

Building for The Future



In the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

What is CACFP?

CACFP is the Child and Adult Care Food Program. It is a Federal program that pays for healthy meals and snacks for children and adults in day care.

CACFP improves the quality of day care. It makes the cost of day care cheaper for many low-income families.

Besides providing meals in day care, CACFP makes afterschool programs more appealing to at-risk children and youth. Serving afterschool meals and snacks attracts students to learning activities that are safe and fun.

Children and youth who are homeless can also receive meals at shelters that participate in CACFP.

Who is eligible for CACFP meals?

- Children under age 13,
- Migrant children under age 16,
- Children and youth under age 19 in afterschool programs in low-income areas,
- Children and youth under age 19 who live in homeless shelters, and
- Adults who are impaired or over age 60 and enrolled in adult day care

How does CACFP work?

Day care homes and centers receive money for serving nutritious meals. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) oversees CACFP.

States approve sponsors and centers to operate the program. States also monitor and provide training and guidance to make sure CACFP runs right.

Sponsoring organizations support day care homes and centers with training and monitoring. All day care homes participate in CACFP through a sponsor.

Where are CACFP meals served?

Licensed child care centers and Head Start programs provide meals and snacks to large numbers of children.



Where are CACFP meals served?

CACFP meals follow USDA nutrition standards.

- Breakfast consists of milk, fruits or vegetables, and grains.
- Lunch and Supper require milk, grains, meat or other proteins, fruits, and vegetables.
- Snacks include two different servings from the five components: milk, fruits, vegetables, grains, or meat or other proteins.



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