

## Children 1-4 Years Food Packages

### Policy

**USDA Federal Regulations:** (e) Food packages. The authorized supplemental foods must be prescribed from food packages according to the category and nutritional needs of the participants.

(4) Food Package IV—Children 1 through 4 years—(i) Participant category served. This food package is designed for issuance to participants 1 through 4 years of age who do not have a condition qualifying them to receive Food Package III. (ii) Authorized categories of supplemental foods. Milk, breakfast cereal, juice, fresh fruits and vegetables, whole wheat/whole grain bread, eggs, and legumes or peanut butter are the categories of supplemental foods authorized in this food package. The maximum monthly allowances, allowed options and substitution rates of supplemental foods for children in Food Package IV are stated in Table 2 of paragraph (e)(10) of this section.

(10) Maximum monthly allowances of supplemental foods in Food Packages IV. The maximum monthly allowances, options and substitution rates of supplemental foods for children in Food Package IV are stated in Table 2 as follows:

**TABLE 2—MAXIMUM MONTHLY ALLOWANCES OF SUPPLEMENTAL FOODS FOR CHILDREN IN FOOD PACKAGES IV**

Foods <sup>1</sup>	Children
	Food Package IV: 1 through 4 years
Juice, single strength <sup>6</sup>	128 fl oz
Milk, fluid	16 qt <sup>7 8 9 10 11</sup>
Breakfast cereal <sup>13</sup>	36 oz
Cheese	N/A
Eggs	1 dozen
Fresh fruits and vegetables <sup>14 15</sup>	\$26.00 in cash-value vouchers
Whole wheat or whole grain bread <sup>16</sup>	2 lb
Fish (canned)	N/A
Legumes, dry <sup>17</sup> and/or Peanut butter	1 lb or 18 oz

Table 2 Footnotes: N/A = the supplemental food is not authorized in the corresponding food package.

<sup>1</sup>Table 4 of paragraph (e)(12) of this section describes the minimum requirements and specifications for the supplemental foods. The competent professional authority (CPA) is authorized to determine nutritional risk and prescribe supplemental foods as established by State agency policy.

<sup>6</sup>Combinations of single-strength and concentrated juices may be issued provided that the total volume does not exceed the maximum monthly allowance for single-strength juice.

<sup>7</sup>Whole milk is the standard milk for issuance to 1-year-old children (12 through 23 months). At State agency option, fat-reduced milks may be issued to 1-year-old children for whom overweight or obesity is a concern. The need for fat-reduced milks for 1-year-old children must be based on an individual nutritional assessment and consultation with the child's health care provider if necessary, as established by State agency policy. Lowfat (1%) or nonfat milks are the standard milk for issuance to children  $\geq 24$  months of age and women.

<sup>8</sup>Evaporated milk may be substituted at the rate of 16 fluid ounces of evaporated milk per 32 fluid ounces of fluid milk or a 1:2 fluid ounce substitution ratio. Dry milk may be substituted at an equal reconstituted rate to fluid milk.

<sup>9</sup>For children and women, cheese may be substituted for milk at the rate of 1 pound of cheese per 3 quarts of milk. For children and women in Food Packages IV-VI, no more than 1 pound of cheese may be substituted. For fully breastfeeding women in Food Package VII, no more than 2 pounds of cheese may be substituted for milk. State agencies do not have the option to issue additional amounts of cheese beyond these maximums even with medical documentation. (No more than a total of 4 quarts of milk may be substituted for a combination of cheese, yogurt or tofu for children and women in Food Packages IV-VI. No more than a total of 6 quarts of milk may be substituted for a combination of cheese, yogurt or tofu for women in Food Package VII.)

<sup>10</sup>For children and women, yogurt may be substituted for fluid milk at the rate of 1 quart of yogurt per 1 quart of milk; a maximum of 1 quart of milk can be substituted. Additional amounts of yogurt are not authorized. Whole yogurt is the standard yogurt for issuance to 1-year-old children (12 through 23 months). At State agency option, lowfat or nonfat yogurt may be issued to 1-year-old children for whom overweight and obesity is a concern. The need for lowfat or nonfat yogurt for 1-year-old children must be based on an individual nutritional assessment and consultation with the child's health care provider if necessary, as established by State agency policy. Lowfat or nonfat yogurts are the only types of yogurt authorized for children  $\geq 24$  months of age and women. (No more than a total of 4 quarts of milk may be substituted for a combination of cheese, yogurt or tofu for children and women in Food Packages IV-VI. No more than a total of 6 quarts of milk may be substituted for a combination of cheese, yogurt or tofu for women in Food Package VII.)

