



Child and Adult Care Food Program

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

The CACFP is a federally-funded program administered by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED). The program offers reimbursements for meals and snacks served in a variety of settings, including day care centers, adult day care, family day care homes, shelters and after-school programs.

In Alaska, there are currently 103 sponsors and 214 different sites in the program. The average daily attendance is more than 9,500 and more than 6 million federal dollars were reimbursed to participating organizations in the last year.

What Organizations are Eligible?

While both home day care, public day care and adult day care programs can be eligible, the afterschool programs and homeless shelters are most relevant to the anti-hunger network.

- At-Risk Afterschool Programs: To be eligible for CACFP, these programs must be located in a low-income area, have regularly scheduled educational or enrichment activities, and be free and available to all school age children through 18.

- Homeless Shelters: To be eligible for CACFP, these programs must provide residential and food services to homeless children and their parents.

A Sponsor or a Site or Both?

There are two categories of participation in the CACFP, sponsor and site. Many organizations serve as both sponsor and site, but some organizations that would like help with the administrative needs of the program opt to join with a sponsor and serve only as the site. In this relationship, the sponsor administers the program, which includes applications, training and site visits, while the site distributes the food and takes the meal counts. For smaller programs, connecting with a sponsor is a great way to ease what can become a cumbersome amount of paperwork.

How Much Money Do We Get?

The CACFP reimburses different amounts according to the meal served and the qualification of the recipient. Eligibility categories correspond to those of the National School Lunch Program.

	Breakfast	Lunch/Supper	Snack
Paid	.37	.40	.10
Reduced Price	1.94	3.78	.57
Free	2.24	4.18	1.15

In order to get reimbursed, all the meals and snacks must meet USDA food service guidelines. The program also has additional requirements such as keeping a daily sign-in sheet, recording and reporting the total number of meals and snacks served each day, and keeping a menu to document that all foods served meet USDA guidelines.

What Kind of Food Do We Need to Serve?

USDA has specific requirements for types of food that can be served and the serving size. Listed below are the required components of each meal; the numbers reflect the minimum number of servings of that component.

	Breakfast	Lunch/Supper	Snack*
Milk (8 fluid ounces)	1	1	
Meat/Meat alternate	0	1	
Fruit/Vegetables	1	2	
Bread/Bread alternate	1	1	

*Snacks must have any two different components. Juice can be included but cannot be served in conjunction with milk.

How Do We Get Started?

For more information on the Child and Adult Care Food Program, please check out the fact sheets at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/cns/CACFP.html>

If you are interested in administering an at-risk, afterschool snack program, you must be in a school area where 50% of the children are eligible for free and reduced price meals. A listing of all schools is located at: <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/cns/NSLP-Files/Percentage Free Reduced Report.xls>

For more information on CACFP for daycares, head starts, or at-risk programs, please contact Ann-Marie Martin at 465-8711 or annmarie.martin@alaska.gov

For more information on CACFP for adult care or emergency shelters, please contact Shodie Akin at 465-4788 or shodie.akin@alaska.gov

*Next Month:
The Importance
of Saying
Thank You*