

CARE Connection

Introduction to CACFP Grab and Go Lesson

CACFP Basics for Day Care Homes

What is the Child and Adult Care Food Program?

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) was created to assist in improving the nutrition of children in child care. The program is administered through a state agency or sponsoring agency.

How does the program help children and child care providers?

The program serves children and child care providers in three ways.

1. Children receive nutritious meals that meet the CACFP Meal Pattern requirements.
2. Child care providers receive valuable meal reimbursement money to help with their meal costs.
3. Child care providers receive nutrition education and support services to help them teach the children about healthful eating habits.

What is required to participate?

Licensed or approved day care home providers are eligible to participate in the CACFP. A day care home provider must

- provide less than 24-hour care.
- complete an agreement with its sponsor.
- agree to have on-site visits from its sponsor at least three times per year.



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If you meet these eligibility requirements participation in the CACFP is not hard. You will follow basic guidelines.

- **Prepare and serve** meals that meet the CACFP Meal Pattern requirements.
- **Record** the food you serve when you serve the meal.
- **Keep** meal counts and attendance records.
- **Inform** parents about the benefits of the food program and the meals for their children which may be claimed.
- **Attend** regular training provided by your sponsor.

How does the provider receive reimbursement?

To receive your meal reimbursement you will follow standard procedures.

- Keep daily records of meals and children served.
- Claim only meals that meet the CACFP Meal Pattern requirements.
- Claim only children served the meal.
- Claim meals for your own child or children if they are eligible, and if other children are in your care and participating in the meal service.
- Send your records to your sponsor at required times.

*CACFP helps
children,
parents, and
providers.*

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What does the state agency or sponsor provide?

The state agency or sponsor

- offers you ongoing support services and training.
- reviews your records and determines your reimbursement.
- submits your claim for reimbursement to the state agency.
- receives your reimbursement from the state agency and sends it to you.

It is easy to participate in the CACFP. Participation will enable you to enjoy the benefits of the child care food program's support services and valuable meal reimbursement money. If you have questions please contact your state agency or sponsor.

