FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 29, 2015

CONTACT:  Communication
334-242-9950
comm@alsde.edu

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM CONTRIBUTES TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF ALABAMA’S CHILDREN

Montgomery, Ala. —The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally funded United States Department of Agriculture program administered by the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Office of Child Nutrition. CACFP enables child and adult care institutions and family or group day care homes to provide nutritious meals and snacks as a regular part of their day care, and these meals contribute to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of infants and young children and the health and wellness of older adults and chronically impaired disabled persons.

Studies show that children in the CACFP receive meals that are nutritionally superior to those served to children in child care settings without CACFP. Children in participating institutions have higher intakes of key nutrients and fewer servings of fats and sweets. Research also cites that 87 percent of the family child care homes that provide quality child care participate in CACFP.

Independent centers and sponsoring organizations enter into agreements with the Alabama State Department of Education to assume administrative and financial responsibility for CACFP operations. The CACFP provides for the serving of meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at the following types of eligible and participating centers or homes:

- Center-Based Child Care
- After-School At-Risk Programs
- Family Day Care Homes
- Adult Day Care Centers

CACFP sponsors must ensure that their centers or day care homes are appropriately licensed or approved and maintain accurate records required for CACFP participation. To receive reimbursement, sponsors must submit claims to the CACFP on a monthly basis.

-more-
The CACFP reimburses programs for meals that meet federal nutritional guidelines served to children and adult day care participants at rates based upon their eligibility for free, reduced price, or paid meals or snacks.

Meal reimbursement is calculated by a formula based on the type and number of meals served, the income eligibility of each participant, and the USDA meal rate.

Breakfast, lunch, supper, and snacks (morning, afternoon, and late night) may be reimbursed depending on the type of day care program and the hours of operation. A maximum of two meals and one snack or two snacks and one meal may be claimed per participant per day. Meals and snacks must provide a minimum number of food components in defined serving sizes to qualify for reimbursement. Food components include fluid milk, fruits and vegetables, breads/bread alternatives, and meat/meat alternatives.

Reimbursement for meals served in family day care homes is based upon eligibility for Tier I rates or lower Tier II rates. Family day care home sponsoring organizations also receive administrative funds related to the documented costs they incur in operating the CACFP.

The Alabama State Department of Education, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), assists sponsors by providing program approval, claims reimbursement, nutrition expertise and consultation, training and resource materials, program guidelines, and on-site program reviews.

For more information about the Child and Adult Care Food Program, please contact the Alabama State Department of Education, 5302 Gordon Persons Building, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, AL 36130. You may also call 334-242-8249, e-mail CACFP@alsde.edu, or visit www.alsde.edu.

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

###
