



USDA Commodity Food Distribution

Child Nutrition Services
Teaching and Learning Support
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USDA Commodity Program & CACFP

Child and Adult Care Food Programs have the option to participate in the Commodity Food Distribution Program or receive Cash-in-lieu of commodities for all lunches and suppers served. For fiscal year 2009, the Cash-in-lieu of commodities rate is \$0.2075 and the commodities rate is \$0.2084.

Programs electing to participate in the commodities program may order bulk commodities through Child Nutrition. Programs participating in the USDA Commodity Program receive an entitlement, which is the amount that they may apply towards the commodities available each year. Products are ordered in the winter and received the following fall. The only cost for programs participating in the commodity programs is \$3.25 per case to cover administrative costs.

The value of Commodities represents 15% – 20% of the market value of the foods if purchased through commercial outlets. The foods that USDA donates vary depending on what farm products are available.

What Foods are available?

Entitlement Foods

Federal law mandates a national level of commodity assistance for Child Nutrition programs based on each reimbursable lunch served. USDA ensures that enough foods are purchased and delivered to states in order to meet the commodity entitlement.

Bonus Commodities

When unusually large surpluses occur, USDA makes commodities available to states for foods not charged against entitlement. These foods are classified as bonus commodities because they are not charged against entitlement. Bonus commodities are offered in addition to entitlement commodities.

Shipping

USDA Commodities are shipped at no cost to the programs located in the following areas: Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Mt. Village, Sitka, Soldotna, Unalakleet, and Wasilla. If a program resides outside one of the pre-paid destination, they must secure transportation for non-processed commodities (i.e. canned corn, diced chicken, turkey roast). If a program elects to order processed commodities (i.e. pizza, chicken nuggets), these are shipped at no cost to all locations.

Is the USDA Commodities program right for your organization?

A Child and Adult Care Food Program must carefully determine if participation in the commodities program will work for their organization. Things to consider are:

- Storage space: Can you adequately store several cases of particular items?
- Value: Is the value of the commodities greater than the cash-in-lieu?
- Technology: The commodity food program requires the use of the CNPweb, our on-line database. Do you have access to the internet?

How much food can a program receive?

In FY07, a CACFP program with an average daily attendance of 44, serving approximately 800 lunches a month received the following:

- 4 cases of green beans (6 #10 cans)
- 4 cases canned corn (6 #10 cans)
- 4 cases fruit mix (6 #10 cans)
- 4 cases applesauce (6 #10 cans)
- 4 cases cling diced peaches (6 #10 cans)
- 4 cases frozen corn cobs (96 ear/case)
- 4 cases frozen potato wedges (6 5lb packs)
- 4 cases frozen potato rounds (6 5lb packs)
- 3 cases diced chicken (40 lb container)
- 4 cases turkey roast (32-48 lbs)
- 4 cases frozen ground beef (40 lb container)
- 4 cases shredded cheddar cheese (6 5lb packages)

The cost for these products for this agency was \$94 in administrative fees. If this program had received cash-in-lieu of commodities, they would have received approximately \$150 per month (\$1,800).

If you are interested in signing up for the USDA Commodity Food Program, or have questions, please feel free to contact Jo Dawson at 465-8710 or jo.dawson@alaska.gov or Tony Warren at 465-3629 or tony.warren@alaska.gov.

Please be advised that a program agreement must be in place by February 15 in order to participate for the following program year.