

Receive Reimbursement for Meals Served to Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness



If your shelter or organization serves meals to individuals and families experiencing homelessness or seeking refuge in [STATE], you could qualify to receive federal reimbursements through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This program provides shelters with a steady and sustainable stream of funds to enhance meal service to children and youth at risk of hunger. Depending on what services your shelter provides, you could participate in CACFP as an **Emergency Shelter** or an **At-Risk Center**. Refer to the table below to see which category best fits your shelter's needs.

Emergency Shelter

At-Risk Center

An emergency shelter is defined as:

- a public or private nonprofit organization or its site that provides temporary shelter and food services to youth and/or their families experiencing homelessness; or
- a residential child care institution (RCCI), but only when the RCCI serves a group of children experiencing homelessness who are not enrolled in the RCCI's regular program.

An at-risk center:

- is a program that provides care for individuals 24* years of age or younger during after-school hours, weekends, or holidays during the regular school year.

Your shelter can participate in CACFP as an emergency shelter if it provides meals and/or snacks to:

- individuals 24* years of age or younger; and
- persons with disabilities.

Your shelter can participate in CACFP as an at-risk Center if your program provides:

- meals and/or snacks to individuals 24* years of age or younger; and,
- educational or enrichment activities.

How much will your shelter be reimbursed?

Emergency shelters can be reimbursed for three meals, or two meals and one snack, per individual per day.

How much will your shelter be reimbursed?

Shelters participating as an at-risk center can be reimbursed for one meal and one snack per individual per day.

* Under normal circumstances, shelters are reimbursed for meals served to children through the age of 18. Now, shelters can be reimbursed for meals served to young adults 24 years of age and younger. This expansion of CACFP reimbursements will be in effect until the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted.