

**Child & Adult Care Food Program**

**Emergency Shelters**

**Fact Sheet**

## July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

## *Child Nutrition Programs*

## *Finance & Support Services*

## *P.O. Box 110500*

## *Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500*

## *Phone (907) 465-4788*

*Fax (907) 465-8911*

[*Chris Mariano*](mailto:chris.mariano@alaska.gov)

Emergency shelters, which serve homeless children and their families, can participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) through the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

What is the CACFP?

CACFP is a federally funded nutrition assistance program that provides healthy meals and snacks to 2.5 million young children each day in day care settings. The program also serves 58,000 adults who receive care in nonresidential adult day care centers. In 1999, CACFP reached even farther by providing snacks to youths participating in after school care programs, and meals and snacks to at-risk children residing in homeless shelters.

Which shelters can participate in the CACFP?

An emergency shelter must provide residential and food services to homeless children and their parents or guardians. It must be a public or private nonprofit institution. The shelter must meet any health and safety codes that are required by state or local law.

Who is eligible for CACFP meals and snacks?

Effective October 1, 2004 each residential child 18 years of age and younger may receive up to three reimbursable meals each day. Children with disabilities, regardless of their age, may also receive CACFP meals and snacks at the emergency shelters where they reside. Only meals to eligible children are reimbursable.

There are no application forms for parents or guardians to fill out. All reimbursable meals and snacks must be served in group settings, meet CACFP program requirements, and be served at no cost to the child or to the child’s parents or guardians.

How are shelters reimbursed?

Homeless shelters receive payments for serving meals and snacks, which meet Federal nutritional guidelines, to eligible children. July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024, reimbursement rates are:

| **Eligibility** | **Breakfast** | **Lunch/Supper** | **Snack** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Free | 3.66 | 6.90 | 1.89 |

Emergency shelters may be approved to serve up to three reimbursable meals—breakfast, lunch, and supper—or two meals and one snack, to each child, each day, on weekdays and weekends.

How can a shelter participate on the CACFP?

* Complete an application (two-part process) and submit it to the Alaska Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs. Receive and pass a pre-approval visit from Alaska Department of Education, Child Nutrition Program staff.
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Where can you get more information?

To learn more about the CACFP, contact: Chris Mariano at (907) 465-4788 or email [Chris Mariano](mailto:chris.mariano@alaska.gov).

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture  
   Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
   1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
   Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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