<sup>11</sup>For children, issuance of tofu and soy-based beverage as substitutes for milk must be based on an individual nutritional assessment and consultation with the participant's health care provider if necessary, as established by State agency policy. Such determination can be made for situations that include, but are not limited to, milk allergy, lactose intolerance, and vegan diets. Soy-based beverage may be substituted for milk for children on a quart for quart basis up to the total maximum allowance of milk. Tofu may be substituted for milk for children at the rate of 1

pound of tofu per 1 quart of milk. (No more than a total of 4 quarts of milk may be substituted for a combination of cheese, yogurt or tofu for children in Food Package IV.) Additional amounts of tofu may be substituted, up to the maximum allowance for fluid milk for lactose intolerance or other reasons, as established by State agency policy.

<sup>13</sup>At least one-half of the total number of breakfast cereals on the State agency's authorized food list must have whole grain as the primary ingredient and meet labeling requirements for making a health claim as a “whole grain food with moderate fat content” as defined in Table 4 of paragraph (e)(12) of this section.

<sup>14</sup>Both fresh fruits and fresh vegetables must be authorized by State agencies. Processed fruits and vegetables, i.e., canned (shelf-stable), frozen, and/or dried fruits and vegetables may also be authorized to offer a wider variety and choice for participants. State agencies may choose to authorize one or more of the following processed fruits and vegetables: canned fruit, canned vegetables, frozen fruit, frozen vegetables, dried fruit, and/or dried vegetables. The cash-value voucher may be redeemed for any eligible fruit and vegetable (refer to Table 4 of paragraph (e)(12) of this section and its footnotes). Except as authorized in paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section, State agencies may not selectively choose which fruits and vegetables are available to participants. For example, if a State agency chooses to offer dried fruits, it must authorize all WIC-eligible dried fruits.

<sup>15</sup>The monthly value of the fruit/vegetable cash-value vouchers will be adjusted annually for inflation as described in §246.16(j).

<sup>16</sup>Whole wheat and/or whole grain bread must be authorized. State agencies have the option to also authorize brown rice, bulgur, oatmeal, whole-grain barley, whole wheat macaroni products, or soft corn or whole wheat tortillas on an equal weight basis.

<sup>17</sup>Canned legumes may be substituted for dry legumes at the rate of 64 oz. (e.g., four 16-oz cans) of canned beans for 1 pound dry beans. In Food Packages V and VII, both beans and peanut butter must be provided. However, when individually tailoring Food Packages V or VII for nutritional reasons (e.g., food allergy, underweight, participant preference), State agencies have the option to authorize the following substitutions: 1 pound dry and 64 oz. canned beans/peas (and no peanut butter); or 2 pounds dry or 128 oz. canned beans/peas (and no peanut butter); or 36 oz. peanut butter (and no beans).

(12) Minimum requirements and specifications for supplemental foods. Table 4 describes the minimum requirements and specifications for supplemental foods in all food packages:

**TABLE 4—MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FOODS**

Categories/foods	Minimum requirements and specifications
MILK AND MILK ALTERNATIVES:	
Cow's milk <sup>2</sup>	Must conform to FDA standard of identity for whole, reduced fat, lowfat, or nonfat milks (21 CFR 131.110). Must be

