

**CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM  
“At-Risk” After School Care Centers**

**FACT SHEET**

**What are “At-Risk” After School Care Centers in the Child and Adult Care Food Program?**

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 2010 expanded the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to provide cash reimbursement for meals and snacks and suppers served to children and youth through age 18 in after school care centers located in low-income neighborhoods.

USDA regulations define an at-risk after school care center as one that provides nonresidential child care to children after school through an approved after school care program located in an eligible area. However, an emergency shelter may participate as an at-risk after school care center without regard to location.

**Which Centers Can Provide CACFP At-Risk After School Meals and Snacks?**

The center must operate an after school program which:

- Provides care after school hours, on weekends, and holidays during the **regular** school year, in an organized, structured, and supervised environment (Afterschool meals and snacks can be served year-round through the CACFP if an at-risk center is located in the attendance area of a school operating on a year-round schedule);
- Includes educational or enrichment activities; and
- Is located in a geographic area served by a school in which 50 percent or more of the enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

At-risk after school care centers may be operated by public, private nonprofit (Federal tax-exempt), and for-profit organizations that operate an eligible after school care program as defined in the paragraph above, and meet other CACFP requirements as applicable.

**Who Benefits?**

School age children/youth are eligible to participate through age 18. Youth who are 18 at the start of the school year are eligible until the end of that school year. Reimbursement may also be claimed for individuals regardless of age who meet the definition of “Persons with disabilities.”

**Eligible Sites**

To be eligible, a site must be located in the attendance area of an elementary, middle, or high school in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled children are certified eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, based on the most recent **September** data. Once established, this eligibility remains in effect for five years. Area eligibility may also be extended to sites that don’t meet the 50 percent requirement if the site can show that the majority of children at the after school care center come from schools where at least 50 percent of the enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

A site does not have to offer formal child care, and there is no Federal requirement for licensing. If the State of Wisconsin or local jurisdiction **does** require licensing, then the site would need to be licensed in order to participate. Sponsors should contact the regional office of the Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Early Care Regulation, in regard to issues involving the need for a child care license.

If licensing is not required, a site needs to meet State or local health and safety standards. Required documentation consists of: (1) a copy of the current occupancy permit; (2) a copy of the current fire inspection report and length of validity; (3) a copy of the most recent health department inspection report, or certification that there are no applicable local health standards; and (4) certification from the City or County human (social) services that there is no local requirement for the site to be licensed for group child care services.

### **Meal Service**

All participating sites must serve meals and snacks that meet the CACFP meal pattern requirements as defined in Program regulations. Sites may claim for up to one snack and one meal per child per day for reimbursement. Only a supper and/or a snack may be claimed for reimbursement on regular school days. Any one meal (breakfast, lunch, or supper) and/or a snack may be claimed during weekends and holidays. Sites must maintain a nonprofit food service.

### **Reimbursement**

Program payments to participating sites are limited to the number of meals and snacks served to eligible children/youth multiplied by the free rate of reimbursement. The free rates of reimbursement effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 are:

- Breakfast \$1.51
- Lunch/Supper\* \$2.77
- Snack (Supplement) \$0.76

*\* Cash-in-Lieu of Commodities – A cash reimbursement of \$0.2225 for each lunch or supper served will be paid this fiscal year.*

**Sites cannot receive benefits of reimbursement for adults  
or for more than one meal and snack per child per day.**

### **Administering Agency**

In Wisconsin, the CACFP is administered by the Department of Public Instruction. For additional information call (608) 267-9129, visit <http://dpi.wi.gov/fns/index.html>, or write to:

Community Nutrition Programs  
Department of Public Instruction  
PO Box 7841  
Madison, WI 53707

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