

I. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Pages 8-18

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Program Eligibility
- Organization Eligibility
- Area Eligibility
- Participant Eligibility
- Licensing and Health and Safety Requirements

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ Organized to provide care for children after school or on weekends, holidays, or school vacations during the regular school year as approved by the State Agency
- ▶ Provide organized regularly scheduled activities
- ▶ Include education or enrichment activities
- ▶ Be located in an eligible area

ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Programs must provide educational or enrichment activities in an organized, structured and supervised environment.
- ▶ Afterschool athletic programs may participate as long as they are “open to all”.
- ▶ Afterschool programs designed to meet the special needs of enrolled children may be eligible for the program.
- ▶ Meals and snacks may be served on weekends, holidays, and vacations during the regular school year only.
- ▶ Sponsors may participate in the Summer Food Service Program during the months school is out during the summer.

ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ Eligible organizations must:
 - ▶ meet State and/or local licensing requirements or health and safety standards
 - ▶ be operated by public agency, tax-exempt nonprofit organization, for profit organizations that meet specific requirements
- ▶ For-Profit Centers
 - ▶ Must be eligible to participate in CACFP (25% of children served must be eligible for free/reduced price meals based on family income or receive benefits under title XX of Social Security Act)
- ▶ Traditional Child Care Centers
 - ▶ primarily geared toward non-traditional child care centers
- ▶ Schools
 - ▶ Afterschool programs operated at school sites
 - ▶ Must not serve meals until school is dismissed

AREA ELIGIBILITY

Good for 5 years

- ▶ Site located in attendance area of a public school (elementary, middle or high school) where at least 50% of the students are eligible for free and reduced meals.
- ▶ Private and Charter Schools use public school data
- ▶ Busing – two methods
 - ▶ School children attend and are bused to, or
 - ▶ School children would have attended if not for busing
- ▶ Emergency Shelters – are not required to prove location in low-income area, but must serve homeless children or youth during the school year

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ Must be allowed to participate in approved afterschool program, but are not required to participate
- ▶ Must be age 18 or younger
 - ▶ 19 year olds can participate if birthday is during school year.
 - ▶ No age limit with persons of disabilities - Persons with disabilities means persons of any age who have one or more disabilities, as determined by the State, and who are enrolled in an institution or child care facility serving a majority of persons who are age 18 and under.
- ▶ No minimum age requirement
- ▶ Head Start and Even Start students who participate in afterschool programs are eligible
- ▶ Programs can operate a high school and only serve high school age students

LICENSING AND HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Federal Law does not require licensing for centers participating in At-Risk
- ▶ Alabama requires any center that operates a program over 4 hours must have a license unless you are church exempted.
- ▶ Church exemptions are allowable
- ▶ Schools participating in NSLP or SBP do not have to meet any additional health or safety requirements.
- ▶ If no licensing requirements are required, then afterschool programs must meet State and local health and safety standards.