



# news RELEASE

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(For immediate release)

## **Odessa College Children's Center announces policy for free, reduced-price meals for enrolled families who qualify**

ODESSA (Nov. 9, 2011) – Odessa College Children's Center announces its policy for free and reduced-price meals served under the Child and Adult Care Food Program for families of children enrolled at the Children's Center who may qualify.

The following household size and income criteria will be used to determine eligibility: a family size of one with an annual income of \$20,147, a monthly income of \$1,679 or a weekly income of \$388; a family of two with an annual income of \$27,214, a monthly income of \$2,268, or a weekly income of \$524; a family of three with an annual income of \$34,28, a monthly income of \$2,857, or a weekly income of \$660; a family of four with an annual income of \$41,348, a weekly income of \$3,446, or a weekly income of \$796; a family of five with an annual income of \$48,415, a monthly income of \$4,035, or a weekly income of \$1,067; a family of six with an annual income of \$55,482, a monthly income of \$4,624, or a weekly income of \$1,067; a family of seven with an annual income of \$62,549, a monthly income of \$5,213 or a weekly income of \$1,203; a family of eight with an annual income of \$69,616; a monthly income of \$5,802, or a weekly income of \$2,678. For each additional family member add: \$7,067 to annual income, \$589 to monthly income or \$136 to weekly income.

Children in households getting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) can get free meals. Foster children (reference question #8 for more information on foster children) and children enrolled in a Head Start Program (HSP), Early Head Start Program (EHSP), or Even Start Program (ESP) and have not entered kindergarten) are also eligible for free meals. Households with children enrolled in a HSP, EHSP or ESP can provide a certification letter from the program of the child's enrollment and do not need to complete the CACFP Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Form.

"Application forms and a letter to parents or guardians are being sent to all homes of families who are enrolled at Odessa College Children's Center. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households should fill out the application and return it to the contractor. Additional copies are available at the Children's Center front office. The information provided on the application will

be used to determine eligibility and it may be verified any time during the contract year by the contractor or other program officials.

“Households must provide the following information on the application: all household members’ names (You must include everyone in your household; such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends who live with you; who shares income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children who live with you. You also may include foster children who live with you.); the date, your address, city, state, zip code, and phone number; the last four digits of the Social Security number of the head of the household (or other responsible adult); and all household members’ incomes by source or the household’s SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR number, if appropriate; and the signature of an adult household member certifying that the information is correct.”

“Applications may be submitted any time during the year.”

According to the free and reduced-price policy, The Children’s Center will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may discuss the decision with Susan Daniel. Parents may request a formal appeal either orally or in writing by contracting:

Odessa College Children’s Center  
Attn: Susan Daniel  
201 W. University Blvd.  
Odessa, TX 79764  
432-335-6480

Households must report increases of over \$50 per month or \$600 per year in household income, and decreases in household size. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the contractor. These changes may qualify children for reduced-price meals or for free meals if the household’s income falls to or below the levels shown above. AFDC/Food Stamp households must report termination of benefits. Some foster children are also eligible for free or reduced-price meals. A household with foster children should contact the contractor for more information.

The information that households provide is confidential and will be used only to determine eligibility and verifying data.

In the child nutrition program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, sex, national origin, age, religion, political belief, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against, write immediately to the Director, Civil Rights Division, W-206, Texas Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, TX 78714-9030.