

How the Child and Adult Care Food Program Works for You

The Child and Adult Care Food Program provides money to help you provide nutritious meals and snacks for young children in your licensed child care home. The program in Colorado is administered by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CDPHE-CACFP). It is funded by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The goals of the CACFP are to teach good eating habits and assure that well-balanced, nourishing meals are served to children in care.

To participate in the CACFP:

As a family child care provider, you will participate under a sponsor approved by CDPHE-CACFP. There are nine sponsors in Colorado. Each of these agencies is paid on a per home basis by the CDPHE-CACFP to administer this program for you. They will:

- Give you assistance to help you understand the rules of the program.
- Explain the program before you begin.
- Provide the forms you need to participate.
- Visit you at least three times per year to provide information on feeding children and help you comply with food program requirements.
- Provide at least one food program training during the year at no charge to you.

To receive food program reimbursement money, each month you will fill out a claim form that will show how many breakfasts, lunches, and suppers or snacks, you served to children in your care. You will submit your monthly claim to your sponsor who will compile it with their other provider's claims and send it to the CDPHE-CACFP. You will then receive a check directly from your sponsor, usually within 30 days.

If you are interested in the food program, contact a sponsor(s) who serves your area. If more than one sponsor serves your area, it is to your advantage to talk to more than one. Before you sign an agreement, make sure they're the right sponsor for you. Once you contract with a specific sponsor, you must stay with that sponsor for a minimum of 12 months, before having the option to choose a different sponsor. So, be a good consumer and do some comparison-shopping before you make a choice.

By participating in the program you will gain important nutrition information as well as money to help you prepare more healthful meals for the children in your care.

If you have additional questions about the program, you can call the CDPHE-CACFP at (303) 692-2330.

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