

# Section 1000

# Introduction

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## 1100 Program Description

The U.S. Congress originally established the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in 1968 as the Child Care Food Program. The purpose of the CACFP is to provide aid to child and adult care institutions and family or group day care homes for the provision of nutritious foods that contribute to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of young children, and the health and wellness of older adults and chronically impaired disabled persons.

Initially, the CACFP provided reimbursement for meals served to children in day care centers, settlement homes, and recreational centers in low-income areas where large numbers of working mothers resided. The program was later extended to day care provided in:

- Nonprofit child care and adult day care centers
- Certain for-profit child care and adult day care centers
- Day care homes for children

The National School Lunch Act, as amended, authorizes federal assistance to states that administer the CACFP. States may use the assistance to help start, maintain, and expand nonprofit food services for children enrolled for child care in nonresidential institutions.

This handbook explains program requirements and protocols that a contracting entity (CE) must follow while operating a nonprofit food service in the CACFP.

## 1200 Administration

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to administer the CACFP in Texas, and does so in accordance with federal and state requirements. These requirements can be found in the:

- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 7 CFR Part 226
- Texas Administrative Code (TAC) at Title 4, Part 1, Chapter 25
- CACFP Handbooks

TDA administers the CACFP through several Food and Nutrition Community Operations Field offices statewide. TDA views its relationship with CEs as a partnership.

A Community Operations Field office is assigned to each CE and potential CE based on the geographic area in which its primary business office is located, and provides oversight to ensure CEs comply with Program requirements. Additionally, each CE is assigned to an Education Service Center (ESC) office, which provides technical assistance to CEs and offers Program trainings which CEs can attend to understand and ensure compliance with Program requirements.

CEs comply with federal and state requirements in their operation of the Program and must ensure their sites do so as well (if a sponsoring organization). Together TDA and CEs ensure efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars in providing nutritious meals to participants and assisting Texans in living a healthy lifestyle.

### **1300 Other Programs**

In addition to the CACFP, TDA administers the following USDA nutrition programs:

- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Special Milk Program
- Summer Food Service Program
- Food Distribution Program
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (in limited areas only)
- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (in limited areas only)
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- Farmers Market Nutrition Program

If an organization is approved to participate in more than one program at the same time, it must ensure that it:

- Do not claim the same meal(s) for a participant in multiple programs.
- Do not serve the same meal(s) to a participant in multiple programs.
- Maintain separate records for each program.
- Attribute costs to the appropriate program.

## **1400 Funding**

USDA monies are used to fund certain costs associated with food services provided to children.

USDA monies may be used to:

- Reimburse CEs for part of the cost of serving meals and snacks to children at eligible child care centers/sites.
- Reimburse CEs for the expense associated with obtaining an approved audit.
- Fund advance payments.

## **1500 Appeals**

A CE has the right to appeal certain actions TDA takes that adversely affects its claims or participation in the CACFP. Refer to Section 8000, *Denials, Terminations and Appeals*, for additional information regarding appeal rights.