



Do You Want . . .

- ❖ Better nutrition for children in your care?
- ❖ Business advantages?
- ❖ Tax advantages?

The National Association for Family Child Care encourages family child care providers to participate in the CACFP. It “strongly supports CACFP as a quality improvement resource for providers and believes that increasing family child care provider participation ...would be beneficial to the family child care providers and the children in their care.”

Tom Copeland of Redleaf Press recently commented, “I strongly recommend that all providers join the Food Program and remain on it as long as they are in business. Being on the Food Program is a sign of professionalism and it shows your concern for the nutritional health of children. It’s a benchmark of quality that benefits you and the children in your care.”

Child & Adult Care Food Program:

The Child & Adult Care Food Program or CACFP is a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, generally through your local state Department of Education. The CACFP reimburses child care providers for serving nutritious meals to children in their care through age 12. Providers may only participate on the program under the sponsorship of a local CACFP administering agency or “sponsor.”

To Find Out More About the CACFP and How You Can Participate, Contact:

- ❖ Your Local Sponsor at:

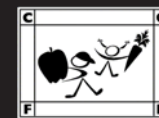
- ❖ Child Care Food Program Roundtable at www.ccfproundtable.org

For More Details About the Bottom-Line Benefits, Please Refer to:

Family Child Care Tax Workbook and *Family Child Care Record Keeping Guide* from Redleaf Press at www.redleafpress.org or 800-423-8309. Details from both were used extensively in preparation of this document.



Four Reasons Why it Pays to Join the CACFP



A Guide for Family Child Care Providers

“Does it make sense for me to join the CACFP?”

Fact #1: The program means better nutrition for healthy bodies and growing minds.

By reimbursing food costs, the program lets you buy higher-quality food while charging competitive rates. Program meals meet nutritional standards boosting dietary iron and foods high in vitamins A and C, and help set healthy eating habits that last a lifetime. A recent national child care study reports that participation in the CACFP is a primary indicator of top quality child care - with over 87% of the highest-rated family child care homes in that study participating in the food program.

Fact #2: When you join the program, you gain access to a full range of nutrition education services.

Nutrition information, training and support - all these can help keep food costs down and assure higher quality meals. Nutrition education will also benefit your own family.

Fact #3: The two-tier reimbursement system assures you of significant benefits at the bottom line.

Whether you are tier I or II, you always benefit from joining the Child & Adult Care Food Program.

Daily & Annual Reimbursement Rates per Child (thru 6/30/08)

Tier I:

	2 Meals + snack	Lunch + snack	Snack only
Lower-income provider (under \$38,203 a year for a family of 4) or provider living in low-income area.	\$3.78= \$983/yr.	\$2.67= \$694/yr.	\$0.61= \$159/yr.

Tier II:

Higher-income provider (over \$38,203 a year for a family of 4) except children in care from low-income families.	\$1.82= \$473/yr.	\$1.41= \$367/yr.	\$0.17= \$44/yr.



Fact #4: Both lower and higher-income child care providers can boost their cash flow by participating.

Here's a chart comparing the cash benefits in 2006 of joining the CACFP. Refer to the *Family Child Care Tax Workbook* (Redleaf Press 800-423-8309) for details.

	Tier I	Tier II	Not in CACFP
Parent fees (4 children)	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
CACFP Reimbursement	+3,744	+1,799	+0
Total income	25,744	23,799	22,000
Business expenses	-10,000	-10,000	-10,000
Food expenses	-4,000	-4,000	-4,000
Profit	11,744	9,799	8,000
Federal taxes & SS	-4,345	-3,625	-2,960
Cash on hand at end of year	\$7,399	\$6,174	\$5,040

What about paperwork costs? Well, if you're a typical provider caring for four children and spend three hours a week on program administration, you will earn between \$12-\$24 for every hour you spend. A Good return!

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More Reasons to Join:

“Tremendous economic and social changes over the last two decades have shifted much of the responsibility for children's health and nutrition to care givers. The Child & Adult Care Food Program plays a key role in protecting young children.”

- Doris Fredericks, R.D., San Jose

“Parents always ask me if I'm on a food program when they join my day care. It's a plus to them to know my meals will be nutritious.”

- Mary Griffith, Santa Cruz

“The program is a great source of knowledge for me. The financial assistance offers me the chance to provide the children in my care with nutritious meals and enriching activities.”

- Lillian Hernandez, Orange County

“My experience is caring for healthy children with almost no absences. The benefits go on and on. And of course, the parents appreciate the convenience of not packing food for the day.”

- Susan LeBarton, Lake Forest

