



# HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ADULT CARE COMPONENT OF CACFP

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally funded, State-administered program that provides aid to child and adult care centers and day care homes to serve nutritious foods that contribute to the health and wellness of young children and older and chronically impaired adults. Find out more about the adult care component of CACFP and see if your organization can participate!

## What is the Adult Care Component of CACFP?

The adult care component of CACFP provides reimbursement to adult care centers for healthy meals served to adults enrolled in their programs. These payments help to lower the cost of serving nutritious meals adults need to maintain or improve their health. To participate in CACFP, centers must provide adults with supervised care in a community-based setting, outside of their home, on a less than 24-hour basis. These nonresidential programs give adults supervision, increased social interaction, and assistance with daily living activities.

## Who Does the Program Serve?

The Program serves adults who are age 60 or older as well as adults of any age who are functionally impaired to an extent that limits their independence and ability to carry out activities of daily living (e.g., cleaning, shopping, taking public transportation, maintaining a residence, caring for one's own hygiene, etc.).

## How Does It Work?

- **USDA** funds CACFP and determines Program requirements. For example, meals must include foods like milk, meats, fruits, vegetables, and grains that meet USDA nutrition standards in order to be reimbursable. See more at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/meals-and-snacks>.
- **State agencies** administer the Program and communicate with USDA and adult care centers and sponsors. State agencies are responsible for managing agreements with centers and sponsors, and providing training, technical assistance, and monitoring. States also distribute the reimbursements for meals served.

- **Sponsors** are organizations that oversee adult care centers. Sponsors have agreements with the State and get reimbursed for meals and snacks served in their centers, based on the income of the adults in their care.
- **Adult care centers** provide enrolled adults supervised care outside of their homes during the day. Centers may participate in CACFP independently (and work directly with the State) or under a sponsoring organization. Centers must be licensed or approved by a State or local agency, and may be public, private nonprofit, or private for-profit; however, for-profit centers must serve higher numbers of low-income adults or adults who receive Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income in order to be eligible to participate.

## How Can Your Organization Participate?

Contact your State agency to see if your adult care program can serve meals and snacks through CACFP. Find your contact here:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/program-contacts>.

### Resources:

- CACFP adult care website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/adult-day-care-centers>
- Current CACFP reimbursement rates: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/reimbursement-rates>
- CACFP Adult Day Care Center Handbook: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/adult-day-care-child-and-adult-care-food-program-handbook>