

Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for Emergency Shelters

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 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.

How are shelters reimbursed?

Emergency shelters receive payments for serving meals and snacks, which meet Federal nutritional guidelines, to eligible children. 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.

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. Shelters receive reimbursement at the Free rate; these [federal reimbursement rates](#) are adjusted annually in July.

How many meals may be provided?

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 in the CACFP?

- Complete a two-part application and submit it to the Alaska Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs (DEED-CNP).
- Receive and pass a pre-approval visit from Alaska DEED-CNP staff



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