The USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides reimbursement to program operators for serving nutritious meals and snacks nationwide to children in child care centers, family child care homes, Head Start centers, emergency shelters, and afterschool programs as well as adults in day care. The main purpose of the CACFP is to ensure proper development, improve nutrition security, and decrease food insecurity.

Benefits of the CACFP

- Provide healthy, nutritious meals and snacks.
  - Enhance the quality of meals served.
  - Increase nutrition security.
  - Combat diet-related diseases.
  - Promote lifelong healthy eating habits.
- Make your child care more competitive.
  - Signal to families that the CACFP is a key indicator of quality child care, which is most beneficial to their child(ren).
  - Assure parents that their children will receive nutritious meals that support their development while in your care.
  - Promote that meals served are based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- Access training, guidance and resources.
  - Receive technical assistance and training on how to successfully implement the CACFP.
  - Explore best practices nationally and at the State level.
  - Access and get support from a nationwide network of CACFP providers.
- Receive reimbursement for meals and snacks.
  - Purchase more nutritious foods for those in your care.
  - Receive supplemental help with your food expenses.
  - Make child care affordable for the families that you serve.

“...We are able to provide the families in our area with quality child care, and at the same time, provide the children with the food and nutrition they need in order to grow and develop...”

Community Action Head Start; Salem, Oregon