

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

FAMILY DAY CARE PROGRAMS

Why Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Is Important?

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Child and Adult Care Food Program plays a vital role in improving the quality of day care and making it more affordable for many low-income families. Each day, 2.9 million children receive nutritious meals and snacks through CACFP. The program also provides meals and snacks to 86,000 adults who receive care in nonresidential adult day care centers. CACFP reaches even further to provide meals to children residing in emergency shelters, and snacks and suppers to youths participating in eligible afterschool care programs.



The primary goal of the CACFP is to improve the diet of children 12 years of age or younger. Children 15 and under from families of migrant workers are also eligible, and certain disabled people regardless of age may receive CACFP meals if they are enrolled in a center that serves mostly persons 18 years of age or younger

Program Administration

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers CACFP through grants to States. The Program in New Jersey is administered by the State Department of Agriculture. Sponsoring organizations enter into agreements with their administering State agencies to assume administrative and financial responsibility for CACFP operations.

Day Care Homes

CACFP serves nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children who are enrolled for care at participating day care homes. A family or group day care home must sign an agreement with a sponsoring organization to participate in CACFP. Day care homes must be licensed or approved to provide day care services. Reimbursement for meals served in day care homes is based upon eligibility for tier I rates (which targets higher levels of reimbursement to low-income areas, providers, or children) or lower tier II rates.

Meal Reimbursement

Sponsoring organizations receive cash reimbursement for serving meals to enrolled children that meet Federal nutritional guidelines. Day care homes may be approved to claim up to two reimbursable meals (breakfast, lunch or supper) and one snack, or two snacks and one meal, to each eligible participant, each day.

The CACFP meal pattern varies according to age and types of meal served.

Child Care Infant Meal Pattern Requirements (8 through 11 months)		
Breakfast	Lunch and Supper	Snack
Infant formula (iron fortified), whole fluid milk or breast milk	Infant formula (iron fortified), whole fluid milk or breast milk	Infant formula (iron fortified) or full-strength fruit juice
Infant cereal (iron fortified)	Infant cereal (iron fortified) and/or	Bread or crackers
Fruit and/or vegetable	Meat, fish, poultry, or egg yolk or cheese or cottage cheese, cheese food, or cheese spread or cooked dry beans or peas	
	Fruit and/or vegetable	

Foods for Children		
Breakfast	Lunch and Supper	Snack
Milk Juice, fruit, or vegetable Bread or bread alternate	Milk Meat or meat alternate <u>2</u> Vegetables and/or Fruits Bread or bread alternate	(Serve two of the following four foods.) Milk Meat or meat alternate Fruit, vegetable or juice Bread or bread alternate

Program payments for day care homes are based on the number of meals served to enrolled children, multiplied by the appropriate reimbursement rate for each breakfast, lunch, supper, or snack they are approved to serve. Sponsoring organizations also receive administrative funds related to the documented costs they incur in planning, organizing, and managing CACFP.

Tier I day care homes are those that are located in low-income areas, or those in which the provider's household income is at or below 185 percent of the Federal income poverty guidelines. Sponsoring organizations may use elementary school free and reduced price enrollment data or census block group data to determine which areas are low-income.

Tier II homes are those family day care homes which do not meet the location or provider income criteria for a tier I home. The provider in a tier II home may elect to have the sponsoring organization identify income-eligible children, so that meals served to those children who qualify for free and reduced price meals would be reimbursed at the higher tier I rates.

A child's eligibility for tier I rates in a tier II day care home may be documented through submission of an income eligibility statement which details family size and income or participation in any of a number of means-tested State or Federal programs with eligibility at or below 185 percent of poverty.

Civil Rights Statement

The Family Day Care Program is available to all eligible participants regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. If you have questions about any of USDA's nutrition assistance programs, check the information on the FNS web site, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/>. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

If You Have Questions, Contact:



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You may also review the USDA FDC Handbook at http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Monitoring_Homes.pdf