$71,558	$5,964	$2,982	$2,753	$1,377
6	$82,066	$6,839	$3,420	$3,157	$1,579
7	$92,574	$7,715	$3,858	$3,561	$1,781
8	$103,082	$8,591	$4,296	$3,965	$1,983
For each additional family member, add	$10,508	$876	$438	$405	$203

The term household means a group of related or unrelated individuals who are not residents of an institution or boarding house but who are living as one economic unit, sharing housing and all significant income and expenses.

This scale does not apply to households that receive CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR. Those children are automatically eligible for free meal benefits.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:**
   U.S. Department of Agriculture
   Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
   1400 Independence Avenue, SW
   Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:**
   (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**
   Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.