

Child Care Centers in the CACFP

Purpose

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally-funded, State-administered program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks served to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating child care centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers. In Vermont, CACFP is administered by the Vermont Agency of Education Child Nutrition Programs. The CACFP provides cash reimbursements to eligible public or private child care centers that serve nutritious meals and snacks to children in their care.

Why Operate CACFP at Child Care Centers?

- Provides funding to supplement the cost of healthy meals and snacks.
- Teaches children at an early age healthy eating habits that have long-term benefits.
- Gives parents and caregivers confidence in knowing that you are invested in the health and well-being of their children.
- Offers guidance in menu planning and recipe ideas.
- Offers technical assistance to ensure your Program succeeds.
- Distributes ready-to-use information for families to encourage healthy eating in and out of the childcare setting.

Eligibility Requirements

- May be a public or private nonprofit child care center, Head Start program, or other institution licensed or approved to provide child care services.
- For-profit child care centers must receive Title XX benefits (child care subsidy) for at least 25 percent of their eligible enrolled participants or 25 percent of licensed capacity, whichever is less, or 25 percent of the eligible enrolled participants qualify for free or reduced price meals.
- May participate independently or as a sponsored center.
- Must be licensed by the Vermont Department of Children and Families (DCF).

Meal Pattern Requirements

- Meals and snacks served to infants, ages birth through 11 months, must meet the requirements set forth in the CACFP Infant Meal Pattern, including specific meal components and portion sizes.
- Meals and snacks served to children, ages 1 through 18, must meet the requirements set forth in the CACFP Child Meal Pattern, including specific meal components and portion sizes.

Contact Information: If you have questions about this document or are interested in applying to participate in the CACFP, please contact: Rebecca Cochran, Child Nutrition Programs, at rebecca.cochran@vermont.gov or 802-828-1610.

Reimbursement

Child Care Centers can be reimbursed for up to two meals and one snack or two snacks and one meal per participant per day. Reimbursement is determined by the type of meals served (breakfast, lunch/supper, or snack) and the number of participants eligible for free, reduced price, or paid meals determined by their household income.

Breakfast Example:

- Fluid milk: Fat-free milk
- Grain: Whole-wheat bread
- Vegetable or fruit: Watermelon chunks

Recordkeeping Requirements

- Daily Attendance Documentation
- Master List
- Enrollment Forms
- Income Eligibility Forms
- Dated Menus
- Point of Service Meal Counts
- Production Records
- Monthly Operating Expenses
- Training Documentation
- Monitoring Reviews (Sponsors only)
 - Three times per year
- All documents must be maintained for 3 years, plus the current year (4 years)



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.