

Organization Eligibility

At-risk afterschool programs that are area eligible must be operated by an eligible organization to receive reimbursement. Eligible organizations are those that:

- Meet State and/or local licensing or health and safety standards;
- Are operated by public agencies, tax-exempt nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations that meet the requirements described below, or are currently participating in another Federal program requiring nonprofit status [7 CFR 226.17a(a)].

For-Profit Centers

A for-profit child care center may receive reimbursement for at-risk afterschool meals and snacks if it meets the eligibility requirements, and is eligible to participate in CACFP through its traditional child care center. This means that at least 25 percent of the children served by the center through its traditional child care component:

- Are eligible for free or reduced price meals based on their family income; or
- Receive benefits under title XX of the Social Security Act and the center receives compensation under title XX.

This 25 percent threshold is based on the center's enrollment or the licensed capacity, whichever is less. It is calculated during the calendar month preceding application for Program participation. In addition, in order to claim reimbursement in any calendar month, the center must meet the 25 percent threshold in that month.

In determining a for-profit center's eligibility for at-risk afterschool meals program reimbursement, only the enrollment/licensed capacity of the traditional child care component of the center may be considered in calculating whether the center meets the 25 percent criterion.

Traditional Child Care Centers

While the at-risk component of CACFP is primarily geared towards non-traditional child care centers such as drop in afterschool programs, traditional child care centers already participating in CACFP also may participate. In this situation, children would attend the center after their school day or on weekends, holidays, or school vacation. Children who do not attend school would continue to participate in the traditional CACFP meal service provided by the center, even during the "afterschool" hours.

Centers operating both the traditional and at-risk components of the CACFP may only claim a total of two meals and one snack or one meal and two snacks, per child per day, including the afterschool snack [7 CFR 226.17a(k)].

Schools

Many afterschool programs are operated by school food authorities at school sites. There are policies in place to streamline at-risk afterschool meal participation for school food authorities (See: F. Application Process for School Food Authorities Participating in NSLP).

A school that operates longer than the traditional school day may be eligible for at-risk afterschool meal reimbursement, provided that it operates a school day that is at least one hour longer than the minimum number of school day hours required for the comparable grade levels by the local educational agency in which the school is located [CACFP 01-2011, Eligibility of Expanded Learning Time Programs for Afterschool Snack Service in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), January 21, 2011].

Generally, programs that serve only residential children (with the exception of homeless shelters) are not eligible to participate in CACFP. However, a residential facility may be eligible to serve at-risk afterschool meals if it has non-residential care programs and these programs offer afterschool education and enrichment programs for nonresidential children [CACFP 08-2012, At-Risk Afterschool Meals Component of the CACFP, Questions and Answers, February 17, 2012].