

# CACFP Peer to Peer Mentoring

## What is Expected?

## How does a CACFP Ambassador assist a new center or home provider to apply for CACFP?

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**Thank you for your interest in providing peer to peer mentoring to expand the CACFP to assure nutritious meals and snacks are served to more children enrolled in Iowa childcare. One on one assistance to your peers is very valuable and appreciated!**

- **How do I know who may be interested in applying for CACFP?**
  - You may already know of a neighboring childcare center or home provider who is interested in applying for CACFP or struggling with the application process.
  - Contact Cheryl Tolley at [cheryl.tolley@iowa.gov](mailto:cheryl.tolley@iowa.gov) and ask if there is a center or home provider who needs assistance with CACFP application.
  - Contact your area Home Sponsoring Organization for new home providers requesting assistance.
- **How do I mentor a new childcare home or center with a CACFP application?**
  - Contact the new home provider or center director and ask if they are interested in receiving your assistance with CACFP application. During the COVID pandemic, it is not recommended that you provide a face to face visit to a new childcare. Instead, you can assist a potential new childcare via email, phone, FaceTime, Zoom, etc.
  - Promote CACFP and ask them how you can help. Provide assistance with the challenges the new childcare home or center is experiencing. Share your experience and give examples and tips of where to find forms, how to complete forms, required training, State agency contacts, the [Iowa Department of Education CACFP](#) website, etc.
  - Offer to share your CACFP resources, such as menus, food production records, list of whole grain-rich foods, etc. that may be helpful to a new center or home provider.
  - There is no minimum or maximum amount of time required to mentor a new center or home provider in order to apply for the CACFP Ambassador Stipend, however, a new CACFP application must be submitted before the stipend payment can be processed.
- **What are the steps to get started?**
  - Share the “What can CACFP do for me?” flyer, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), to highlight the benefits of participating in CACFP.
  - Encourage new centers to contact [cheryl.tolley@iowa.gov](mailto:cheryl.tolley@iowa.gov). Cheryl will fill out an outreach form with all of the new center’s information, and provide access to the CACFP Google site where the application paperwork is located. Cheryl will track mentoring partnerships and provide next steps in the application process.

- Homes can contact their [Home Sponsoring Organization](#) for assistance if needed. Home providers who are mentoring a new provider should also contact [cheryl.tolley@iowa.gov](mailto:cheryl.tolley@iowa.gov) so she can track mentoring partnerships.
- Centers are required to take the Steps to Success training at [Iowa Learning Online Professional Development](#).
- The application and approval process should take about two months.

A childcare center or home provider currently participating in CACFP can apply to receive an Ambassador Stipend (\$300 for centers or \$150 for home providers) for mentoring a center or home provider who does not participate in CACFP and assisting them to apply for CACFP.

Application due date is June 30, 2021.

[Ambassador Application for Centers](#)

[Ambassador Application for Home Providers](#)

Contact [patti.delger@iowa.gov](mailto:patti.delger@iowa.gov) for more information

