

## **Area Eligibility Expansion for Day Care Homes**

As a result of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, the requirements for using area eligibility data to make tiering determinations for family day care homes participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) have been modified.

Section 121 of the Act amends section 17(f)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow family and group day care homes to be classified as tier I for the purposes of reimbursement under CACFP if the home is located in an area served by any school in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled children are certified eligible for free and reduced-price school meals. Previously, only the enrollment for the local elementary school could be used to determine tier I eligibility. This provision is retroactively effective to October 1, 2010.

To facilitate implementation of this provision, new school data is available for all public schools in the posted under school data on the ISBE website. This data is based on October 2010 National School Lunch claims and will be effective until March 31, 2012.

Sponsoring organizations are required to re-evaluate the classification of all tier II homes and reclassify homes that now qualify for tier I rates using the current expanded school data. All homes that are reclassified with the new eligibility data may be eligible to receive the higher tier I reimbursement rates for all meals served starting from October 1, 2010. All providers, even if they have been terminated or left the program must be reevaluated and reimbursed.

Sponsoring organizations must submit amended claims for reimbursement for October, November, and December 2010 to the State agency by February 28, 2011.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the ISBE CACFP Day Care Home Program at 1-800-782-2491.