

## **What are frequently asked questions related to centers?**

### **What is the Child and Adult Care Food Program?**

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program. It provides cash reimbursement for nutritious meals and helps develop positive eating habits for children enrolled in nonresidential childcare centers and day care homes.

### **Who can participate?**

Any public or private nonprofit organization providing licensed or approved nonresidential childcare services may participate. These include childcare centers, Head Start centers, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning centers, emergency shelters serving homeless children, and day care homes.

Organizations providing after school care to youth up to 18 may qualify for snack and supper reimbursement at the Category A rate during the school year. The after-school care must be located in an attendance area of a school where at least 50% of the enrollment are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

Private for-profit centers that receive compensation under Title XX of the Social Security Act may qualify. At least 25% of the enrolled children or 25% of the licensed capacity must be Title XX beneficiaries or eligible for free (Category A) or reduced-price meals (Category B).

### **What are center eligibility requirements?**

All centers must be licensed or approved by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) or have federal (military or tribal) licensing or approval. The center must be nonresidential.

After school care programs exempt from child day care licensing must meet state or local health and safety standards.

### **How does the program operate?**

Childcare centers apply for CACFP participation with the Michigan Department of Education as an independent center or under a sponsoring organization which accepts final administrative and financial responsibility for CACFP operations.

### **What are meal service and participation requirements?**

Participating centers may be approved to receive reimbursement for up to two meals and one snack or two snacks and one meal per child per day. Meals must meet the meal pattern requirements identified in the CACFP regulations.

Children must be enrolled in the childcare program and within the regulatory age limits; children 0-12 years old; migrant children 0-15 years old; and all handicapped children, regardless of age, if the majority of the enrollees in the childcare center are 18 years old or younger; and youth through age 18 in eligible after school programs and emergency shelters.

## What are the rates of reimbursement?

Reimbursement rates vary according to the need level of the child. Categories are determined by the family size and income of each child's family. In some cases, children are automatically eligible for Category A reimbursement. Children who are recipients of Food Stamps, FIP benefits, emergency shelter children, or enrolled in a Head Start program and are income eligible for Head Start, are automatically eligible for Category A.

Reimbursement Rates  
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

### CHILD CARE CENTERS

CATEGORY	BREAKFAST	LUNCH/SUPPER	SNACK
Category A (Free)	\$1.97	\$3.66	\$1.00
Category B (Reduced)	\$1.67	\$3.26	\$ .50
Category C (Paid)	\$ .33	\$ .35	\$ .09

An additional \$.26 cash-in-lieu of commodities is paid for each lunch and supper served

Rate is for each meal, meeting CACFP requirements, served to each participating child. Each meal or snack served to an enrolled child is reimbursed at the rates established annually by the USDA.

## What are the record keeping requirements?

At a minimum, the following records must be maintained by participating centers. This list is not all inclusive.

- CACFP application
- Center attendance records
- Enrollment records
- Menu record
- Meal attendance records
- Number of meals/snacks served to adults
- Household Income Eligibility Statements
- Food service program operating costs and income

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