

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Benefits to Providers of Adult Day Care



Adult Day Care and the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Why is CACFP Important?

USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) plays a vital role in improving the quality of day care and making it more affordable for many low-income families. The program provides meals and snacks to over 86,000 adults who receive care in nonresidential adult day care centers.

CACFP is authorized at section 17 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766). Program regulations are issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under 7 CFR part 226.

Program Administration

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers CACFP through grants to States. The program is administered within most States by the State educational agency. In a few States it is administered by an alternate agency, such as the State health or social services department; and in Virginia, it is directly administered by the FNS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. The child care component and the adult day care component of CACFP may be administered by different agencies within a State, at the discretion of the Governor. Independent centers and sponsoring organizations enter into agreements with their administering State agencies to assume administrative and financial responsibility for CACFP operations. CACFP serves nutritious meals and snacks to eligible adults who are enrolled for care at participating adult day care centers.

Adult Day Care Centers

Public or private nonprofit adult day care facilities which provide structured, comprehensive services to nonresidential adults who are functionally impaired, or aged 60 and older, may participate in CACFP as independent or sponsored centers. For profit centers may be eligible for CACFP if at least 25 percent of their participants receive benefits under title XIX or title XX. Meals served to adults receiving care are reimbursed at rates based upon a participant's eligibility for free, reduced price, or paid meals.

Meal Reimbursement

Independent centers and sponsoring organizations receive cash reimbursement for serving meals to enrolled adults that meet Federal nutritional guidelines. The CACFP meal pattern varies according to age and types of meal served. Centers 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.

Reimbursement for centers is computed by actual meal count by type (breakfast, lunch, supper, or supplement) and eligibility category (free, reduced price, and paid). The administering agency assigns a method of reimbursement for centers, based on meals times rates.

Commodities or Cash-in-lieu of Commodities

In addition to cash reimbursement, USDA makes donated agricultural commodities or cash-in-lieu of commodities available to institutions participating in CACFP.

Determining Eligibility

Section 226.2 of the regulations describes who may receive CACFP meal benefits.

Adult participant means "a person enrolled in an adult day care center who is functionally impaired ... or 60 years of age or older." The adult component of CACFP is targeted to individuals who remain in the community and reside with family members. Individuals who reside in institutions are not eligible for CACFP benefits.

In centers, participants from households with incomes at or below 130 percent of poverty are eligible for free meals. Participants in centers with household incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of poverty are eligible for meals at a reduced price. Institutions must determine each enrolled participant's eligibility for free and reduced price meals served in centers.

Adults who receive food stamps, FDPIR, Social Security Income (SSI), or Medicaid benefits are categorically eligible for free meals.

Claiming Reimbursement for Meals Served

Sponsors must submit accurate monthly claims for reimbursement to their administering agencies.

Reimbursement is not allowed for meals or snacks that are: served to an adult who is not enrolled for care; served in excess of licensed or authorized capacity; not approved in the agreement; served in excess of the maximum number of approved meal services; or out of compliance with meal pattern requirements.

Meals served at for profit centers during a calendar month when less than 25 percent of the center's enrollment or licensed capacity (whichever is less) receive title XIX or title XX benefits or are eligible for free and reduced price meals may not be claimed for reimbursement.

Meals served to adults which are claimed for reimbursement under part C of title III of the Older Americans Act may not be claimed under CACFP.

Delaware Department of Education

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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