

CACFP **The Child and Adult Care Food Program**

FAQs for the At-Risk Afterschool Snack and Supper Program

The At-Risk Afterschool Snack and Supper Program is a federally-funded nutrition assistance program that helps qualifying afterschool programs provide free snacks and suppers to youth and teenagers.

How does the At-Risk Program help children and teenagers?

No child should go hungry; by the time the school day ends, lunch has long passed. Well-nourished children attending afterschool programs have energy to focus on homework, socialize with peers, and participate in physical activities. When children and teenagers eat the nutritious snacks and suppers provided free of charge by this program, it discourages them from eating high salt, high sugar, and high fat foods such as junk food and fast food.

How does the At-Risk Program help my afterschool program?

Serving high-quality, nutritious food to children and teens is another way your afterschool program can create a healthy afterschool environment. If your program is already providing food to children, using federal funds to pay for meals may help free program funds for other purposes.

Does my afterschool program qualify?

The At-Risk Afterschool Program is targeted toward children from low-income families. In order for your afterschool program to qualify, it must be located in a low-income neighborhood. This is determined by school building data that show that 50% or more enrolled students qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. Contact your local school, Hunger Solutions New York, or NYS CACFP to find out if you are eligible to serve reimbursable snacks and/or suppers. Qualifying programs must provide quality educational or enrichment activities to youth and teens. This may include tutoring, computer classes, science and technology activities, homework help, arts, and/or recreation programs.

When can my afterschool program serve snacks and/or suppers?

Meals and snacks can be served on school days, weekends, holidays, and when school is out of session during the regular school year.

Can my afterschool program serve both snacks and suppers?

Yes. However, NYS CACFP recommends spacing meals and snacks between two and two-and-a-half hours apart, when serving them to the same child.

How much funding can my afterschool program receive?

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) annually sets a fixed per-meal reimbursement for snacks and suppers. As of July 1, 2022, the reimbursement is \$1.18 for each snack and \$4.03 for each supper. For each meal served that meets program guidelines, sponsors receive the per-meal reimbursement from NYS CACFP. Reimbursement covers food costs, but may or may not cover related food service supplies, food service staff preparation time, or other administrative expenses related to the meal.

How and when will my program receive the meal funding?

CACFP is a reimbursement-based program, not a grant. Once the required paperwork is completed and the program is approved to begin serving reimbursable meals, a designated afterschool program staff member submits a monthly reimbursement claim (either in hard copy or electronically) to NYS CACFP that records how many meals were served in the preceding month. Per-meal funds are reimbursed to the sponsor directly in a few weeks.

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What kinds of food can we serve as snacks and/or suppers?

In order to receive reimbursement, each snack and supper must meet the CACFP meal pattern. Suppers must include all five components: milk, vegetable, fruit, grains/bread, and meat/meat alternate. Snacks must include two of the following: milk, vegetable, fruit, grains/bread, or meat/meat alternate.

Where does the food come from and who prepares the snacks and/or suppers?

Programs choose where the food originates and who prepares it. Programs can purchase food (from places like grocery stores) and prepare it themselves in facilities that meet certain preparation standards. Or, programs may contract with a local food vendor to prepare snacks and suppers. For school-based afterschool programs, it is highly recommended that the school's food service department prepares the meals. (In New York City, the Office of School Food prepares meals.)

What kinds of health and safety standards does my program need to meet in order to serve meals?

All kitchens in which CACFP meals are prepared and/or served must meet local county department of health inspection requirements and/or receive a permit. Regulations vary per county. If meals will be prepared in a kitchen that has never prepared industrial meals before, it is best to first contact your local department of health.

Can more than one afterschool program located in the same building provide CACFP meals?

Yes. Multiple afterschool programs located in the same building can serve snacks and/or suppers, as long as the same children are not being fed multiple meals and all students are engaging in quality afterschool enrichment activities.

Who do I contact for more information and how do I apply?

Afterschool programs can apply through NYS CACFP at any time of year. Contact their office at 800-942-3858 or email cacfp@health.ny.gov with "outreach coordinator" in the subject line. NYS CACFP staff will determine your afterschool program's eligibility, provide estimated reimbursement for serving snacks and suppers, and guide you through the application process. Each afterschool program is required to complete an application and approval process.

Upstate/Long Island:

Qualified afterschool programs can apply for afterschool snack and supper reimbursement through NYS CACFP.

However, qualified afterschool programs operated by a school may choose the snack component of the National School Lunch Program administered and funded by NYSED. This option is for school-run afterschool programs only and additional administrative considerations exist. Contact your school district's food service department for more information. Afterschool programs operated by a school still need to claim suppers through NYS CACFP.

New York City:

Qualified afterschool programs located outside a New York City public school must apply for afterschool snack and supper reimbursement through NYS CACFP. However, afterschool programs located inside a New York City public school (run by a school or a non-school entity) must apply through the NYC DOE Office of School Food. Since the Office of School Food serves as the CACFP sponsor, afterschool programs must apply online through the Office of School Food.

*CACFP is also available for childcare centers and home-based childcare providers.
To access additional information and resources, visit AfterschoolMealsNY.org.*

AfterschoolMealsNY.org



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