

Child care providers can receive federal funding for healthful foods

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Licensed child care providers who serve nutritious meals and snacks might be eligible for federal reimbursement.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Child and Adult Care Food Program is accepting Oklahoma enrollments, according to Carrie Williams, Rainbow Fleet executive director.

Rainbow Fleet is a sponsor organization through the state Department of Education, the federal program's Oklahoma administrator.

The federally funded child nutrition program helps children receive the nutrition they need by reimbursing child care providers for serving meals and snacks

that meet federal requirements.

Reimbursement rates range from 74 cents for a snack to \$2.48 for a lunch or dinner. Caregivers are required to record menus, enrollment and attendance. A provider can claim up to three meals per child per day.

"All family child care operations licensed by the Department of Human Services are eligible for the free program," Williams said. "Rainbow Fleet has staff on hand to help child care providers with their applications. Once accepted, our staff works with providers on compliance issues ranging from menu creation to food service sanitation."

Providers should contact Rainbow Fleet at 521-1426.