







## The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

CACFP reimburses licensed child care centers (including Head Start), family day care homes, homeless shelters, after-school programs and adult day care centers for food provided to eligible children and adults. As more and more mothers enter the workforce, the need for quality childcare and structured after-school programs is growing. CACFP improves the quality and financial viability of these programs while providing necessary meals to low-income children. Across Pennsylvania approximately 15,215 children a day receive meals and snacks through CACFP-funded family day care providers, and 91,613 children a day receive meals and snacks through child care centers. A new pilot program called the CACFP At-Risk Meals Program enables children in after-school settings to receive an evening meal instead of just a snack: that program served 34,945 children per day on average.

 <p>Who can provide the service?</p>	<p>Registered and licensed daycare homes and childcare center providers, including for-profit centers in which at least 25 percent of enrolled participants are low-income, may participate in the traditional CACFP.</p> <p>For the after-school open enrollment program, public agencies, and non-profit organizations such as Police Athletic Leagues, YWCAs, YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, park departments, and religious congregations may qualify for CACFP reimbursement for snacks and/or meals if they meet local health and safety requirements.</p>
 <p>How is it financed?</p>	<p>CACFP is an uncapped entitlement funded entirely by the federal government. It reimburses sponsors based on the number and type of meals served to eligible enrolled participants. In PA approximately \$51 million was spent through CACFP during 2004; no state funds are involved. The PA Department of Education administers the program.</p>
 <p>Who can receive this service?</p>	<p>In the traditional CACFP program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children 12 years of age and younger in licensed or "approved" child care homes or centers.</li> <li>- Children 12 years and younger (age 15 for migrant children and age 18 for disabled children) who are homeless and living in a shelter.</li> <li>- Adults enrolled in a licensed day care facility due to disability or age.</li> </ul> <p>In the CACFP At-Risk program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children 18 years and younger who participate in an after-school program located in a low-income area. (Areas qualify as low-income if the school in the area has 50 percent or more of the children certified to receive free or reduced price lunch, i.e. family income below 185% of poverty). Children can receive a meal and/or snack with this program.</li> </ul>
 <p>What is provided?</p>	<p>For meals served in private homes, two levels of reimbursement are available. The higher level (\$1.06 breakfast, \$1.96 lunch/supper, \$.58 supplements) is paid to homes located in a school attendance area in which 50 percent of the children are eligible to receive free or reduced priced school lunches. The lower level (\$.39 breakfast, \$1.18 lunch/supper, \$.16 supplements) is paid to homes that are not located in such areas. For meals served in childcare centers, the reimbursement depends on the income of the parents. In addition, centers may receive federal food commodities.</p> <p>In the after school program, all snacks are reimbursed at the maximum rate of \$0.63. Suppers are reimbursed at a maximum rate of \$2.32.</p>
 <p>Contact</p>	<p>Susan Still, PA Department of Education, at 1-800-331-0129.</p>
 <p>Suggestions for advocacy</p>	<p>Is there a need for more after-school activities in your community? Contact local civic organizations and religious congregations and encourage them to sponsor such activities. Let them know about CACFP funding.</p> <p>These programs are unavailable in most rural areas because they do not meet the 50 percent "area eligibility" requirement. Contact your U.S. representative and ask that the requirement be reduced to 40 percent.</p>