

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

Feeding Those In Need



Prepared By:
Second Harvest Food Bank
of Lehigh Valley and Northeast PA
2045 Harvest Way
Allentown, PA 18104

OVERVIEW

What is the Child and Adult Care Food Program?

CACFP provides nutritious snacks and meals to 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 parents 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. The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) plays a vital role in improving the quality of child care and making it affordable for many low-income families.

Why Participate in Child and Adult Care Food Program?

CACFP have been shown to improve the quality of care. CACFP ensures that young children in child care and adults have access to a nutritious diet and improved eating habits through nutrition education. Across Pennsylvania approximately 15,215 children a day receive meals and snacks through CACFP-funded family day care providers, and 91,613 children everyday receive meals and snacks through child care centers. A new pilot program, 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.



Table of Contents

Benefits of CACFP	3
Key Players: Providers and Participants	4
Provider and Participant Eligibility	5
CACFP At-Risk Program	6
F.A.Q. (Frequently Asked Questions)	7
Resources	9



BENEFITS OF CACFP

- Participating programs provide meals according to the nutrition standards set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - **ensuring that children and adults in care receive balanced, nutritious meals and snacks.**
- Studies show that children in CACFP receive meals that are nutritionally superior to those served to children in child care settings without the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- CACFP can help start good nutrition habits early in life.
- CACFP resources and training support communities by sustaining child care resources.
- Research cites participation in CACFP as one of the major factors influencing quality care, reporting that 87 percent of the family child care homes considered to be providing good quality child care participated in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- CACFP is key to good nutrition and quality, affordable child care, which allows children to develop fully, prepares children to enter school ready to learn, and helps working families be employed.
- CACFP helps adults in day care centers maintain adequate nutrition.



KEY PLAYERS: PROVIDERS AND RECIPIENTS

Who Can Provide This Service?

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.

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.

Who Can Receive This Service?

In the traditional CACFP program:

- 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 homeless and living in a shelter.
- Adults enrolled in a licensed day care facility due to disability or age.

In the CACFP At-Risk program:

- 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.



PROVIDER AND PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

Provider Eligibility

- Eligible programs include group or family child care, child care centers, Head Start, recreation centers, and after school programs. For-profit child care centers using Title XX funding to serve 25% or more low-income children are also eligible.
- Adult day care facilities that provide structured, comprehensive services to non-resident adults, functionally impaired or age 60 or older may participate.
- Emergency shelters that provide residential and food services to children in homeless families also may participate.

Participant Eligibility

- Children age 12 and younger are eligible to receive up to two meals and one snack daily at a child care home or center. Migrant children age 15 and younger, and persons with disabilities of any age are also eligible for CACFP.
- After school snacks are available to children through age 18.
- Homeless shelters may be reimbursed for up to three meals each day for resident children age 18 and younger.



CACFP AT-RISK PROGRAM

The At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program became an official part of the CACFP on October 1, 1998. The Program provides meals to children participating in eligible programs after the regular school day is completed.

Who may participate under CACFP?

A program is eligible to participate in the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program if the child care and related programs are:

- a licensed child care center or a school building or an approved Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) site;
- located in an area served by a school in which 50 percent or more of the enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced-priced school meals;
- *and* are operating an after school program that includes educational or enrichment activities.

How does it work?

Meals served must meet federal meal pattern requirements. One may participate if you are a non-profit or private for profit child care facility or organization, *and*:

- Serve the snack and suppers after regular school hours; this includes weekends and holidays during the school year*;
- Document when snacks and supper are served and to whom;
- Claim only one snack and supper per child;
- Serve school-age children up through 18 years; and
- Serve a snack and supper that meets the meal components.

*If the program operates during the summer when school is not in session, the organization should consider the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).



F.A.Q. (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

What is Provided?

- For meals served in private homes, two levels of reimbursement are available. The higher level (\$1.06 breakfast, \$1.96 lunch/supper, \$.58 for 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 for supplements) is paid to homes that are located outside 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.
- In the afterschool program, all snacks are reimbursed at the maximum rate of \$0.63. Suppers are reimbursed at the maximum rate of \$2.32.

How is it Funded?

CACFP is 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 this program.



RESOURCES

PA Department of Education

Ellen Bierboewer , Administrator, CACFP

(717) 772-3529

ebierboewer@state.pa.us

<http://www.pde.state.pa.us>

PA Hunger Action Center

(717) 233-6705

info@pahunger.org

<http://www.pahunger.org>

Food Research and Action Council

Links to Best Practices and Resource Guides

<http://www.frac.org>

Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and NE PA

Coordinator of Advocacy and Outreach

(610) 434-0875

shfb-advocacy@caclv.org

Visit the **USDA** website for resources

<Http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/care/>



Child and Adult Care Feeding

Program:

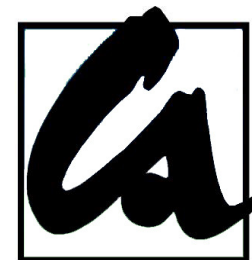
Feeding Those in Need

Second Harvest Food Bank LV and
NE PA

2045 Harvest Way
Allentown, PA 18104

Phone: 610-434-0875

Fax: 610-435-9540



Community Action Committee
of the Lehigh Valley