	<p>pasteurized. May be flavored or unflavored. May be fluid, shelf-stable, evaporated (21 CFR 131.130), or dry.</p> <p>Dry whole milk must conform to FDA standard of identity (21 CFR 131.147). Nonfat dry milk must conform to FDA standard of identity (21 CFR 131.127).</p> <p>Cultured milks must conform to FDA standard of identity for cultured milk, e.g. cultured buttermilk, kefir cultured milk, acidophilus cultured milk (21 CFR 131.112).</p> <p>Acidified milk must conform to FDA standard of identity for acidified milk, e.g., acidified kefir milk, acidified acidophilus milk or acidified buttermilk (21 CFR 131.111).</p> <p>All reduced fat, lowfat, and nonfat cow's milk types and varieties must contain at least 400 IU of vitamin D per quart (100 IU per cup) and 2000 IU of vitamin A per quart (500 IU per cup).</p>
Goat's milk	<p>Must be pasteurized. May be flavored or unflavored. May be fluid, shelf-stable, evaporated or dry (i.e., powdered).</p> <p>All reduced fat, lowfat, and nonfat goat's milk must contain at least 400 IU of vitamin D per quart (100 IU per cup) and 2000 IU of vitamin A per quart (500 IU per cup).</p>
Cheese	<p>Domestic cheese made from 100 percent pasteurized milk. Must conform to FDA standard of identity (21 CFR part 133); Monterey Jack, Colby, natural Cheddar, Swiss, Brick, Muenster, Provolone, part-skim or whole Mozzarella, pasteurized process American, or blends of any of these cheeses are authorized. Cheeses that are labeled low, free, reduced, less or light in sodium, fat or cholesterol are WIC eligible.</p>
Yogurt (cow's milk)	<p>Yogurt must be pasteurized and conform to FDA standard of identity for whole fat (21 CFR 131.200), lowfat (21 CFR 131.203), or nonfat (21 CFR 131.206); plain or flavored with ≤40 g of total sugars per 1 cup yogurt. Yogurts that are fortified with vitamin A and D and other nutrients may be allowed at the State agency's option. Yogurts sold with accompanying mix-in ingredients such as granola, candy pieces, honey, nuts and similar ingredients are not authorized. Drinkable yogurts are not authorized.</p>
Tofu	<p>Calcium-set tofu prepared with calcium salts (e.g., calcium sulfate). May not contain added fats, sugars, oils, or sodium. Tofu must be calcium-set, i.e., contain calcium salts, but may also contain other coagulants, i.e., magnesium chloride.</p>
Soy-based beverage	<p>Must be fortified to meet the following nutrient levels: 276 mg calcium per cup, 8 g protein per cup, 500 IU vitamin A per cup,</p>

	100 IU vitamin D per cup, 24 mg magnesium per cup, 222 mg phosphorus per cup, 349 mg potassium per cup, 0.44 mg riboflavin per cup, and 1.1 mcg vitamin B12 per cup, in accordance with fortification guidelines issued by FDA. May be flavored or unflavored.
JUICE	Must be pasteurized 100% unsweetened fruit juice. Must contain at least 30 mg of vitamin C per 100 mL of juice. Must conform to FDA standard of identity as appropriate (21 CFR part 146) or vegetable juice must conform to FDA standard of identity as appropriate (21 CFR part 156). With the exception of 100% citrus juices, State agencies must verify the vitamin C content of all State-approved juices. Juices that are fortified with other nutrients may be allowed at the State agency's option. Juice may be fresh, from concentrate, frozen, canned, or shelf-stable. Blends of authorized juices are allowed. Vegetable juice may be regular or lower in sodium.
EGGS	Fresh shell domestic hens' eggs or dried eggs mix (must conform to FDA standard of identity in 21 CFR 160.105) or pasteurized liquid whole eggs (must conform to FDA standard of identity in 21 CFR 160.115). Hard boiled eggs, where readily available for purchase in small quantities, may be provided for homeless participants.
BREAKFAST CEREAL (READY-TO-EAT AND INSTANT AND REGULAR HOT CEREALS)	Must contain a minimum of 28 mg iron per 100 g dry cereal. Must contain ≤21.2 g sucrose and other sugars per 100 g dry cereal (≤6 g per dry oz). At least half of the cereals authorized on a State agency's food list must have whole grain as the primary ingredient by weight AND meet labeling requirements for making a health claim as a “whole grain food with moderate fat content”. <sup>3</sup>
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (FRESH AND PROCESSED) <sup>4 5 6 8 9</sup>	Any variety of fresh (as defined by 21 CFR 101.95) whole or cut fruit without added sugars. Any variety of canned fruits (must conform to FDA standard of identity as appropriate (21 CFR part 145)) ; including applesauce, juice pack or water pack without added sugars, fats, oils, or salt (i.e., sodium). The fruit must be listed as the first ingredient. Any variety of frozen fruits without added sugars, fats, oils, or salt (i.e., sodium).

