

Before adding a new children, ensure that you are not creating a duplicate. My Food Program will prevent the creation of a child with the same first name, last name and date of birth of an existing child, but just one typo and a duplicate child could be created.

To add a new participant:

- Click on “Participants & Rosters” on the main dashboard.
- Either create a new household (see separate instructions) or locate the existing household to which you need to add a child (see separate instructions).
- From the Household Info page, click the blue “Add Participant” button.
- Complete the fields as described:
 - **First name (required)**
 - Middle name (optional)
 - **Last name (required)**
 - Birthdate estimated: this checkbox should be used if you are adding a child and you have not verified their exact date of birth. Avoid this situation whenever possible as incorrect birthdates can create problems with claims processing.
 - **Birthdate (required)**
 - Is enrolled or attends school (optional): you should check this box if it is a school age child and your state has school enrollment status rather than calendar age as a licensing age range. See separate instructions for further explanation of this feature.
 - **Start Date (required)**: this is the date that the child should begin being claimed for CACFP meals. All meals prior to this date will be disallowed during claims processing.
 - Date Withdrawn (optional): this is for your recordkeeping only. Active children checked in for meals/ snacks after this date will not be disallowed solely because of a withdraw date.
 - Gender (optional): for your recordkeeping.
 - **Status (required, but no change required if you accept default to “Pending”)**: A status of Active, Pending or Incomplete are for your recordkeeping purposes. A status of Inactive will remove the child from lists of meal counts and attendance. See separate instructions for further explanation of this feature.
 - Allergies (optional): you can record any allergies or special dietary needs in this text box. Any text you enter here will show up as a pop-up alert on the mobile app for the roster to which this child is assigned.
 - **Roster Assignment (required, but will default to Unassigned if you do nothing)**: see separate instructions about how to create and manage rosters. Remember that a child can be added to more than one roster and My Food Program will prevent any double-counting.
 - Racial Identity (optional): you should complete this information based off of income or enrollment information if you wish to use My Food Program for tracking race/ethnicity data for reporting purposes.
 - Ethnicity (optional): you should complete this information based off of income or enrollment information if you wish to use My Food Program for tracking race/ethnicity data for reporting purposes.
 - Rate Type (optional): this option only displays with the invoicing featured turned on. Select whether your rate is by the hour, day or week.

- Rate (optional): this option only displays with the invoicing featured turned on. Enter your rate for care.
- School Day Rate (optional): this option only displays with the invoicing featured turned on. Enter your rate for care on school days.
- Providers Child or Residential Child (optional): this box only displays for Family Day Care Homes. If this box is checked, you must have an income form on file and at least one other non-residential child must be present at the meal to receive reimbursement.
- Include in claims (if unchecked, attendance and meal counts are recorded but not included in the claim) (optional): this box is checked by default. Having this box checked means that the child is enrolled in CACFP and their meal and snack counts should be included in a claim for reimbursement. If this box is unchecked, the meals and snacks for this child will not be included in a claim. See separate instructions for further explanation of this feature.
- Received Subsidized Care (optional): this box is unchecked by default. If your state agency requires that you track both the A-Free/B-Reduced/C-Paid status based on household income eligibility forms AND the percentage of children that are eligible for subsidized care (child care assistance), then you should use this feature. If you are only required to track A-Free/B-Reduced/C-Paid status, then you can ignore this box.
- After School Program (ARAM) (optional): this box is unchecked by default. You should check this box if the child is enrolled in the traditional child care and also the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program. See separate instructions for further explanation of this feature.
- Foster Child (optional): if this box is selected, this participant is automatically included as an "A" or "Tier I".
- Special Needs - allowed to claim over age 13 (optional): if this box is selected, the participant can be claimed even if they are over the age of 13.
- Related, Non-Residential (optional): use this feature for tracking licensed capacity checks.
- Participant Notes (optional): for your recordkeeping.
- External Group ID (optional): use this feature if you wish to assign a group ID to your participants. The group ID will appear on the Participant Report.
- External Site ID (optional): use this feature if you wish to assign an ID to each participant for tracking. The site ID will appear on the Participant Report.
- Participant Schedule (optional): use information from the enrollment form to complete this section. See separate instructions for further explanation of this feature.
- Enrollment (optional): enter the effective and expiration dates of child enrollment forms here. See separate instructions for further explanation of this feature.
- Infant Meal Notification (optional): enter the date, and upload a scan, of a form that tracks whether parents or the center are going to provide food and formula. See separate instructions for further explanation of this feature.
- Special Diet (optional): enter the date, summary, and upload a scan of any forms documenting special dietary needs. Entering a special diet statement here will automatically send an email to the sponsor admin to alert them that a form has been uploaded and may need approval. See separate instructions for further explanation of this feature.
- Click "Save". You will get an error message if any required fields are missing or you are attempting to create a duplicate.