Beginning FY 20, sponsors are required to establish a beginning and ending time for each meal type in the CACFP system. The duration of the serving time is at the sponsor’s discretion. The ***definition*** of the serving time is the timeframe that the provider is allowed to serve meals. It is just required that a child be served by the ending time and it is not required that the child be done consuming the meal by the ending time. The serving time does not restrict the time the children in care have to eat. The children in care are allowed to eat longer than the serving time.

For example, Happy Toes (sponsor) allows their family day care home providers to serve thirty (30) minutes for each meal type.

The provider informed Happy Toes he/she will be serving breakfast at 8AM, Lunch at 12PM, and Supper at 4PM. Happy Toes will enter the following serving times into the CACFP system:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Edit** | **Delete** | **Beginning Time** | **Ending Time** | **Meal** | **Max. # of Meals** |
|  |  | 0800 | 0830 | Breakfast | 12 |
|  |  | 1200 | 1230 | Lunch | 12 |
|  |  | 0400 | 0430 | Supper | 12 |

Three hours must elapse between the beginning of one main meal service and the next main meal service. At least two hours must elapse between the beginning of a main meal and a snack. Meals served outside of the approved times are not eligible for reimbursement.