

# FAMILY DAY CARE

## THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

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### **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.

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

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.

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.

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**If You Have Questions, Contact:**

N.J. Department of Agriculture  
Division of Food and Nutrition  
Child and Adult Care Food Program  
(609) 984-1250

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