



# HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AT-RISK AFTERSCHOOL MEALS COMPONENT OF CACFP

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Meals Component provides funding to afterschool programs that serve a meal and/or snacks to children and teens in low-income areas. There are a number of ways that local organizations can be a part of the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of CACFP.

## What is the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of CACFP (CACFP At-Risk)?

The CACFP is a federally funded, State-administered program that provides funding to child and adult care centers and homes that serve healthy meals and snacks. Through the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of CACFP, healthy meals and snacks can be served to children and teenagers who participate in afterschool programs in low income areas. To participate, these programs must (1) be organized primarily to provide care for children after school or on the weekends, holidays, or breaks during the regular school year; (2) provide organized, regularly scheduled activities; (3) include educational or enrichment activities, like arts and crafts, computer lessons, or homework help; and (4) be located in an eligible area.

## Who Does CACFP At-Risk Serve?

The Program serves children and teenagers who are age 18 or under at the start of the school year.

## How Does It Work?

- **USDA** provides funding for the Program and sets requirements for meals and snacks. Meals and snacks must meet USDA nutrition standards in order to be reimbursed by the Program. See more at the [CACFP Web site](#).
- **State agencies** administer the Program and communicate with both USDA and sponsors.
- **Sponsors** are organizations that oversee afterschool care centers. Schools, local government agencies, camps, faith-based and other non-profit community organizations may be sponsors. Sponsors communicate with the State and get reimbursed for meals and snacks served in their afterschool programs.
- **At-Risk Afterschool Care Centers** are places where children and teens participate in an afterschool program. They can be located in many types of places, such as schools, libraries, or community centers. Centers may participate in CACFP At-Risk independently or under a sponsoring organization that manages multiple programs.



## HOW CAN YOUR ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATE?



Contact your State agency to see if your afterschool program can serve meals and snacks through CACFP. They will help to see if you are located in an eligible area.



Promote CACFP At-Risk to your community. Put up flyers and door hangers with information on afterschool programs to help families find centers that are nearby.



Volunteer to serve food or organize activities for other afterschool programs participating in CACFP.



Expand from Summer Meals! If you are a Summer Meals provider, consider applying to CACFP to serve meals and snacks during the school year through an afterschool program. Contact your State agency for more information.

### Resources:

- Check out the CACFP At-Risk website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/afterschool-programs>
- Find your State agency contact: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-contacts>
- Review the CACFP At-Risk Handbook: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/atriskhandbook.pdf>
- Get the details of the USDA's nutrition standards: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/meals-and-snacks>
- Use FREE materials from USDA: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/nutrition-and-nutrition-education>