

## Offer Versus Serve

Offer versus Serve (OVS) applies to menu planning and meal service, which allows recipients to decline some of the food offered in a reimbursable meal.

The goals of the OVS is to reduce food waste and to permit recipients to choose the foods that they want to eat. Adult day care centers may use the offer versus serve (OVS) option for breakfast, lunch, and supper. The OVS option allows participants to refuse some of the food items required while still allowing those meals to be claimed for reimbursement. Under OVS, each adult care center shall offer its participants all of the required food components as set forth in the requirements for meals (7 CFR, Section 226.20). However, at the discretion of the adult day care center, participants may be permitted to decline the following:

- Breakfast: Participants may decline one serving of the four food items (one serving of milk, one serving of vegetable or fruit, or two servings of bread or bread alternate)
- Lunch: Participants may decline two servings of the six food items (one serving of milk, two servings of vegetable or fruit, two servings of bread or bread alternate, or one serving of Meat/Meat Alternate)
- Supper: Participants may decline two servings of the five food items (two servings of vegetables and/or fruit, two servings of bread or bread alternate, or one serving of Meat/Meat Alternate)

The price of a reimbursable meal shall not be affected if an adult participant declines a food item.

### Offer Versus Serve Certification

Are meals provided using the Offer Versus Serve option? [select one option]  Yes  No

If yes, which meals? [select all that apply]  Breakfast  Lunch  Supper  Snack

If yes, what date will you begin the OVS option? [insert the date]

The Authorized Representative, in signing this document, certifies that he/she has read this Certification and is in compliance with all terms and conditions required for certification.

AGENCY NAME	CNIPS ID
PRINT NAME OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	TITLE
SIGNATURE (ORIGINAL NOT STAMPED)	DATE

### Additional Resources:

USDA Policy Memo CACFP 05-2017: Offer Versus Serve and Family Style Meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program: [CACFP 05-2017 \(azureedge.net\)](#)

USDA Policy Memo CACFP 23-2011: Clarification on the Use of Offer Versus Serve and Family Style Meal Service: [Clarification on the Use of Offer vs. Serve and Family Style Meal Service | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

USDA Food and Nutrition Service OVS Guidance Manual: [OFFER VERSUS SERVE \(azureedge.net\)](#)

USDA OVS Tip Sheets for CACFP: [Offer Versus Serve in the CACFP | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#)