

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Information Sheet

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) administers the USDA CACFP in Wisconsin. The CACFP helps provide funding for nutritious meals and snacks served to children and adults receiving day care. In addition to day care, the CACFP also provides funding for meals served to children and youths residing in homeless shelters, and for snacks provided to youths participating in eligible afterschool programs.

A General Overview

The CACFP is authorized in Section 17 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766). Program regulations are issued by the USDA under 7 CFR part 226.

Program Administration

Independent centers (have one site) and sponsoring organizations (have more than one site) enter into agreements with DPI to assume administrative and financial responsibility for CACFP operations.

Independent centers and sponsoring organizations receive an administrative review by the DPI at least once every three years. An administrative review of a sponsoring organization by the DPI includes an onsite review of at least 10% of the sponsored facilities. If the sponsoring organization has more than 100 facilities they receive an administrative review by the DPI every two years. This administrative review includes an onsite review of at least 5% of the first 1000 facilities and 2.5% of the facilities in excess of 1,000. All DPI reviews of day care home facilities are conducted on an unannounced basis. Sponsoring organizations must complete and document three yearly onsite reviews of all the facilities under their sponsorship.

CACFP Facilities

Child Care Centers (Child Care Component)

Eligible public or private nonprofit child care centers, outside-school-hours care centers, Head Start programs, and other institutions which are licensed or approved to provide day care services may participate in CACFP, independently or as sponsored centers. (Outside-school-hours care centers not required to be licensed must meet State or local health and safety standards.) For profit centers must receive Title XX funds for at least 25 percent of their enrolled children (licensed capacity or enrollment, whichever is lower), or at least 25 percent of the children they serve must be eligible for free and reduced price meals. Meals served to children are reimbursed at rates based upon the children's eligibilities for free, reduced price, or paid meals.

Day Care Homes

A family day care home provider must sign an agreement with a sponsoring organization to participate in CACFP. Day care homes must be licensed or certified to provide day care services. Reimbursement for meals served in day care homes is based upon eligibility for tier I rates (which targets higher levels of reimbursement to low-income areas, providers, or children) or lower tier II rates.

At-Risk Afterschool Meal Programs

Community-based programs that offer enrichment activities for at-risk children and teenagers, after the regular school day ends, can provide free snacks and suppers through CACFP.

Emergency Shelters

Since July 1, 1999, public or private nonprofit emergency shelters which provide residential and food services to homeless families may participate in CACFP. Eligible shelters may receive reimbursement for serving up to three meals each day to homeless children and youth. Unlike most other CACFP facilities, a shelter does not have to be licensed to provide day care. However, it must meet State or local health and safety standards.

Adult Day Care Centers

Public or private nonprofit adult day care facilities which provide structured, comprehensive services to nonresidential adults who are functionally impaired, or aged 60 and older, may participate in CACFP as independent or sponsored centers. For profit centers may be eligible for CACFP if at least 25 percent of their enrolled eligible adults receive benefits under Title XIX or Title XX. Meals served to eligible adults receiving care are reimbursed at rates based upon adults' eligibilities for free, reduced price, or paid meals.

Meal Reimbursement

Independent centers and sponsoring organizations receive cash reimbursement for serving meals to enrolled children and adults that meet Federal nutritional guidelines. The CACFP meal pattern varies according to age and types of meal served.

Centers and day care homes may be approved to claim up to two reimbursable meals (breakfast, lunch or supper) and one snack, or two snacks and one meal, to each eligible participant, each day. Emergency shelters may claim each child and youth for three reimbursable meals (breakfast, lunch and supper) each day. At-Risk Afterschool Programs may claim reimbursement for serving each youth one snack and one meal each day.

Reimbursement for centers (child care centers, adult day care centers, outside-school-hours care centers, and Head Start programs) is computed by blended per meal rates. Reimbursement for emergency shelters and At Risk afterschool programs is computed by multiplying the number of meals served times the free rate of reimbursement.

Program payments for day care homes are based on the number of meals served to enrolled children, multiplied by the appropriate reimbursement rate for each breakfast, lunch, supper, and snack they are approved to serve. Sponsoring organizations also receive administrative funds related to the documented costs they incur in planning, organizing, and managing CACFP.

Cash-in-lieu of USDA Foods (previously known as commodities)

In addition to cash reimbursement, cash-in-lieu of USDA Foods is available to facilities participating in the Child Care Component, Adult Care Component, Emergency Shelter Component, and At-Risk Afterschool Meal Program for claimed lunches and suppers.

Eligible Participants

- Children age 12 and under,
- Persons of any age who have one or more disabilities, as determined by the State, and who are enrolled in an agency or child care facility serving a majority of persons who are age 18 and under,
- Migrant children age 15 and under,
- Homeless children and youths age 18 and under (Emergency Shelters only),
- Functionally impaired, non-institutionalized adults and adults 60 years and older (Adult Day Care Centers only), and
- Youths age 18 and under (At-Risk Afterschool Meal Programs only)

Additional Information

In Wisconsin, the CACFP is administered by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). For additional information call (608) 267-9129 or visit <http://dpi.wi.gov/community-nutrition/cacfp>.

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