Why the Child and Adult Care Food Program (C A C F P) is Important

The Child and Adult Care Food Program pays for nutritious meals and snacks for eligible children and elderly or disabled adults who are enrolled at participating child care centers, family day care homes, afterschool programs, Head Start programs, adult day care centers, and emergency shelters. C A C F P regulations are issued by USDA under 7 CFR 226.

Why C A C F P is Important

■ New healthy nutrition standards for the meals and snacks that C A C F P provides make a good program even better.
   - C A C F P ensures that children:
     ▪ Receive a nutritious diet;
     ▪ Start good nutrition habits early in life;
     ▪ Grow healthy and strong; and
     ▪ are ready to learn.

■ C A C F P plays a vital role in improving the quality of child care and making it more affordable for many low-income families.

■ C A C F P ’s resources and training support communities, especially rural, by supporting child care.

C A C F P ’s Economic Value

■ C A C F P helps working families work.

■ C A C F P funding supports the local economy, by purchasing required healthy foods at grocery stores and farmers’ markets.

■ C A C F P funding is a significant resource for supporting child care providers, afterschool programs, emergency shelters and adult day care centers.

■ C A C F P supports jobs in child care.

Reimbursement and Funding

■ In fiscal year 2017, USDA provided $8.2 million to providers in Idaho.
  - Family day care homes are reimbursed using a two-tiered system. Tier 1 covers homes in low-income areas, low-income providers, and children from low-income homes.

■ Child or adult day care centers receive payments based on the type of meal served and the income of the participant’s family. Based on parental or participant’s income, meals are reimbursed as free, reduced-price or paid.

■ Head Start programs, afterschool programs in low income areas and emergency shelters are reimbursed at the free rate.

■ Yearly reimbursement rates can be found at https://www.fns.usda.gov/CACFP/reimbursement-rates

Participation

■ In fiscal year 2017, Idaho provided meals to over 18,000 children per day.

■ Idaho C A C F P provided over 4.6 million meals and snacks during fiscal year 2017.

Participant Eligibility

■ Children age 12 and younger, migrant children age 15 and younger and persons with disabilities of any age are eligible to receive up to two meals and one snack daily at a day care home or center.

■ Afterschool meals and snacks are available to children through age 18.

■ Emergency shelters may be reimbursed for up to three meals each day for resident children age 18 and younger.

Benefits

■ Participating programs provide meals according to the nutrition standards set by USDA ensuring that children and adults in care receive balanced, nutritious meals and snacks.

■ New research shows that C A C F P reduces food insecurity, thus helping families protect children against hunger.

■ Research demonstrated C A C F P ’s clear role in helping to assure good nutrition and high quality, affordable child care. The program is a well-documented success.

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