

CACFP CAN HELP WITH FOOD COSTS



THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP) IS HERE TO SUPPORT CHILD CARE CENTERS THAT ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. CACFP will reimburse participating child care centers for serving nutritious meals and snacks to children in care during this difficult time.

HOW DO I ENROLL MY CENTER?

Child care centers that are not currently enrolled in the CACFP have two options to apply:

CONNECT WITH AND ENROLL THROUGH A CACFP SPONSOR. This is the quickest way to participate. CACFP sponsors provide various support to child care centers, including administrative supports, claim submission, training, and program oversight. CACFP sponsors might retain up to 15% of the reimbursement to cover their costs for supporting you. The CACFP state office staff can help connect you with a sponsor.

APPLY TO PARTICIPATE WITH CDPHE by calling or emailing the CACFP state office directly. The staff at the state office provide technical assistance and training, but cannot help with administrative tasks, like submitting claims or contracting with a food service vendor, as described below.

For either option above, contact the CACFP state office by phone or email and let them know you are interested. The CACFP staff will help you through the process.

CACFP@STATE.CO.US | 303-692-2330

What if my center can't or does not want to prepare meals for children right now?

If for any reason your child care center cannot or chooses not to prepare meals on-site, you can contract with a food service management company. These companies purchase food, prepare meals and snacks, and deliver them to your center. CACFP sponsors and the CACFP state office can help you find a food service vendor. There are several companies that offer this service for child care centers in Colorado, although they might not be available in all areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Health & Environment

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What if my center prepares meals on-site, but certain required food components are not available at the store?

While participating child care centers are expected and strongly encouraged to maintain and meet the USDA Meal Pattern requirements for child care meals, the USDA recognizes the challenges child care center staff experience when purchasing food right now. The Meal Pattern Flexibility waiver provides flexibility in the meal patterns due to supply chain distribution and/or limitations by stores on quantities allowed to be purchased. If the food product becomes available again, providers must incorporate it into meal service as soon as possible.

CACFP appreciates all that you do for the children and families of Colorado, especially during this difficult time. If you have questions, call CACFP at 303-692-2330 or email cdphe.pscacfp@state.co.us.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

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