Date: February 9, 2006
Reference: # CACFP CCC 2006-5
To: Child and Adult Care Food Program-Child Care Centers (CACFP-CCC) Contractors
Subject: Obligations of Child Care Centers to Offer Infant Meals in the CACFP

Purpose
This “Notice” clarifies that child care centers participating in the CACFP must offer program meals to all eligible children who are enrolled for care in their facilities, including infants. A center may not avoid this obligation by stating that the infants are not “enrolled” in CACFP, or by stating that they are not claiming infant meals. Decisions on offering program meals must be based on whether the child is enrolled for care, not whether the child is enrolled for CACFP.

As long as the infant is in care during the meal service period, the facility must offer the infant a meal that complies with program requirements. As with all children in CACFP facilities, an infant’s parent or guardian may decline what is offered, and supply the infant’s meals instead. The key factor is that the infant must be provided access to CACFP meals.

Contact
If you have any questions, please contact your Area Program Office.