

It's hard to believe we're already in August and yet, here we are! The summer and the year are flying by, but we still have time to enjoy a bit of summer fun. Put on some sunscreen and head to the park for a picnic lunch, visit your local farmers market, or find a nice trail to hike and take in some fresh air. On August 19th, take a moment to teach your children about World Humanitarian Day. Humanitarian aid workers often put their own lives at risk to provide life-saving aid to disaster-affected communities all around the world. The 19th is a day to honor those who have lost their lives in humanitarian services and those who continue to bring aid and relief to those in need despite the huge risk.

Updates

» **The New Meal Pattern** becomes effective October 1st and we want to make sure you are well prepared for the updates. Please visit our website to view great resources to help you navigate the changes. A few things to note:

▽ **Graham and animal crackers** have been removed from the "grain based desserts" category; you can continue to serve and claim them for reimbursement!

▽ **Whole grain-rich** items must be offered at least once per day in your facility. A few examples are Cheerios, oatmeal, whole wheat bread or tortillas, brown rice, and whole grain crackers. The rest of the bread/grains you serve in a day can be enriched grain products.

▽ **Corn tortillas** will not be able to count as the *whole grain-rich* component unless the packages ingredient label states that the tortillas were made with *whole grain corn*. The same rule applies if you make corn tortillas at home using masa; the bag must state that the masa was made with *whole grain corn* for those tortillas to meet the whole grain-rich requirement.

▽ **Tofu and soy yogurt** will be reimbursable as meat alternates for children 1 year and older. A 2.2 oz. serving of tofu equals 1 oz. when meeting the Meal Pattern requirements and must contain at least 5 grams of protein (to meet the full 1½ oz. requirement for a 3 - 5 year old, you would need to offer 3.3 oz. of a qualifying tofu).

▽ **Eggs** will be reimbursable in place of the entire grain component at breakfast up to 3 times per week.

» **Minute Menu** will be updating the scanner forms and KidKare to accommodate the new requirements. We will train you on this as soon as we have been trained.

Reminders

» **Annual Renewals** continue this month. If you claim online, we will send you instructions on how to complete your renewals. If you claim using scanner forms, you will receive the Enrollment Renewal Worksheet & instructions to complete in the mail. You must date and submit your report in the month that it is due, not before or after.

If your last name begins with the letter:

A - F: Your renewals were due July 15th. If you have not yet submitted them, please do so immediately.

G - L: Due Aug. 15th (mailed to you at the end of July)

M - R: Due Sept. 15th (will be mailed at the end of August)

S - Z: Due Oct. 15th (will be mailed at the end of September)

» **Using In/Out times?** You must enter *both the In time AND the Out time* in order to be reimbursed. In/Out times override normal schedules when used and if either of the times are missing, meals are automatically disallowed as the actual hours of attendance cannot be verified. If you claim using KidKare, you can add a child's In/Out times for any day of the month you missed, so please verify your In/Out times **before** submitting your claim. Call the office for details.

» **KidKare Calendar** feature allows you to enter *No School* days for any child to whom it applies for any day of the month if you forgot to click the box when claiming a meal. You must click the *No School* box for children enrolled as *vacation only* to be reimbursed for those meals. Be sure to check the calendar to see that you entered *No School* for each child to whom it pertains. Open your calendar, click on *Child*, then select a child to view from the bar that pops up to the right above the calendar. Once you select a child, you will drag the "*No School*" bar from the right side of the screen to any day you forgot to add it while claiming a meal.