

What is CACFP?

CACFP is the Child and Adult Care Food Program, a Federal program that provides monetary reimbursement to facilities offering healthier meals and snacks to children. Each day, more than 2.6 million children participate in CACFP. Through CACFP, participants' nutritional needs are met on a daily basis. The program plays a vital role in improving the quality of child care.

In addition to day care, CACFP helps make after-school programs more appealing to at-risk youth. By offering nutritious and tasty snacks in programs serving low-income areas, after-school programs can increase participation and know that youth are getting a healthy snack.

Homeless children and children from temporarily displaced families can also receive up to three meals each day through shelters that operate CACFP.



Who is eligible for CACFP meals?

- Children age 12 and under
- Migrant children age 15 and younger
- Youths through age 18 in after-school programs

What kinds of meals are served?

CACFP facilities follow meal patterns established by USDA.

- **Breakfast** consists of a serving of milk, fruits or vegetables, and grains or bread.
- **Lunch and dinner** require milk, grains or bread, meat or meat alternate, and two servings of fruits or vegetables.
- **Snacks** include two of the four components: milk, fruits or vegetables, grains or bread, or meat or meat alternate.

CACFP Facilities

Many different facilities operate CACFP, all sharing the common goal of bringing nutritious meals and snacks to children.

- **Child Care Centers:** Licensed public or private nonprofit child care centers, Head Start programs, and for-profit centers that serve meals to children.
- **Family Child Care Homes:** Small groups of children receive nonresidential day care in a private home. They may be licensed or license-exempt private homes.
- **After-School Care Programs for At-Risk Youth:** Centers in low-income areas provide free snacks and suppers to school-aged children and youth.
- **Schools With Pre-Kindergarten Programs and After-School Care Snack Programs:** Pre-kindergarten programs receive snacks in a regularly scheduled school day. After-School Care Programs may receive snacks and suppers for children in care.
- **Homeless Shelters:** Emergency shelters provide residential and food services to homeless children.