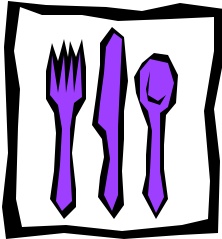




Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence Uses the Child and Adult Care Food Program To Help Shelters Provide Healthy Meals



In Alabama, domestic violence shelters are able to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program under the sponsorship of the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The Child and Adult Care Food Program is a federal nutrition program that reimburses homeless and domestic violence shelters for the meals and snacks served to the children that are residing in those shelters. The Alabama Coalition serves 63% of the shelters (12 shelters) participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program in Alabama.

Easy to Participate

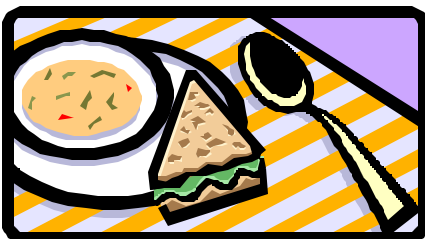
The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is administered on a state level by the State CACFP Agency. Shelters can work directly with the state, sending their monthly paperwork to the state agency, or they can participate through the Alabama Coalition, which acts as a “go-between” for the shelter and the state, making the process easier for both the state and the shelters using the program.

In 2001, the shelters sponsored by the coalition were reimbursed approximately \$90,000 for the meals and snacks served to children. The coalition receives 8% of the total CACFP reimbursement for the shelters as payment for administration of CACFP to the shelters. Federal rules allow sponsors to receive up to 15% for administrative costs.



Provides Ongoing Support

Acting as a sponsor, the Alabama Coalition helps guide the shelters, offering ongoing support and technical assistance with menu planning and record keeping. The shelters are responsible for menu planning, meal preparation, purchasing food and keeping certain documentation. The Coalition has developed its own reporting form, which the shelters send in each month along with the menus. The staff at the Coalition checks the reporting form for completeness, checks the menus, and then compiles all the claims into one master claim, which is sent to the state. Confidentiality isn't a problem in the program because only first names or initials are required on the Coalition's reporting form—the children's full names never leave the shelter.



Since the Coalition already administers state grants to the shelters and the system to deal with the paperwork was already in place, becoming a sponsor was relatively simple. The State Coalition has a continuous, ongoing relationship with each shelter, providing assistance and support. Sponsorship of shelters also means that the Alabama Coalition has the resources to visit shelters to provide assistance and monitoring, which may be a more comfortable monitoring process for shelters concerned with privacy issues, than having the state agency come in.

Organizations and shelters interested in participating or becoming a sponsor should contact their state CACFP agency. For a list of State CACFP agency contacts or more information visit the Food Research and Action Center's website: www.frac.org.
