

# Family Day Care Home Sponsor Update

September 11, 2018 CACFP Training Conference  
10:45am-12:00pm Break-out Session  
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## DPI Notice: Required Changes Effective October 1, 2018

### Section 2: Water Availability

[\(USDA Policy Memo CACFP20-2016: Water Availability in the CACFP - 8/5/16\)](#)

#### 2.1 Additional Requirement to Offer Water Directly to Children:

USDA added a requirement to the water availability rule within the final rule on the CACFP Meal Pattern revisions released April 25, 2016. This final rule expanded the water requirement to not just make water available upon request, **but also offer water directly to children throughout the day.** USDA added this requirement in recognition that the majority of the CACFP participants are very young children and may not be able to or know how to request it themselves.

- **Offering water means asking the children whether they would like water at different times throughout the day. For very young children, this may require visual cues such as showing the cup or pitcher while verbally offering the water.**

#### 2.2 Overview of USDA's CACFP Water Availability Requirements:

*(Issued through USDA Policy Memo CACFP20-2011 on May 11, 2011)*

- ❖ Home providers can make water available to children in a variety of ways, including having cups available next to the kitchen sink faucet, having water pitchers and cups set out, or simply providing water if it should be requested. Providers are not required to have water available for children to self-serve.
- ❖ While drinking water must be made available to children during meal times, it does not have to be served alongside the meal. Water is not part of the reimbursable meal and may not be served instead of fluid milk. If water is offered during a meal, home providers should consider offering smaller amounts of water and keep in mind that children who drink too much liquid may feel too full to eat.
- ❖ USDA recommends serving water with snacks when no other beverage is being served, or when water can be served in lieu of other high calorie, sweetened beverages that are not creditable (e.g., juice drinks, soda, sports drinks).

#### DPI Requested Action → Checking of Water Being Offered during Home Visits

Please make sure that your agency's home visit review questions include the following question or checkpoint:

- "Does the provider offer water to the children throughout the day?"

OR pose the question in open-ended form:

- "How does the provider offer water to the children throughout the day?"