	<p>Any type of dried fruits without added sugars, fats, oils, or salt (i.e., sodium).</p> <p>Any variety of fresh (as defined by <a href="#">21 CFR 101.95</a>) whole or cut vegetable without added sugars, fats, or oils.</p> <p>Any variety of canned or frozen vegetables without added sugars, fats, or oils. Vegetable must be listed as the first ingredient. May be regular or lower in sodium. Must conform to FDA Standard of Identity as appropriate (<a href="#">21 CFR part 155</a>).</p> <p>Any type of dried vegetable without added sugars, fats, oils, or salt (i.e., sodium).</p> <p>Any type of immature beans, peas, or lentils, fresh or in canned forms.</p> <p>Any type of frozen beans (immature or mature). Beans purchased with the cash-value benefit may contain added vegetables and fruits, but may not contain added sugars, fats, oils, or meat as purchased. Canned beans, peas, or lentils may be regular or lower in sodium content.</p> <p>Fresh herbs, cut at the root or with the root intact.</p> <p>States must offer WIC-eligible fresh and at least one other form (canned, frozen, and/or dried) of fruits and vegetables. State agencies must allow organic forms of WIC-eligible fruits and vegetables.</p>
<p>WHOLE WHEAT BREAD,                  WHOLE GRAIN BREAD,                  AND WHOLE GRAIN                  OPTIONS:</p>	
<p>Bread</p>	<p>Whole wheat bread must conform to FDA standard of identity (21 CFR 136.180). (Includes whole wheat buns and rolls.)                  “Whole wheat flour” and/or “bromated whole wheat flour” must be the only flours listed in the ingredient list.</p>
	<p>OR</p> <p>Whole grain bread must conform to FDA standard of identity (21 CFR 136.110) (includes whole grain buns and rolls).</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Whole grain must be the primary ingredient by weight in all whole grain bread products.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Must meet FDA labeling requirements for making a health claim as a “whole grain food with moderate fat content”.<sup>3</sup></p>

<p>Whole Grain Options</p>	<p>Brown rice, bulgur, oats, and whole-grain barley without added sugars, fats, oils, or salt (i.e., sodium). May be instant-, quick-, or regular-cooking.</p> <p>Soft corn or whole wheat tortillas. Soft corn tortillas made from ground masa flour (corn flour) using traditional processing methods are WIC-eligible, e.g., whole corn, corn (masa), whole ground corn, corn masa flour, masa harina, and white corn flour. For whole wheat tortillas, “whole wheat flour” must be the only flour listed in the ingredient list.</p> <p>Whole wheat macaroni products. Must conform to FDA standard of identity (21 CFR 139.138) and have no added sugars, fats, oils, or salt (i.e., sodium). “Whole wheat flour” and/or “whole durum wheat flour” must be the only flours listed in the ingredient list. Other shapes and sizes that otherwise meet the FDA standard of identity for whole wheat macaroni (pasta) products (139.138), and have no added sugars, fats, oils, or salt (i.e., sodium), are also authorized (e.g., whole wheat rotini, and whole wheat penne).</p>
<p>MATURE LEGUMES (DRY BEANS AND PEAS)<sup>7</sup></p>	<p>Any type of mature dry beans, peas, or lentils in dry-packaged or canned<sup>5</sup> forms. Examples include but are not limited to black beans, black-eyed peas, garbanzo beans (chickpeas), great northern beans, white beans (navy and pea beans), kidney beans, mature lima (“butter beans”), fava and mung beans, pinto beans, soybeans/edamame, split peas, lentils, and refried beans. All categories exclude soups. May not contain added sugars, fats, oils, vegetables, fruits or meat as purchased. Canned legumes may be regular or lower in sodium content.<sup>11</sup></p> <p>Baked beans may only be provided for participants with limited cooking facilities.<sup>11</sup></p>
<p>PEANUT BUTTER</p>	<p>Peanut butter and reduced fat peanut butter (must conform to FDA Standard of Identity (21 CFR 164.150)); creamy or chunky, regular or reduced fat, salted or unsalted forms are allowed. Peanut butters with added marshmallows, honey, jelly, chocolate or similar ingredients are not authorized.</p>

Table 4 Footnotes: FDA = Food and Drug Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<sup>2</sup>All authorized milks must conform to FDA standards of identity for milks as defined by 21 CFR part 131 and meet WIC's requirements for vitamin fortification as specified in Table 4 of paragraph (e)(12) of this section. Additional authorized milks include, but are not limited to: calcium-fortified, lactose-reduced and lactose-free, organic and UHT pasteurized milks. Other

milks are permitted at the State agency's discretion provided that the State agency determines that the milk meets the minimum requirements for authorized milk.

<sup>3</sup>FDA Health Claim Notification for Whole Grain Foods with Moderate Fat Content at <http://www.fda.gov/food/ingredientspackaginglabeling/labelingnutrition/ucm073634.htm>

<sup>4</sup>Processed refers to frozen, canned,<sup>5</sup> or dried.

