



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



### Connecticut Administered State-Funded Program General Policy C-01

#### Nutrition and Food Program

- ☒ OEC Early Start CT Programs  
☐ OEC Smart Start CT Programs
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The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides cash assistance for nutritious meals and snacks provided through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This assistance is available to:

- infants and children 12 years and younger
- 15 years and younger whose parents are migrant workers, and
- those of any age with disabilities.

Children who attend public or private nonresidential licensed child care centers, group homes, and family child care homes are eligible. The amount of assistance is determined based on each family's income.

Cash assistance is available to fund two meals and one snack, or one meal and two snacks, per day. All meals and snacks must meet the requirements of the [CACFP meal patterns](#) for children and infants.

#### **POLICY**

Effective July 1, 2027 all Early Start CT (ESCT) programs are **required to participate in CACFP**.

Notwithstanding the previous sentence, ESCT contractors may request a waiver of this requirement from the Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) if participating in CACFP would impose an undue hardship. Contractors shall provide details to support their request. The OEC will promptly review and decide upon any waivers submitted.

*In the unlikely event that any provision of this General Policy is found to be inconsistent with any contract or grant provision, the contract or grant shall govern.*

For further information concerning this GENERAL POLICY please contact your OEC Program Manager or visit <https://www.ctoec.org/contact-us/>

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Final July 2025, effective July 1, 2025

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