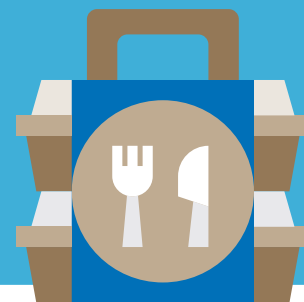


# How to Participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)



## What is CACFP?

CACFP is the Child and Adult Care Food Program. This Federal program supports and provides funding for healthy meals and snacks served to children and adults receiving day care. It plays an important role in improving the quality of day care and ensuring access to adequate nutrition. It also makes both more affordable for families. In Nevada, the CACFP program is administered by the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) with funds from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## Who Can Participate?

Organizations eligible to participate in CACFP include Child Care Centers, Day Care Homes, At-Risk Afterschool Programs, Outside School Hours Care Programs, Emergency Shelters with Homeless Children and Adult Day Care Centers. This factsheet provides information specifically on how organizations that serve young children can participate in CACFP. Adult Day Care Centers interested in participating can find more information on the **NDA CACFP website**.

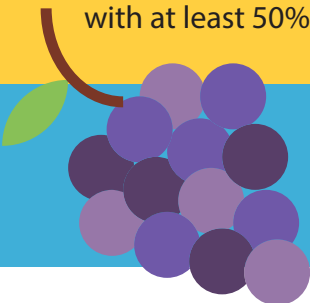
Eligible sites that serve children include:

- **Licensed Child Care Centers**
- **Day Care Homes (Family and Group):** Licensed, nonresidential care providers operating out of a private home must participate under a Sponsor.
- **Homeless/Emergency Shelters:** Organizations that provide temporary shelter and food services to homeless children are not required to offer formal child care to qualify.
- **At-Risk Afterschool Programs:** Organizations located in low income areas as defined by a school area with at least 50% free and reduced income students.
- **Outside School Hours Care Programs:** Organizations not located in low income areas as defined by a school area with at least 50% free and reduced income students.

## Benefits of Participation

CACFP reimburses participating centers and day care homes for meals served, allowing centers to provide healthy, nutritious food to eligible participants with limited cost to your organization. NDA is available to assist you with meal planning, food safety, meeting administrative requirements, and can provide annual training and monitoring visits to ensure that Participating Sites are positioned for success.

Parents often look for centers that have nutritious meals available to their children. The CACFP funding for meals and food services allows your organization to use savings from not purchasing food to improve and expand quality child care services. USDA offers trainings and resources for parents and centers regarding feeding young children and infants, growing vegetables and fruits, serving family style meals, physical activity, recipes and much more...all free of charge!



This factsheet is part of a series on CACFP participation specific to early childhood education/ child care providers, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program—SNAP. The entire series, as well as information on how non-ECE providers may participate, is available on the NDA CACFP website at <http://agri.nv.gov/Food/CACFP/>. NDA is an equal opportunity employer.

## How Does it Work?

There are three ways to participate in CACFP

- 1) as a Sponsoring Organization,
- 2) as a Participating Site under a Sponsoring Organization, or
- 3) as an Independent Center.

Participation options will vary based on program type. Sponsoring Organizations and Independent Centers are generally referred to as Sponsors that sign agreements with the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

A Sponsoring Organization provides administrative, financial, educational, and nutritional tools and support to help Participating Sites remain CACFP compliant. Any program may operate as a single Independent Center except Day Care Homes.

Food for Kids, Inc., a Nevada-based nonprofit, currently serves as the CACFP Sponsor for all Day Care Homes. Child Care Centers and Adult Day Care Centers also operate under Food for Kids, Inc. More information on the support and services they offer is available at [foodforkidsnevada.org](http://foodforkidsnevada.org).

### Meal Reimbursement

Programs are reimbursed for each meal and snack served. All meals and snacks are free to children. Only Child Care Centers and Outside School Hour Care programs may be approved to charge a separate fee for meals, requiring additional paperwork and restrictions. Except for Emergency Shelters and At-Risk Afterschool Programs, total reimbursement is based on the annual collection of Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Forms completed by families of children in care. The Sponsor or Participating Site will receive a blended rate based on all enrolled children's household income. The highest meal reimbursement rate is available for children from a family participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), in foster care or enrolled in Head Start or Early Head Start. For-profit centers can participate in CACFP if either 25% of their licensed capacity or 25% of the children in their care are from households that meet free or reduced-priced income.

### Other Requirements

CACFP Sponsors must demonstrate they meet three performance standards: financial viability, administrative capability, and program accountability. Sponsors must also be an established business for at least one year. NDA staff can aid and provide training resources on how to meet these requirements as part of the application process. Participating Sites will receive assistance from their Sponsor regarding ongoing reporting and compliance requirements.

## How Do I Apply?

Participation regulations and processes will vary per Sponsor, but the starting place is the same: **complete and submit the CACFP Initial Application to NDA, available at the NDA CACFP website as a fillable PDF.**

If your organization wants to participate under a Sponsor, you need assistance completing the form, or you would like to request it in another format, please contact NDA at 775-353-3758 or 702-668-4585 or [fnd@agri.nv.gov](mailto:fnd@agri.nv.gov).

