



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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**NATIONAL CACFP WEEK SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON EFFORTS TO IMPROVE
 HEALTH AND WELL BEING 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.

Such efforts will be recognized as part of National CACFP Week, March 14-19, 2016, a national education and information campaign designed to raise awareness of how the USDA’s Child and Adult Care Food Program works to combat hunger and bring healthy foods to the table for adults in day care and children in child care homes, centers, and in afterschool and summer feeding programs across the country.

The CACFP provides approximately 1.9 billion meals and snacks to over 3.2 million children daily in child care centers, family care homes, and after-school programs; over 115,000 elderly persons in adult day care; and over 52,000 child care centers. In addition, 137,000 family child care providers working with 865 sponsors use CACFP to provide children with high-quality nutrition and learning experiences.

Children that are cared for by providers participating in the CACFP benefit by being fed nutritious USDA regulated meals that ensure their proper development. These children gain from early nutrition education that helps them establish positive eating habits that will enrich the quality of their diet throughout their life.

Parents of children in child care are assured that their child(ren) receives high-quality meals. With proper nutrition, the child is less likely to experience illness and fatigue and will develop at a normal physical and intellectual pace. Good nutrition is the recipe for an all-around happier child.

Independent centers and sponsoring organizations enter into agreements with the Alabama State Department of Education to assume administrative and financial responsibility for CACFP operations.

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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.

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.

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