

Requests for Non-Dairy, Non-Creditable Beverages OR Fluid Milk Substitutes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Participant With a Disability

A sponsor receives a request for a special dietary accommodation for a participant who has a recognized disability. The request must be submitted on the form titled [Special Diet Statement for a Participant With a Disability](#) or [Special Diet Statement to Request Dietary Accommodations](#) that prescribe the special diet that must be followed. The forms must be signed by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse such as a certified nurse practitioner.

Since the sponsor is receiving federal funds because of its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) it must fully accommodate the special diet order. The sponsor or their vended meal provider must provide all prescribed food substitutions, special foods, beverages or formulas as outlined at no extra cost to the participant. Sponsors are allowed to claim reimbursement when parents or guardians supply one or more meal components for participants with a disability as long as the sponsor supplies at least one required meal component

Participant Without a Disability

1. A sponsor receives a request for a special dietary accommodation on the form titled [Special Diet Statement for a Participant Without a Disability](#) which is signed by a recognized medical authority (licensed physician, physician assistant, certified nurse practitioner, registered dietitian, licensed nutritionist or chiropractor). The request asks the sponsor to provide a non-dairy, non-creditable beverage such as Almond Dream, Soy Dream, Rice Dream or Almond Breeze. Even though the parent/caregiver/guardian has submitted the proper paperwork the sponsor cannot honor the request for these non-dairy, non-creditable beverages as they are not nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk. When faced with this type of request a sponsor could:
 - a) Offer to serve the participant one of the [approved fluid milk substitutes](#). However, be advised that the current list of approved fluid milk substitutes are all soy-based and cannot be offered/given to a participant who is allergic to soy. If the participant cannot consume cow's milk or a soy-based beverage as the result of a more disabling medical condition a [Special Diet Statement for a Participant With a Disability](#) could be completed and signed by a Minnesota licensed physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse such as a certified nurse practitioner that names another beverage that would be well tolerated by the participant.
 - b) Allow the parent/caregiver/guardian to provide/supply a beverage of their choice, for example, almond or rice milk. Since these beverages are not approved fluid milk substitutes the sponsor would not be able to claim for reimbursement any meal or snack

in which the parent provided non-dairy, non-creditable beverage was served as a replacement for the required food component of cow's milk.

2. A parent/caregiver/guardian or medical authority submits a written request to the sponsor asking them to provide a fluid milk substitute (a non-dairy beverage that is nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk). The written request must identify the medical or other special dietary need that is the reason for the request. The request can be documented on the [Special Diet Statement to Request Dietary Accommodations](#).
 - a) Sponsor decides to accommodate the request and purchases and serves one of the [approved fluid milk substitutes](#). Since the sponsor is purchasing and serving the participant the approved fluid milk substitute, the sponsor can claim for reimbursement all meals and snacks served to the participant.
 - b) Sponsor does not accommodate the request and does not purchase an approved fluid milk substitute for the participant. As a result the parent/caregiver/guardian decides to purchase and supply the approved fluid milk substitute. If the parent/caregiver/guardian provides one of the [approved fluid milk substitutes](#) the sponsor can claim for reimbursement all meals and snacks served to the participant.

Lactose Free or Lactose Reduced Milk: Parents may request lactose free or lactose reduced milk for a participant. A Special Diet Statement is not required to request lactose free or lactose reduced milk as both products are cow's milk in which an enzyme (lactase) has been added to break down the milk sugar (lactose) into a digestible product. The sponsor is not required to provide this product. However, if they choose to provide it, they may claim for reimbursement all meals and snacks served to the participant. If the parent supplies the product, the sponsor cannot claim for reimbursement any meal or snack in which the parent provided product is served as a replacement for the required food component of cow's milk. Note: If the sponsor decides to supply the product then they must purchase lactose free or lactose reduced whole milk for children over age one and low-fat (one percent) or fat-free (skim) lactose free or lactose reduced milk for participants over age two.