

May 2, 2016

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

Dear Food Vendor:

I recently met with the Illinois State Fair staff and obtained approval to again offer 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 2016 Illinois State Fair.

Every year the DCFS food ticket program for foster and adoptive families works extremely well – thanks to your participation and cooperation. This year all food vendors are required to participate again. 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 **must** 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. **You must 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. Make sure the end you save contains the sequence number. Tickets without a sequence number will not be redeemed.

- 6. Do not accept any ticket that is not whole and intact, and please make sure that the tickets you accept have "August 12-21, 2016" printed on them, as well as a sequence number.**

Food tickets will be printed in colored ink on colored paper to help you and your staff quickly differentiate between the food tickets and carnival ride tickets. I will show you copies of the tickets when I meet with you during the mandatory food vendor meetings in the days before the Fair begins. I understand that your business is fast-paced and hope this makes it easier 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 22, 2016.
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 I 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.

I look forward to having another successful State Fair. If you have any questions, please call me at 217-524-1970 and I will try to answer any questions you may have before the Fair begins.

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

Sincerely,



Jennifer Florent

DCFS Office of Communications