

Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for Child Care Centers

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. Child Care Centers, which serve non-residential children 12 years or younger or disabled children over the age of 12, can participate in the CACFP through the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED).

What kind of centers can participate in the CACFP?

An organization must provide organized care to children. The center may be public or private non-profit centers or for-profit center if 25% of the enrolled participants are Title XIX or XX beneficiaries. Child care centers may be independent centers, preschool facilities, or head start organizations.

How are centers reimbursed?

Centers receive payments based on a rate percentage for serving meals and snacks, which meet Federal nutritional guidelines, to eligible children. A 30-day study is conducted annually which documents all children attending the center within that time frame. Income data is collected on these families and the center is reimbursed according to the number of families that fall within three categories of income as instructed by the Federal income eligibility guidelines from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Services. A child care center with a higher rate of lower income children will receive a higher reimbursement rate than a center that has more affluent children attending. [Federal reimbursement rates](#) are adjusted annually in July.

How many meals may be provided?

Child care centers may serve and be reimbursed for up to two meals and one snack or two snacks and one meal each day for eligible children in care.

How can a center participate in the CACFP?

- Contact the Alaska DEED-Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) for an application.
- Complete a two-part application and submit it to the Alaska DEED-CNP.
- Receive and pass a pre-approval visit from Alaska DEED-CNP staff.
- Must be a licensed childcare facility.

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