<sup>5</sup>“Canned” refers to processed food items in cans or other shelf-stable containers, e.g., jars, pouches.

<sup>6</sup>The following are not authorized: herbs and spices; creamed vegetables or vegetables with added sauces; mixed vegetables containing noodles, nuts or sauce packets, vegetable-grain (pasta or rice) mixtures; fruit-nut mixtures; breaded vegetables; fruits and vegetables for purchase on salad bars; peanuts or other nuts; ornamental and decorative fruits and vegetables such as chili peppers on a string; garlic on a string; gourds; painted pumpkins; fruit baskets and party vegetable trays; decorative blossoms and flowers, and foods containing fruits such as blueberry muffins and other baked goods. Home-canned and home-preserved fruits and vegetables are not authorized.

<sup>7</sup>Mature legumes in dry-packed or canned forms may be purchased with the WIC food instrument only. Immature varieties of fresh or canned beans and frozen beans of any type (immature or mature) may be purchased with the cash-value voucher only. Juices are provided as separate food WIC categories and are not authorized under the fruit and vegetable category.

<sup>8</sup>Excludes catsup or other condiments; pickled vegetables; olives; soups; juices; and fruit leathers and fruit roll-ups. Canned tomato sauce, tomato paste, salsa and spaghetti sauce without added sugar, fats, or oils are authorized.

<sup>9</sup>State agencies have the option to allow only lower sodium canned vegetables for purchase with the cash-value voucher.

<sup>11</sup>The following are not authorized in the mature legume category: soups; immature varieties of legumes, such as those used in canned green peas, green beans, snap beans, yellow beans, and wax beans; baked beans with meat, e.g., beans and franks; and beans containing added sugars (with the exception of baked beans), fats, oils, meats, fruits or vegetables.

## Authority

7 CFR Part 246.10(e)*excerpt*

7 CFR part 246.10(e)(4)(i-ii)

7 CFR Part 246.10(e)(10)*excerpt*

7 CFR Part 246.10(e)(10)(Table 2)*except*

7 CFR Part 246.10(e)(12)

7 CFR Part 246.10(e)(12)(Table 4)*excerpt*

## Procedures

Food package IV provides whole milk to one year old children and 1% low fat or fat-free skim milk to all children 2 years and older. One year old children may be issued 1% low fat or fat-free skim milk only after an assessment and when the child has been assigned risk code 115.



- The CPA must complete a thorough and individual nutrition assessment prior to the issuance of 1% low fat or fat-free skim milk to children 12 months to 2 years of age.
- If the child is assigned the risk code 115 (high weight-for length birth to <24 months) then the CPA should discuss the assigned risk with the parent/guardian and consult the child's health care provider as necessary.

Documentation of the issuance of low fat milk must be included in the participant care plan identifying the overweight or obesity concerns, assigned risk, input from the parent/guardian, and education provided to the parent/guardian.

Issuance of soy-based beverage and tofu as substitutes for milk must be based on an individual nutrition assessment by a CPA and consultation with the participant's health care provider if necessary. Such determination can be made for situations that include, but are not limited to milk allergy, lactose intolerance, and vegan diets. Assessment information and determination of need must be documented in the participant care plan.

Due to the requirement for the determination of need for soy-based beverage and tofu, participants receiving these products must have these products specifically listed on their food benefits. Also, due to how the data system works, participants receiving other forms of milk (evaporated, lactose-free, goats, sweet acidophilus, nonfat dry) must have these products specifically listed on their food benefits. Only the types and forms of milk listed on the participant's food benefits can be purchased.

When a combination of different milk forms is provided in the food package, the full maximum monthly allowance of milk must still be provided. It must be explained to participants that if they choose to purchase a 24 oz. container of yogurt instead of a 32 oz. container, they will not receive the full nutritional benefit of milk.

## **Best Practices**

Examples of food packages with the equivalent of 16 quarts of milk are listed below:

1 lb. cheese + 3 gallons milk + 1 qt. milk

1 lb. cheese + 3 gallons milk + 1 qt. yogurt

1-8 qt. box dry milk + 2 gallons milk

1-8 qt. box dry milk + 1 lb. cheese + 1 gallon milk + 1 qt. milk

1-8 qt. box dry milk + 1 lb. cheese + 4-12 oz. cans evaporated milk + 1 half gallon milk

4 qts. soy beverage + 4 lb. tofu + 4 half gallons lactose free milk