

**Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)  
Child Care Component  
Information Sheet**

**What is the Child Care Component of the CACFP?**

Since 1968, the CACFP has provided cash reimbursement to help provide nutritious meals to children enrolled in nonresidential child care centers or day care homes throughout the country. 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.

**What organizations can participate under the Child Care Component?**

Public, private nonprofit, or for-profit child care centers licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) to provide child care as well as Head Start Programs may participate in CACFP. Organizations can participate as “independent” centers (one site) or as sponsoring organizations (more than one site).

- Private nonprofit centers must have Federal tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 at the time they apply for the CACFP.
- 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/reduced meals or enrolled in Head Start programs.

**Who benefits?**

- 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; and
- Migrant children age 15 and under.

**Meal Service**

- All participating sites must serve meals and/or snacks which meet the CACFP meal pattern requirements, as specified in Program regulations.  
[Guidance Memorandum 12C: CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements](#)
- Reimbursable meals may include breakfast, lunch, supper, and snacks. Centers may only receive reimbursement for up to two meals and one snack or one meal and two snacks for each enrolled child each day.
- Agencies must maintain a nonprofit food service.

## Reimbursement

For the most current rates of reimbursement, please refer to [Guidance Memorandum 2: CACFP Reimbursement – USDA Rates of Reimbursement](#).

- Meals and snacks must be served without charge unless the agency implements the Pricing Program Addendum as part of its CACFP contract.
- Sites cannot receive reimbursement for meals served to adults or non-enrolled children.

## Administering Agency

In Wisconsin, the CACFP Child Care component 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/child-care>.

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