

CHILD DEVELOPMENT RECOVERY FUNDS CAN LEVERAGE SIGNIFICANT FEDERAL FOOD PROGRAM FUNDING INTO STATES: SUPPORTING GOOD NUTRITION IN QUALITY CHILD CARE

Provides \$1.1 billion for **Early Head Start** and \$1 billion for **Head Start**, which provide comprehensive development services to low-income infants and preschool children - thereby potentially providing services for 110,000 additional infants and children. Because virtually all such children receive meals and snacks paid for by federal food programs, primarily the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), almost all of these added children will receive these nutrition benefits under existing law.

Provides \$2 billion for the **Child Care Development Block Grant** to improve the quality of child care offered in subsidized settings and to provide child care services to up to an additional 300,000 children in low-income families while their parents go to work. Many of these children will get CACFP nutrition benefits but without additional outreach and coordination many will not.

In total, these new child care dollars could bring in up to \$250 billion in federal food program dollars depending on the rate of developing new child care spaces with the recovery funding and the extent of CACFP outreach and coordination efforts in states.

TAKING ACTION

Advocates can work with state legislators, Governors, and policy makers to maximize federal food program resources as a key step in the implementation of the recovery child care funds by taking the following steps:

- Integrate coordination with the Child and Adult Care Food program as a key resource in state efforts to maximize the federal economic recovery funds for Head Start and the Child Care Development Block Grant to create new child care spaces and to improve the quality of child care for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
- Assure that the child care, licensing and food program agencies work together to conduct outreach and promotion for the Child and Adult Care Food program by requiring the state:
 - child care subsidy agency (the agency that distributes the Child Care Development Fund and/or TANF child care funds) to provide assistance with CACFP outreach by including CACFP promotional materials along with the child care subsidy applications and checks mailed to parents or providers, and
 - Child care licensing agency to provide assistance with CACFP outreach by including CACFP promotional materials as part of the licensing application and training process.
- Promote the use of federal CACFP expansion grants, which provide funding (with no state match requirement) for sponsoring organizations to conduct outreach to family child

care homes in low-income and rural areas. (Sponsoring organizations administer CACFP on the local level directly to family child care homes.)

- Remove any barriers to maximizing the use of this important federal resource including any additional state generated paperwork requirements.

- Protect the ability of the state food program agency to provide the necessary services in this recession and maximize federal funds by:
 - exempting federally-funded state CACFP agency positions from state government hiring freezes or layoffs, and
 - Deeming CACFP agencies and offices (including computer systems) as “essential staff and functions” and therefore exempt from state furloughs and similar actions.

The state CACFP agency should be adequately staffed to provide the necessary services and conduct outreach. The CACFP federally funded administrative funds make it unnecessary to include CACFP state agency staff in state budget driven hiring freezes or layoffs. A fully staffed CACFP state agency is a source of revenue to the state through the federal funds the agency brings into the state. Reducing CACFP state staff is counterproductive because it will only result in the loss of federal administrative and program funds coming into your state.