

Welcome to the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child care provider participates in the WECA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This is a federal program, which benefits both your child and child care provider.

How does the food program benefit my child?

Nutritious meals and snacks are an important part of your child's health and well-being. In addition to eating healthy foods today, your child is learning how to make healthy food choices in the future.

Early childhood is a time when lifelong habits are formed. Research in areas such as brain development and obesity indicate the importance of healthy nutrition and exercise throughout childhood.

By participating in the food program, your provider has made a commitment to serve healthy meals and snacks to your child while in care.

How does the food program benefit my provider?

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) helps your provider by making nutritious foods more affordable. Your provider records all the foods served at each meal and snack. WECA CACFP reviews the menus for each meal and snack to make sure that the USDA nutritional standards are met. A WECA CACFP staff person visits your provider three times a year to observe meals, sanitation and food safety. By completing the annual nutrition education requirement, your provider is learning new skills and information. When the nutrition related questions arise, your provider may call the WECA CACFP Nutrition Educator for assistance.

Each child deserves the very best. By participating in the WECA CACFP, your provider demonstrates an on-going commitment to your child's health – one meal at a time.

Please be sure to read the reverse side for more information about this program. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Pam Polenz at 800-783-9322, ext. 7245.

Building for the Future

This facility participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), a Federal program that provides healthy meals and snacks to children receiving child care, participating in afterschool programs, or residing in homeless shelters.

Each day, more than 2.6 million children participate in the CACFP across the country. Participating facilities are reimbursed for serving nutritious meals which meet USDA requirements. The program plays a vital role in improving the quality of child care, afterschool programs, and homeless shelters, and making it more affordable for low-income families.

Meals

Participating facilities must follow meal requirements established by USDA.

Breakfast	Lunch or Supper	Snacks (Two of the five groups:)
Milk	Milk	Milk
Fruit or Vegetable	Meat or meat alternate	Meat or meat alternate
Grains	Grains	Grains
Meat or meat alternate (in place of entire grain max of 3 times/week)	Fruit	Fruit
	Vegetable	Vegetable

Participating

Facilities

Many different facilities operate CACFP and share the common goal of bringing nutritious meals and snacks to participants. Participating facilities include:

- **Child Care Centers:** Licensed or approved public or private nonprofit child care centers, Head Start programs, and some for-profit centers
- **Family Day Care Homes:** Licensed or certified private homes
- **Afterschool Programs:** Centers in low-income areas providing free meals and snacks to school-age children and youth
- **Homeless Shelters:** Emergency shelters providing food services to homeless children

Eligibility

State agencies reimburse facilities that offer services to the following participants:

- children age 12 and under,
- migrant children age 15 and younger, and
- youths through age 18 in afterschool programs in needy areas and homeless shelters

Contact

Information If you have questions about the CACFP, please contact one of the following:

Participating Agency Contact Information

Pam Polenz, Program Director
 WECA Food Program
 Wisconsin Early Childhood Association

 2908 Marketplace Drive, Suite 101
 Fitchburg, WI 53719-5318
 800-783-9322

State Agency Contact Information

Amanda Kane, RDN, CD, Director
 Community Nutrition Programs
 Wisconsin Department of Public
 Instruction
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 608-267-9129



This institution is an equal opportunity provider

English Version
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