

MPR Healthier CACFP Award Application Information

Am I eligible to apply?

Participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Programs (CACFP) and compliance with CACFP regulations is required to be eligible for the award. Meeting the award criteria and receiving an award does not replace CACFP requirements. Applicants are required to be in good standing with the CACFP, defined as having completed and implemented all corrective actions from the most recent compliance review with no serious deficiencies in the past two program years, at the time of application. CACFP daycare centers, family daycare homes and At-Risk Afterschool Care programs are all welcome to apply. Adult day care centers can apply for the menus, physical activity, professional development and nutrition and wellness environment, infant care is not applicable for these centers. This is not an award for Emergency Shelters. The award recognizes caregivers that go above and beyond Federal requirements (7 CFR PART 226).

How do I apply?

The MPR Healthier CACFP Award application includes criteria in five categories: Menus, Physical Activity, Professional Development, Nutrition and Wellness Environment and Infant Care. Applicants can choose which category(ies) they would like to apply for and at which level. Home caregivers should submit applications to the Home Sponsor for compliance verification (Home Sponsor signs the Home Sponsoring Organization Verification Form then sends the completed application to the State agency). Centers should submit applications directly to the agency or organization with which they hold a Program agreement (either the State agency or a sponsor of centers). Applications must include submission of the requested support documentation as listed in the “Evaluation” columns in the application. Instructions should be read carefully in each category to determine which criteria need to be met to achieve the different award levels. It is highly recommended that applicants utilize the *Healthier CACFP Award Resource Book*, which explains the “why” for each criterion and provides guidance and tools to assist with implementing the criteria.

Completing the Application Cover Sheet and Verification Form

1. Award Level: select Honors, High Honors or Highest Honors based on the criteria outlined in the *Healthier CACFP Award Resource Book*. (a symbol can be inserted into the checkbox)
2. Application: select all applicable categories that you are applying for.
3. Type of Provider: select provider type
4. Complete the name, address, age range of children in care, contact name and title, contact information and date submitted to State agency.
5. Leave the State Agency and Regional Office sections blank.
6. Applications **must** include submission of the requested supporting documentation as listed in the “Evaluation” columns in the application. Instructions should be read carefully in each category to determine which criteria need to be met to achieve the different award levels.
7. Please include photographs along with permission for FNS to use the photographs in the event you receive an award.
8. An application verification (center or home) form needs to be included with the application and supporting documents. See sample center verification form included.
9. Awards have no expiration date and sponsors can apply to receive an award in a different category or award level each year if applicable.
10. Any questions related to these awards can be directed to your State agency nutrition contact.

