

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, 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.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Child and Adult Care Food Program

Benefits to Child Care Centers



Why is the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) important?

USDA's CACFP plays a vital role in improving the quality of child care and making it more affordable for many low-income families. Each day millions of children receive nutritious meal and snacks through CACFP. CACFP reaches even further to provide meals to children residing in emergency shelters, and snacks and suppers to children participating in eligible afterschool care programs.

Delaware Department of Education
Child and Adult Care Food Program
Collette Education Resource Center
35 Commerce Way, Suite 1
Dover, DE 19904
<https://www.doe.k12.de.us>
302.857.3356 (p)
302.739.1769 (f)

Program Administration

CACFP is authorized at section 17 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766). Program regulations are issued USDA under 7 CFR part 226. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers CACFP through grants to states. The program is administered within most states by the state education agency. In a few states it is administered by an alternate agency, such as the state health or social services department. In Delaware the CACFP is administered by Delaware Department of Education (DDOE). The child care component of CACFP may be administered by different agencies within the 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 requires nutritious meals and snacks be served to eligible children who are enrolled for care at participating licensed child care centers, family child care homes, emergency shelters, or approved at-risk sites.

Child Care Centers / Sponsors

Eligible public or private nonprofit child care centers, Head Start programs, and other institutions which are licensed or approved to provide child care services may participate in CACFP, independently or as sponsored centers. For profit centers must receive Title XX funds for at least 25% of enrolled children or licensed capacity (whichever is less) or at least 25% of the children in care must be eligible for free and reduced price meals. Meals served to children are reimbursed at rates based upon a child's eligibility for free, reduced price, or paid meals.

Community – based programs that offer enrichment activities for at-risk children and teenagers, after the regular school day ends, can provide free suppers/snacks through CACFP. Programs must be offered in areas where at least 50% of the children are eligible for free and reduced price meals based upon school data.

Meal Reimbursement

Independent centers and 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 meals 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 child, 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.

Funding Program Benefits

FNS provides cash assistance to each state agency for meals served to eligible children in child care centers based upon the child's eligibility under the Income Eligibility Guidelines for free, reduced price, or paid meals. National average

payments for meals served in centers are adjusted annually on July 1, to reflect changes in the Food Away From Home series of the Consumer Price Index. Meals served in emergency shelters and afterschool care snacks are reimbursed at the rates for free meals and snacks.

The level of commodity assistance or cash- in- lieu of commodities is based on the numbers of lunches and suppers served in centers in the preceding year, multiplied by the national average payment for donated foods. Commodity assistance rates are also adjusted annually on July 1, to reflect changes in the Food Used in Schools and Institutions series of the Consumer Price Index.

Eligible Population

Section 226.2 of regulations describes who may receive CACFP meal benefits. Children means “(a) Person age 12 and under; (b) Persons age 15 and under who are children of migrant workers; (c) Persons age 18 and under who are residents of emergency shelter or ineligible afterschool care programs; and (d) Person with mental or physical handicaps, as defined by the state, which are enrolled in an institution of a child care facility or residing in an emergency shelter serving a majority of persons 18 years of age and under.

Determining Eligibility

In center, children from households with incomes at or below 130% of poverty are eligible for free meals. Children in centers with household income between 130% and 185% of poverty are eligible for meals at a reduced price. Institutions must determine each enrolled child's eligibility for free and reduced price meals served in centers. Eligibility is used to calculate reimbursement to the center.

Children whose families receive benefits from the Food Stamp Program, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or State programs funded through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are categorically eligible for free meals. Children who are income eligible participants of Head Start or Even Start programs are automatically eligible for free meals without further application of eligibility determination. Children who are residents of emergency shelters are also automatically 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 a child 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% of the center's enrollment or licensed capacity (whichever is less) received Title XIX or Title XX benefits or are eligible for free and reduced price meals may not be claimed for reimbursement.

Shelters may not claim reimbursement for meals served to children who are not residents of emergency shelters.