

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 PA over 15,600 children a day receive meals and snacks through CACFP-funded family day care providers, and nearly 139,500 children a day receive meals and snacks through child care centers. A program called the CACFP At-Risk Meals Program enables children in after-school settings to receive an evening meal. Over 27,000 children are served supper per day. Starting in May 2010, the CACFP At Risk Meals Program now allows At Risk sites to choose to serve breakfast, lunch, or supper, and a snack on weekends and school vacation days.

 <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% 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 \$90.1 million was spent through CACFP during 2010-11; 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"> - Children 12 years of age and younger in licensed or "approved" child care homes or centers. - Children 12 years and younger (age 15 for migrant children and age 18 for disabled children) who are temporarily residing in emergency shelters. - Adults with prescribed plans of care and over age 60 or disabled enrolled in a licensed adult care facility <p>In the CACFP At-Risk program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children 18 years and younger who participate in an after-school program located in a low-income area. (Geographic areas qualify as low-income if the school building in the area has 50% 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.
 <p>What is provided?</p>	<p>For meals served to children in licensed day care homes, two levels of reimbursement are available. The higher level (\$1.24 breakfast, \$2.32 lunch/supper, \$0.69 supplements) is paid to homes located in a geographical area in which 50% of the children are eligible to receive free or reduced priced school lunches. The lower level (\$.45 breakfast, \$1.40 lunch/supper, \$.19 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 At Risk Meals Program, all snacks are reimbursed at the maximum rate of \$0.76, breakfasts at \$1.51, lunches at \$2.77, and suppers at a maximum rate of \$2.77.</p>
 <p>Contact</p>	<p>Terry Roden, PA Department of Education, at 1-800-331-0129.</p>
 <p>Suggestions for advocacy</p>	<p>Encourage local civic organizations and religious congregations that sponsor after school activities to begin feeding programs using CACFP funding.</p> <p>CACFP, along with SNAP, WIC, school meals, and summer food, make up our nation's nutrition safety net and must be protected during the Super Committee's works to produce \$1.5 trillion in entitlement cuts and any and all following efforts to reduce the deficit through cuts to programs that protect the most vulnerable Americans. Visit www.pahunger.org for related advocacy opportunities.</p>