

# Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for At-Risk Programs

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development



## What is the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)?

The 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 At-Risk Afterschool Meals program is available to public entities, including school districts, private non-profit organizations, and for-profit child care centers that are already participating in CACFP.

## Program Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the at-risk afterschool meals component of CACFP either as a school district or through a local sponsoring organization, an afterschool program must:

- Be organized primarily to provide care for children after school or on the weekends, holidays, or school vacations during the regular school year;
- Provide organized regularly scheduled educational or enrichment activities (in a structured and supervised environment);
- If located in a school, it is open to all (athletic teams and scholastic clubs that limit membership based on ability or other requirements are not eligible)
- Serve free meals to children
- Be located in an eligible area [7 CFR §226.2; 7 CFR §226.17a(b)].

An eligible area means that the site is located in the attendance area of a public school (an elementary, middle, or high school) where at least 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Area eligibility determinations must be based on the total number of children approved for free and reduced-price school meals for the preceding October. A site's area eligibility determination made under CACFP is valid for 5 years [7 CFR § 226.17a(i)(3)].

## How many meals may be provided?

Institutions participating in the at-risk afterschool care component of CACFP are eligible to claim reimbursement at the Free rate for up to one snack and one meal served to each eligible participant per day during the school year.

## How does CACFP work?

Approved sponsors are reimbursed for serving snacks and meals that meet federal nutrition guidelines. Up to one snack and/or supper may be served daily after the school day has ended and during the school year, except on weekends and holidays, when a different meal may be served at any time of the day. This program requires maintaining a daily sign-in sheet, recording and reporting the total number of meals and snacks served each day, keeping a menu and recipes showing that meals and snacks served meet USDA requirements, and maintaining a non-profit food service.

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

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