

Alabama State Department of Education
Child Nutrition Programs
The Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program and
Day Care Centers and Homes Policy

1. The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides food to needy individuals and households. The Food Distribution Section of the Alabama State Department of Education administers TEFAP through formal agreements with four Alabama food banks. The food banks receive the food and then distribute it to approved eligible recipient agencies (food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters) that serve eligible individuals and households. Individuals and households qualify to receive TEFAP benefits by meeting federally established eligibility requirements.
2. Day care centers and homes that wish to participate in a USDA program to provide breakfast, lunch, supper, and/or snacks to children or adults must be approved to operate the Child and Adult Care Program (CACFP). The CACFP approval process has stricter eligibility requirements, more stringent health and safety standards, and more frequent onsite reviews and inspections. In addition, TEFAP foods may not meet USDA CACFP meal pattern requirements.
3. USDA guidance allows TEFAP food to be provided to a child to be consumed at home if the child's household is deemed to be eligible by one of the Alabama food banks that serve as a distributing agency. Participation in CACFP is not required to apply for TEFAP. Day care centers and homes must be approved by an Alabama food bank and then operate in accordance with federal and state TEFAP regulations, including maintaining documentation of eligibility. The documentation must be submitted by each parent or guardian, not by the children. The food must be packaged in a way that makes it easy for a child to take home for later consumption, such as putting the food items in a tote bag or backpack.
4. Any organization currently on the National Disqualified List or the ALSDE CNP lists of sponsors not in good standing for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), or National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is ineligible to be approved as a TEFAP recipient agency. The organization may re-apply if removed from these lists.

Policy approved: 12-10-2025

Appendix: Link to Resources

7 CFR 226 Child and Adult Care Food Program

[7CFR 226 Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)

7 CFR 250 Donation of Foods for Use in the United States, Its Territories and Possessions and Areas Under Its Jurisdiction

[7CFR 250 Donation of Foods for Use](#)

7 CFR 251 The Emergency Food Assistance Program

[7CFR 251 The Emergency Food Assistance Program](#)

FD-041: Distribution of TEFAP Foods to Children (Revised) (June 30, 2017)

[FD-041: Distribution of TEFAP Foods to Children](#)

Alabama TEFAP State Plan

[Alabama TEFAP State Plan](#)