

**Child & Adult Care Food Program**

**Child Care Center**

**Fact Sheet**

## July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

## *Child Nutrition Programs*

# *Finance & Support Services*

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Child Care Centers, which serve non-residential children 12 years or younger or disabled children over the age of 12, can participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) through the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

What is the CACFP?

CACFP is a federally funded nutrition assistance program that provides healthy meals and snacks to 2.5 million young children each day in day care settings. The program also serves 58,000 adults who receive care in nonresidential adult day care centers.

What kind of centers can participate in the CACFP?

To participate in the Child Care Food Program, an organization must be providing a care to children. The center may be public or private non-profit centers or for-profit center if 25% of the enrolled participants are Title XIX or XX beneficiaries. Child care centers may be independent centers, preschool facilities, or head start organizations.

How many meals may be provided?

Child care centers may serve and be reimbursed for up to 2 meals and 1 snack or 2 snacks and 1 meal each day for children in care.

How are centers reimbursed?

Centers receive payments based on a rate percentage for serving meals and snacks, which meet Federal nutritional guidelines, to eligible children. A 30-day study is conducted annually which documents all children attending the center within that time frame. Income data is collected on these families and the center is reimbursed according to the number of families that fall within three categories of income as instructed by the Federal income eligibility guidelines from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Services. A child care center with a higher rate of lower income children will receive a higher reimbursement rate than a center that has more affluent children attending.

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 reimbursement rates are:

| **Eligibility** | **Breakfast** | **Lunch/Supper** | **Snack** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Paid | 0.50 | 0.57 | 0.14 |
| Reduced Price | 2.85 | 5.54 | 0.81 |
| Free | 3.15 | 5.94 | 1.63 |

How can a center participate on the CACFP?

* Contact the Alaska Department of Education, Child Nutrition Program for an application.
* Complete an application (two part process) and submit it to the Alaska Department of Education, Child Nutrition Program.
* Receive and pass a pre-approval visit from Alaska Department of Education, Child Nutrition Services staff.
* Must be a licensed childcare facility.

Where can you get more information?

To learn more about the Child Care Center program in the CACFP, read the [USDA Independent Child Care Centers Handbook](https://education.alaska.gov/cnp/cacfp1) on the DEED CACFP Resources page of the Child Nutrition Program website. You may also contact: Ann-Marie Martin at (907) 465-8711 or email [Ann-Marie Martin](mailto:annmarie.martin@alaska.gov).

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