

S **nacks.** Institutions can now receive cash reimbursement from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for nutritious snacks served to children through age 18 if the children are participating in afterschool care programs.

N **utrition.** Good nutrition is essential to full physical and cognitive development. USDA's afterschool snacks help children get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow.

A **fterschool.** Organized, structured, and supervised programs that provide nutritious snacks after school not only guide children to think and behave better, they also help students make the grade!

C **hildren.** At USDA, ensuring the health and well-being of our Nation's children is one of our highest priorities. By providing you the opportunity to participate in the afterschool snack service of CACFP, USDA becomes your partner in high-quality afterschool care.

K **nowledge.** Nutritious snacks are important for effective learning. In addition, nutritious snacks help children learn the importance of good nutrition all day, every day. Healthy snacking contributes to healthy eating patterns now and in the future.

S **tate agency.** Contact your State agency *today* to apply!

What kinds of afterschool care programs can participate?

For your program to participate, you must be a public or private nonprofit organization or an eligible for-profit organization operating an afterschool care program at an "area eligible" site.

"Area eligible" sites are those located in the attendance area of a school in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled students have been certified as eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Your afterschool care program must provide educational or enrichment activities in an organized, structured, and supervised environment after the end of the school day, on weekends, or on holidays during the school year.

What qualifies as an educational or enrichment activity?

Educational or enrichment activities could include arts and crafts, homework assistance, life skills, and computer or remedial education.

Competitive sports teams are not eligible to participate in the afterschool snack components of CACFP. However, afterschool care programs that include a sports activity as part of their enrichment program may be eligible. Your State agency can assist you in determining if your afterschool care program provides "educational or enrichment" activities.

Are there licensing requirements for afterschool care programs?

Afterschool care programs do not need to be licensed in order to participate unless there is a State or local requirement for licensing. If there is no licensing requirement, afterschool care programs must simply meet State or local health and safety standards.

Who is eligible to receive afterschool snacks?

All school-age children who are 18 or under at the start of the school year may receive a free snack. The age limitations differ for children with disabilities.

What kinds of snacks are served?

Snacks must contain at least *two different components from the following four*:

- fluid milk
- meat or meat alternate
- vegetable(s) or fruit(s) or full-strength vegetable or fruit juice
- whole-grain or enriched bread or cereal

How much cash reimbursement will my afterschool care program receive?

All snacks served in afterschool care programs in CACFP will earn reimbursement at the "free" rate. USDA rates are adjusted every July 1. Please contact your State agency for the current rates.

What records must I maintain?

Your State agency will tell you the specific reporting and recordkeeping requirements. Generally, you will need rosters or sign-in sheets, daily meal counts, and menus.

What if my afterschool care program is not eligible to participate?

If your afterschool care program does not meet the afterschool snack eligibility requirements, you may still be eligible to receive USDA reimbursement for meal service as an Outside-School-Hours-Care Center under CACFP. Your State agency can provide you with more information on this type of center.