

CACFP Supports Good Nutrition in _____

In _____, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) pays for nutritious meals and snacks for eligible children and adults who are enrolled at participating child care centers, family child care homes, Head Start, and afterschool programs.

Why CACFP is Important in _____

- New healthy nutrition standards for the meals and snacks that CACFP provides make a good program even better.
- CACFP ensures that children:
 - receive a nutritious diet;
 - start good nutrition habits early in life;
 - grow healthy and strong; and
 - are prepared for school, ready to learn.
- CACFP plays a vital role in improving the quality of child care and making it more affordable for many low-income families.
- CACFP's resources and training support communities, especially rural, by supporting child care.

Participation

- In _____, CACFP provided healthy meals and snacks to _____ children last year.
- CACFP funding is a significant resource supporting _____'s child care providers and afterschool programs. USDA reimbursed \$ _____ to child care providers and afterschool programs in _____ last year.
- This funding supports jobs in child care.
- CACFP funding supports the local economy, by purchasing required healthy foods at grocery stores and farmers' markets.
- CACFP funding was used for the food and labor to produce a total of _____ healthy meals and snacks in _____ last year.

Funding Options 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 are also eligible if at least 25 percent of their children come from families with incomes below 185 percent of the poverty level.
- Children age 12 and younger are eligible to receive up to two meals and one snack daily at a child care home or center. Afterschool meals and snacks are available to children through age 18.

Benefits

- Participating programs provide meals according to the nutrition standards set by USDA ensuring that children in care receive balanced, nutritious meals and snacks. Recently updated nutrition standards make a good program even better.
- Studies show that children in CACFP receive meals that are nutritionally superior to those served to children in comparable child care settings without CACFP.
- New research shows that CACFP reduces food insecurity by protecting children against hunger and helping families protect children against hunger.
- Research has demonstrated CACFP's clear role in helping to assure good nutrition and high quality, affordable child care. The program is a well-documented success.
- Research cites participation in CACFP as one of the major factors influencing quality care.

For more information, contact: _____

