

# Section 1000

# Introduction

## Table of Contents

|      |                     |
|------|---------------------|
| 1100 | Program Description |
| 1200 | Administration      |
| 1300 | Other Programs      |
| 1400 | Funding             |
| 1500 | Appeals             |

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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 program is to help the CACFP contracting entities (CE) integrate nutritious meals with organized child care services.

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 the CE must follow while operating a nonprofit food service in the CACFP-Child Care Centers (CCC).

## **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

TDA Food and Nutrition (F&N) administers the CACFP through several Food and Nutrition Community Operations offices statewide. TDA views its relationship with CEs as a partnership. TDA processes, manages and monitors program applications and agreements. A Community Operations office is assigned to each CE and potential CE based on the geographic area in which their primary business office is located, and provides technical assistance and oversight.

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

## **1300 Other Programs**

TDA administers the CACFP in child care and adult day care centers and in day care homes. Additionally, TDA administers the following USDA nutrition programs:

- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Special Milk Program
- Summer Food Service Program
- Food Distribution Program
- Texas Commodity Assistance Program
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (in limited areas only)
- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (in limited areas only)

Contact TDA to receive more information about these programs.

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

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

## 1500 Appeals

A contracting entity has the right to appeal certain actions F&N takes that adversely affects their claims or participation in the CACFP. Refer to Section 8000, Denials, Terminations and Appeals, for additional information regarding appeal rights.