

#### Medical Plan of Care for Children with Disabilities:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations require substitutions or modifications to the meal pattern or meal service for children whose disability restricts their diet, when supported by a written statement signed by a recognized medical authority (licensed physician, physician assistant, certified registered nurse practitioner, or dentist). Any physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities or bodily functions is considered a disability. A physical or mental impairment does NOT have to be life-threatening or cause anaphylaxis in order to constitute a disability.

#### Request from Parents:

SFAs may make food substitutions for individual children who do not have a medical statement on file. Such determinations are made on a case-by-case basis. In the absence of a medical statement, the request must be in writing by the parents. All accommodations must be made within USDA's meal pattern requirements. Special dietary needs and requests related to general health concerns, personal preferences, and moral or religious convictions, are not disabilities and are optional for school food authorities to accommodate. Meal modifications for non-disability reasons are reimbursable provided that these meals adhere to Program regulations. SFAs opting to offer non-dairy fluid milk substitutes for non-disability reasons must ensure the substitute meets nutrient requirements at 7 CFR 210.10(d)(3).