



## CHILD NUTRITION: CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)

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### DESCRIPTION:

Provides cash subsidies to participating child care centers, family day care homes, afterschool programs, and non-residential adult-care centers for the meals and snacks they serve to children, the elderly, and chronically disabled persons. In child care centers and non-residential adult-care settings, per-meal/snack subsidy payments are the same as those for school meals and child care centers. Family day care homes are reimbursed according to a tiered system. Federal subsidies currently range from about 25 cents to \$2.80 (depending on the type of meal/snack and the income of the recipient, with higher subsidies in Alaska and Hawaii).

### AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION & U.S. CODE CITATION:

- Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296)
- Russell National School Lunch Act, Section 17 (42 U.S.C. 1766) / Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

### CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES OF JURISDICTION:

- House Committee on Agriculture
- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- House Committee on Appropriations
- Senate Appropriations Committee
- House Committee on Education and the Workforce
- Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

### ELIGIBILITY:

**(Child care centers)** Children's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and snacks is the same as for school meals programs. **(Day care homes)** There is no requirement that meals and snacks be served free or at reduced price. Instead, the homes receive a subsidy for every meal served; the size of the subsidy is based on whether the home is a Tier I or Tier II home. Tiering is based on the low-income status of the child care provider or the community in which the provider is located.

**(Adult services)** Elderly (age 60+) or chronically disabled persons attending participating non-residential adult-care centers. Both for-profit and nonprofit centers are eligible to participate. Adults are eligible for free or reduced meals based on income guidelines that are the same as in school meals programs.

### KEY COMPONENTS:

- Assist states to initiate, maintain, and expand nonprofit food service programs for children or adults in nonresidential institutions which provide care.
- Enable nonresidential institutions to provide nutritious food service to participants.
- Improve the quality of meals or level of services provided or increase participation in the program at adult day care centers.
- CACFP program include:
  1. Adult Day Care Resources for the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program
  2. At-risk Afterschool Care Centers
  3. Child Care Centers
  4. Emergency Shelters

### DATA:

In FY2014, the average daily participation of children and adults was approximately 3.8 million. Of the 3.7 million children served, approximately 2.9 million were in child care centers and 776,000 were in family day care homes.

### NCSL STAFF CONTACTS:

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