

July 1, 2025

Re: Special \$3 food tickets for foster and adoptive families at the Illinois State Fair

Dear Food Vendor:

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is again offering foster and adoptive family members tickets worth \$3 toward the purchase of any food or drink item from any food vendor on the fairgrounds during the 2025 Illinois State Fair.

Every year the DCFS food ticket program for foster and adoptive families works extremely well, thanks to your participation and cooperation. As in previous years, all food vendors are encouraged to participate. Just like years past, our families may use their food tickets to purchase food and drink any day of the Fair, at any time of the day or night, any time your food stand is open.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you how the food ticket program works and explain how you must redeem the tickets that you accept.

1. All vendors selling food and/or drinks on the fairgrounds are encouraged to accept the \$3 tickets in lieu of, or in addition to, cash for any food or drink item except alcoholic beverages.
2. Ticket users cannot receive more than \$1.50 change back per ticket when redeeming tickets. Please make sure your staff understands this! You must give customers \$1.50 back if the purchase is \$1.50 or less, \$1 back if the purchase is \$2, and so on.
3. Tickets are valid any day of the fair, any time of the day or night, any time your food stand is open. To avoid confusion, please accept the tickets until your sales close on the last day of the fair.
4. Ticket holders may use more than one ticket at a time. Many will be purchasing food for themselves and family members at the same time, so this is acceptable.
5. After accepting a ticket, your staff must void it by tearing off the "Illinois State Fair" logo on the left side of the ticket. Save the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ of the ticket so you can redeem it for cash at the State Fair Cashier's Office.

6. Do not accept any ticket that is not whole and intact, and please make sure that the tickets you accept have "August 7-17, 2025" printed on them.

Food tickets will be printed in colored ink to help you and your staff quickly differentiate between the food tickets and carnival ride tickets. We know your business is fast-paced and hope this makes it easy for you and your staff to identify the tickets as official DCFS food tickets given to our foster and adoptive families.

How and when vendors may redeem tickets

1. Tickets will be fully redeemed (\$3 for each valid ticket) at the Central Cashier's Office, Emmerson Building, on the last day of the fair, and on Monday, August 18, 2025.
2. The total value of redeemed tickets must be reflected in gross sales reported daily for Department of Revenue sales tax and Illinois State Fair percentage calculations.

The ticket system works very well each year. You are always very cooperative and flexible, and we truly appreciate that. Our families report that they have very little difficulty using the tickets to obtain food and drinks, and they appreciate your hospitality.

Once again, thank you very much for your generosity, flexibility and support.

