

Child and Adult Care Food Program

What Is the Child and Adult Care Food Program?

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) helps child and adult care institutions and family or group day care homes provide nutritious foods to young children, at-risk youth, and adults who are chronically impaired.

Who Administers CACFP?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers CACFP through grants to States. State agencies administer CACFP through agreements with child and adult care institutions.

How Does CACFP Work?

Child care centers, adult day care centers, family day care homes, afterschool care centers, and emergency shelters receive cash reimbursement for serving meals and snacks that meet Federal nutritional guidelines to eligible children and adult participants. In general, centers and day care homes may be approved to claim reimbursement for serving up to two meals and one snack, or two snacks and one meal, per day to each eligible child or adult participant.

Meals served to children in centers are reimbursed at rates based upon a child's eligibility for free, reduced-price, or paid meals.

In day care homes, all meals are served free. Day care home providers who serve children in low-income areas or meet low-income eligibility requirements themselves receive higher levels of reimbursement.

How Can Children and Adults Participate in CACFP?

Infants and children through age 12 in child care centers and day care homes are eligible to participate in CACFP. Adults who are 60 years or older, or are physically or mentally impaired, and enrolled in adult day care are also eligible for CACFP.

In afterschool care centers and emergency shelters, children through age 18 are eligible for free meals and snacks.

Where Can I Go To Learn More About CACFP?

To learn more, please visit CACFP website: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/child-and-adult-care-food-program>. For reimbursement rates, visit: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/reimbursement-rates>.

For more information about participating in CACFP, please contact your State agency: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts>.

Whom at FNS Can I Contact To Discuss CACFP?

Please contact the FNS Division of External and Governmental Affairs at fns.govaffairs@usda.gov.

Key Child and Adult Care Food Program Data

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019 (estimate)
Average participation (in thousands)	4,181	4,407	4,530	4,629	4,439
Meals served (in millions)	2,019	2,082	2,049	2,041	2,050