

How does CACFP work?

CACFP reimburses participating centers, emergency shelters, day care homes, and schools for serving nutritious meals. It is administered at the **Federal** level by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) administers CACFP in Illinois. ISBE approves institutions to operate the program on the local level. ISBE monitors the program and provides guidance and assistance to ensure these institutions meet program requirements.

Sponsoring organizations play a critical role in supporting licensed and license exempt day care homes and centers by providing training, technical assistance, and monitoring. Sponsoring organizations must be viable, capable, and accountable to be approved to administer CACFP.

Contacts

If you are interested in participating in CACFP or have questions about the Program, the Illinois State Board of Education, Nutrition Programs Division, can help. Please see our website (www.isbe.net/nutrition) for CACFP information or call 800/545-7892.

If you have questions or concerns about CACFP, the name and telephone number of the organization/facility caring for your child(ren) is listed in this brochure.

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Name and Telephone Number of Organization

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Illinois State Board of Education

Child Adult Care Food Program



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CACFP

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 and meals 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 and emergency shelter

What kinds of meals are served?

CACFP facilities follow meal patterns established by USDA for children ages 1 -18.

- **Breakfast** consists of a serving of milk, fruits or vegetables (or both), and grains.
- **Lunch and supper** require milk, grains, meat or meat alternate, fruits and vegetables.
- **Snacks** include two of the five components: milk, fruits, vegetables, grains, 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 meals to school-aged children and youth.
- **Schools With Pre-Kindergarten Programs and After-School Care Programs:** Pre-kindergarten programs receive snacks in a regularly scheduled school day. After-School Care Programs may receive snacks and meals for children in care.
- **Emergency Shelters:** Emergency shelters provide residential and food services to homeless or temporarily displaced children.