

Child Care Providers Can Discover the Power of the Food Program by Participating in the CACFP

Five benefits to joining the Food Program

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The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federal nutrition program through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that plays a key role in improving access to nutritious meals, promoting food security, and elevating the quality of child care. For decades, the CACFP has supported families and caregivers by ensuring that children receive balanced, nutrient-rich meals in safe and nurturing environments. Investing in the food program means investing in healthier, happier futures for children and families.



Discover the Power of the Food Program

Participating in the CACFP is about more than providing meals. It is about fostering a foundation for children's health, development and success. Providers in the food program follow nutritional standards, offering five meal components that are essential for healthy development. This focus on quality nutrition ensures that children receive the energy and nutrients they need to grow, learn and succeed. Participation also reflects a provider's commitment to quality care, setting them apart as leaders in child care.

For child care providers, afterschool programs and adult care facilities, joining the CACFP brings significant advantages. Here are five reasons why providers should participate.

1. By adhering to USDA guidelines, the CACFP ensures children receive the essential nutrients needed for physical and cognitive development.
2. The program offers reimbursements that offset the costs of meal preparation, allowing providers to reinvest in other areas of care.

3. Participating in the CACFP has proven to be a marker of quality care, showing families that the provider is committed to high standards of nutrition and care.
4. By serving communities in need, the CACFP helps combat hunger and provides stability for families facing financial challenges.
5. Providers receive ongoing support, including training in meal-planning, nutrition, and program administration, ensuring long-term success.

For parents, choosing a CACFP-participating provider means selecting a child care option that prioritizes health and wellness. These providers go above and beyond to ensure children receive balanced meals that support their growth, learning, and overall well-being.

Child care providers who are not yet participating in the CACFP but are interested in learning more are encouraged to attend a webinar hosted by the [National CACFP Association](#) on February 19. This informative session will provide insights into the program's benefits, how to get started, and the support available for new participants. For more details and to register, visit [Why Participate in the CACFP? Discover the Power of the Food Program](#).

Since 1986, the National CACFP Association (NCA) has been a leading national organization offering support to thousands within the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) community. Its overarching goal is to ensure nutrition security for families by facilitating access to vital food programs.

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