

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Meal Program Information Sheet

What is the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meal Program?

The At-Risk Afterschool Meal Program offers Federal funding to public, private nonprofit (Federal tax-exempt), or for-profit organizations that serve meals and snacks to participants in low-income areas during afterschool programs.

USDA regulations define an afterschool program as one that provides an approved nonresidential enrichment program in an eligible area to participants during afterschool hours. Emergency shelter sites may be eligible without regard to its location.

Organizations that operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) during the summer are encouraged to participate in the At-Risk Afterschool Meal Program during the school year. Participation in both programs can benefit the organization and community by providing year-round services to participants. Refer to the [Summer Food Service Program versus At-Risk Afterschool Program Comparison Chart](#) for the differences and similarities between the two programs.

What are the eligibility requirements to participate in the At-Risk Afterschool Meal Program?

Eligible organizations must operate afterschool or enrichment programs that:

- Provide drop-in or enrolled programs during afterschool hours, on weekends, holidays, and school vacations (e.g. spring break) during the **regular** school year, in an organized, structured, and supervised environment
Sites that provide afterschool programs year-round may be eligible to participate during the summer only when located in the attendance area of a school operating on a year-round schedule.
- Provide educational or enrichment activities during these programs, such as homework, tutoring, supervised athletic activities, drama, and chess
- Are located in the attendance area of a public school building with a School Eligibility percentage of 50% or more, as published within the most current [Wisconsin Public School Eligibility Data Report](#) or based on the most recent Free/Reduced-priced or Community Eligibility data
Once established, this eligibility remains in effect for five years.
- Are open to all children/youth. There is no requirement that all children/youth receiving meals participate in the scheduled activities; the activities just need to be available to all.
Programs designed to meet the special needs of enrolled participants, or programs with other limiting factors, may be eligible to participate. Contact DPI for more information.
- May not be licensed for providing childcare, unless required by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF). If a site does not have a license for childcare and is not operated by a school, the organization must submit a completed [DPI Group Child Care License Exemption Form \(PI-6016\)](#) to DCF for exemption approval. The organization will then be required to submit the site's DCF approved exemption form to DPI through the online application.

- Meet State/local health and safety standards when exempt for childcare license by DCF. The following documents must be submitted for these sites to demonstrate compliance with these standards:
 - A copy of the current occupancy permit
 - A copy of the current fire inspection report
 - A copy of the most recent health department's inspection report

These documents are not required for sites that operate within schools participating in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program and follow the schools' standard operating procedures.

Which meals can participating sites claim for meal reimbursement?

Sites may claim meals:

- Served as part of nonresidential afterschool programs that provide educational and enrichment activities
- Served to participants who are eligible and participate in the afterschool programs, including:
 - School-age through age 18, including those who are 18 years old at the start of the school year
 - Individuals who meet the definition of "persons with disabilities" regardless of age
 - Members of school sports teams and clubs who do not participate directly in the program's enrichment activities, but remain onsite while consuming the meal that is provided as part of the afterschool program's scheduled activities
- That meet the CACFP Meal Pattern requirements
[Guidance Memorandum 12C: CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements](#)
- That are approved meal types:
 - **Only one supper and/or one pm snack served after the end of the school day**, as part of an approved afterschool program on regular school days
 - **Any one meal (breakfast, lunch, or supper) and/or one snack served during weekends, holidays, and school vacations** (e.g. spring break) as part of an approved enrichment program within the school year

How is reimbursement determined?

Program payments are based on the number of meals per meal type multiplied by the Free rate of reimbursement. For the most current Free rate of reimbursement per meal, refer to [Guidance Memorandum 2: CACFP Reimbursement – USDA Rates of Reimbursement](#).

Participating sites:

- Must serve meals and snacks without any charge
- Cannot receive meal reimbursement for adults, including staff and other non-participants
- Must maintain a nonprofit food service

For Further Information, contact DPI at (608) 267-9129 or visit the following webpages:

- [DPI's CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Program](#)
- [DPI's CACFP New Agency Application Process](#)
- [Summer Food Service Program versus At-Risk Afterschool Program Comparison Chart](#)

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