

## General Rules to Determine if a Case Number Qualifies a Child for Free Meal Benefits

- 1) The case numbers must contain **10 to 13 digits**  
**AND**
- 2) Only case numbers starting with the following numbers are eligible for free meal benefits:
  - **04 or 06**—Child is receiving TANF benefits and meals can be claimed in the free category.
  - **08**—Child is receiving SNAP benefits and meals can be claimed in the free category.
  - **91, 92, 93, 94, or 96, ALONG WITH a 22 as the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> digit**—Child is receiving both medical benefits and SNAP, thus the child can be approved for free meal benefits because these numbers also represent SNAP benefits.
    - Example: 91-226-22-F19876 qualifies for free meals.
    - Example: 91-226-00-F19876 does not qualify for free meals because the number 22 is not the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> digit (*Group position*).

Provided below is the format for a case number and sample numbers that would qualify for free meal benefits following the general rules above.

General Format	Type of Assistance	Local Office	Group	Individual
Number of Digits	## (2)	### (3)	## (2)	### to ##### (3 to 6) May start with a letter or number
Sample Number	04	226	03	F19411
Sample Number	91	226	22	D79376

The required case number can be found on eligibility letters for SNAP or TANF benefits. The number is also listed on a medical card. If the number on the medical card follows the above mentioned format, the number will qualify for the free rate of reimbursement. Applications with invalid case numbers cannot be approved.

**Special Note on Invalid Numbers:** LINK card numbers are invalid numbers. Also, do not use the subsidized child care case number printed on the Child Care Certificate Reports. The numbers listed on that report have been shortened and do not meet the criteria above and thus CANNOT be used.