

# CACFP

## The Child and Adult Care Food Program

### FAQs

### For Home-Based Childcare Providers

CACFP is a federally funded nutrition assistance program that reimburses childcare providers for serving nutritious meals and snacks to the children in their care. The NYS Department of Health administers CACFP in our state and more than 10,000 home-based childcare providers are participating.

#### How does CACFP help childcare providers?

Through CACFP, providers receive reimbursement to help offset the cost of buying and serving healthy meals and snacks to children in their care. In addition to this funding, providers receive free training and support to improve the nutritional quality of the food they serve.

CACFP reimbursement can make a big difference for a provider's food budget, even if they serve a small number of children. For example, a provider in a low-income area serving five children a morning snack, lunch, and supper 20 days per month could receive up to \$600 per month in reimbursement.

#### How does CACFP help children?

Quality nutrition is vital for healthy development, yet many children go without the consistent nourishment they need to reach their full potential. CACFP works to ensure children receive healthy meals and snacks while in child care, helping to alleviate food insecurity, support children's wellbeing, and establish healthy eating habits.

#### Who is eligible to participate in CACFP?

All childcare providers may be eligible to participate in CACFP, including:

- Registered family day care providers
- Licensed group family day care providers
- Legally exempt, or informal, providers who receive child care payments from a county or city agency

Eligible providers participate in CACFP by having an agreement with a NYS-approved sponsor. To find a sponsor in your area, call the toll-free Growing Up Healthy Hotline at 800-522-5006 or e-mail CACFP at [cacfp@health.ny.gov](mailto:cacfp@health.ny.gov) using the subject line "Outreach Coordinator."

#### How much are the CACFP meal and snack reimbursements?

CACFP reimburses providers for each creditable meal or snack served, up to two meals and one snack per child per day while in care. The current CACFP reimbursement rates for home-based child care are listed below. There are two different reimbursement rates, or tiers, with the higher rates (Tier 1) applicable to providers serving low-income children. The NYS Department of Health can help providers determine the correct reimbursement tier for their child care operation.

	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Lunch/Supper</b>	<b>Snack</b>
<b>Tier 1</b>	\$1.39	\$2.61	\$0.78
<b>Tier 2</b>	\$0.50	\$1.58	\$0.21

*Effective July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021*

#### How and when will I receive reimbursement?

At the end of every month, participating providers submit copies of their menus and attendance records for that month. Once that paperwork is submitted and processed, the provider will receive a check.

#### What kinds of food can providers serve?

Meals reimbursed through CACFP must meet meal pattern requirements to ensure children are receiving complete, high-quality nutrition. In general, meals for children one year of age or older must include fruits and vegetables, grains, meat or meat alternates, and 1% or fat-free milk. Snacks must include at least two of the meal components—for example, a vegetable and a grain—plus water if no other beverage is provided.

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## **Can meals or snacks be modified to accommodate dietary needs and/or cultural considerations?**

Yes. As long as a meal or snack meets the CACFP meal pattern requirements, providers can be flexible to meet the needs of the children and families they serve. For specific questions, participating providers will receive support from their local sponsor.

## **How does CACFP work for infants who are breastfeeding?**

From birth through 7 months of age, CACFP will reimburse providers for a breastfed infant's meals and snacks, even if the child is only consuming breastmilk and/or the infant's feeding schedule does not align with typical meal and snack times. From 8 months of age to the infant's first birthday, or as soon as the infant begins taking solid foods, the provider must supply at least one component of each meal or snack to claim reimbursement. Providers can contact their local sponsor for more information.

## **Do all children in my care need to be enrolled in CACFP?**

After age 1, all children must be enrolled. The provider's own children may be eligible to participate based on the provider's income. For more information, contact your local CACFP Sponsor.

## **Does my child care need to meet health and safety standards to participate in CACFP?**

Yes. Home-based childcare settings must meet basic health and safety standards, including having a working refrigerator and stove, hot and cold running water, and a smoke detector in or near the kitchen. If special circumstances or questions arise, contact your local CACFP Sponsor for more information.

## **Will there be home visits?**

Yes. There are three home visits required per year, two of which are unannounced. Visits are usually brief and focus on attendance, required meal components, and recordkeeping. These visits also provide a valuable opportunity for sponsors to answer questions and provide assistance with menu planning or other aspects of CACFP.

## **What are the recordkeeping requirements?**

Providers must keep track of child enrollment, attendance, menus, and meal counts. Sponsors will provide training and assistance to support providers with recordkeeping requirements.

## **Who do I contact for more information?**

Home-based childcare providers can contact the Early Care and Learning Council at 518-690-4217 or [EarlyCareAndLearning.org](http://EarlyCareAndLearning.org).

Visit the NYS CACFP website at [health.ny.gov/CACFP](http://health.ny.gov/CACFP) or contact NYS CACFP at 518-402-7400 or 800-942-3858 to learn more about the program.

*CACFP is also available for childcare centers and afterschool programs.  
To access additional information and resources, visit [ChildCareMealsNY.org](http://ChildCareMealsNY.org).*

ChildcareMealsNY.org



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