**Alaska CACFP Food Substitutions**

**due to Disability, Allergy, Religion or Parent Preference**

**Fact Sheet 2015**

1. When a child has a medical or religious reason for needing food substitutions the Center needs to have a medical or religious statement on file.
   1. Child with disability - Center MUST have statement signed by a recognized medical authority on file and provide all substitutions indicated in this statement.  If the disability makes the child unable to have all CACFP components that meet the CACFP meal pattern then the Center can still claim the meal by following the guidelines from the medical authority that are listed on the medical statement
   2. Child with allergy or religious reason – Center MUST have medical statement (or letter from religious organization) on file and has the option to substitute.
      1. If center substitutes within the same component group then the meal is claimable.
      2. If parent brings in the substitute ITEM within the same component group that the child is allergic to, then the center can claim the meal.  If the child is allergic to many items on the menu the parent can sub more than one item (within the same component groups), but the center MUST serve at least one item in order to claim the meal.
      3. In order for the center to claim the meal the child must be served all components to meet the CACFP meal pattern.  (this is different than with a disability)
2. For parent preference - Centers can make substitutions within the meal pattern and can claim the meal.
   1. Center should have a statement on file from parent as to why they are substituting and  Center MUST supply the creditable substitutions within same component group in order to claim the meal
      1. If parent provides the substitutions the center MAY NOT claim the meal
      2. The parent’s substitutions MUST be within the CACFP meal pattern per licensing regulations – even though the center cannot claim the meal
3. Milk has different requirements:
   1. Center needs a medical statement/parent statement/religious statement on file for each child who is receiving a milk substitution
   2. Center or parent can make the substitution and center can claim meal – as long as the milk substitution is one of the Alaska approved substitutes that meet the nutritional equivalent to cow’s milk (August 2015: Pacific Ultra Soy, 8th Continent Soy, or Pearl Smart Soymilk, Kirkland Signature Organic Soymilk Plain, Great Value Original Soymilk, Sunrich Naturals Original & Vanilla Soymilk)
   3. If non-creditable milk is served then Center MAY NOT claim the meal
   4. Any **cow’s milk** that is within the guidelines (non-fat, 1% for 2 years and older) is creditable if it is pasteurized – so organic would be acceptable.  The lactose free milks in the proper fat content are also acceptable, along with goat milk in the proper fat content.

Documentation for Alternate Meals

All meals must have back-up documentation in order to be claimed for reimbursement through USDA CACFP. For most meals the center’s working menu for the day is the back-up required. Documentation must also be on file for the children eating different food item(s).

Centers will decide how to document alternate meals depending on how many alternate meals they are serving. Sometimes it’s easiest to document a child’s name and food items served on the working menu for the entire center and other times it requires a separate menu for a child or children.