



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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After-school program meals now available in at-risk areas

DENVER—After-school programs for at-risk children that participate in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s Child and Adult Care food program now are able to receive reimbursement for meals, not just snacks, served to Colorado children in low-income areas, thanks to the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Reimbursement for after-school “snacks” for at-risk children has been available since the 1990s. However, because of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, reimbursement for after-school meals has been expanded to all states instead of just a few.

The after-school meals component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program offers federal funding to eligible after-school programs that serve a meal or snack to children in low-income areas. It is designed to give school-age children and youth in low-income areas a nutritional boost and involve them in supervised activities that are safe, fun and educational during the school year.

Eligibility Requirements

Following are the requirements to be eligible for participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program:

- ❖ The site must be located in a geographical area served by a school in which 50 percent or more of the children enrolled are eligible for free or reduced-cost school meals.
- ❖ The organization must provide care in after-school settings, during the school year, and may include weekends, holidays or school vacations.
- ❖ The program must be organized to provide at-risk children with regularly scheduled educational or enrichment activities in a setting that is structured and supervised. Activities may include arts, music, reading, character and leadership development, study aids, mentoring, homework assistance, fitness, computer lab or tutoring.
- ❖ The program may not be an organized athletic program competing in a league such as community sports leagues.
- ❖ Sites do not need to be licensed, but they do need to provide documentation of health inspections.

- ❖ If at a school, the school must participate in expanded learning time, which refers to additional school time for academic and enrichment opportunities to improve student achievement. The school day must be at least one hour longer than the minimum number of school-day hours required for the grade levels based on the requirements set by the local educational agency.
- ❖ A for-profit site must demonstrate that at least 25 percent of enrolled children qualify for free and reduced-cost meals or receive Title XX benefits, not including children who receive only after-school snacks and/or meals.

Claiming reimbursement

Following are the requirements for claiming reimbursement:

- ❖ Snacks and meals are eligible for reimbursement for participants up to age 18.
- ❖ The facility may claim only one snack and one meal per at-risk child each day.
- ❖ When school is in session, the meal or snack must be served after the school day.
- ❖ During the school year, a meal and snack may be provided to at-risk participants on weekends and non-school days at any time during the day with state agency approval.
- ❖ During the summer months, the meal/snack may not be claimed unless school is operating on a year-round calendar.
- ❖ If the after-school program is open for at least three hours, a meal and snack may be served.
- ❖ After-school meals must be served free of charge and are reimbursed at the free rate regardless of the child's income eligibility status.

Record keeping and meal requirements

Following are the requirements for record keeping and meals:

- ❖ Programs must keep menus, menu production records, attendance records, daily meal counts and food receipts to qualify for reimbursement.
- ❖ The snack must meet the Child and Adult Care Food Program snack and meal pattern requirements based on meal type.

The After-School Snack and Meals Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is administered in Colorado by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Child and Adult Care Food Program.

If your program meets eligibility requirements and wishes to participate in the snack and meal program, please contact the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Child and Adult Care Food Program at 303-692-2330. An application intake form can be found at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ps/cacfp/application/OutreachForm.pdf>

About the Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Child and Adult Care Food Program at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment provides funding for nutritious meals and snacks to participating child care centers, adult day-care centers, homeless and domestic violence shelters and after-school meal and snack programs for at-risk students.

The program reimburses providers across Colorado for serving healthy meals based on the income of the children's families. For current rates, visit

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ps/cacfp/materialsandforms/2011-2012/rates/pdf>

Children whose families are participants of the Food Stamp Program or the Food Distribution Program on Indian reservations, or who are Head Start participants, are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits while attending a participating child-care program. Meals are available to all participants without regard to race, color, sex, age, national origin or disability. For more information, contact the Child and Adult Care Food Program at 303-692-2330.

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