

What can CACFP do for me?



The USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federal program that subsidizes participating child care centers and child care homes for serving nutritious meals to eligible infants and children.

The program is administered by the Iowa Department of Education's Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services.

The purpose of the program is to provide meal reimbursement for serving nutritious meals and foster lifelong healthy eating and physical activity habits.



Benefits for Your Program

- CACFP participation is an indicator of high-quality child care
- Gives your program a competitive edge when parents know you serve healthy meals and snacks (34% use CACFP as a selling point)
- CACFP offers free, DHS approved training on Program administration, menu planning, nutrition education and more
- Menu ideas and child-friendly recipes are available through CACFP

Iowa CACFP Participaton (2019)

675

child care center sites



1,575

child care homes



Centers

Meal Reimbursement Rates (2019)

(Free / Reduced / Paid)

\$1.84 / \$1.54 / \$0.31 Breakfast

\$3.41 / \$3.01 / \$0.32 Lunch and Supper

\$0.94 / \$0.47 / \$0.08 Snack



Homes

Meal Reimbursement Rates (2019)

\$0.48 - \$1.33 Breakfast

\$1.50 - \$2.49 Lunch and Supper

\$0.20 - \$0.74 Snack



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



CACFP Facts

- CACFP provides tools to minimize paperwork and improve business practices.
- Average annual meal reimbursement \$21,989 per center organization and \$5,894 per home (2018-2019).
- All DHS registered and CCA home providers are eligible.
- All non-profit centers, and for-profit centers serving at least 25% of children from low income households are eligible.
- CACFP promotes farm to early care and education activities, gardening, serving locally grown foods and teaching children where our food comes from.
- CACFP encourages family-style meals as a best practice to support child development.



Studies show children participating in CACFP receive meals nutritionally superior to those served to similar children in other child care settings.

“It makes me feel better, knowing that I’m giving them good food to allow them to grow, to develop, and be the best that they can be.”

Iowa Home Provider

