CACFP Awareness

# child and Adult care food program

**Why visit local, state, federal representatives about CACFP?**

* To educate them on the programs value
* To protect the program
* To enhance the program
* Bring awareness

**Site Visit tools**

How Do I Organize a Visit?

* Find an Ideal Site
* Prepare for the Visit
* Craft Your Message
* Work With the Media
* Create An Ideal Photo Op
* Organize a Stakeholder Meeting
* Follow Up
* For more details consult the FRAC Child Nutrition [Site Visit Guide](http://frac.org/action/advocacy-toolkit)

**Write a Letter**

Educate your representatives about the value and benefits of the CACFP.

Promote yourselves as a contact. Make your representatives aware of the provider, parent and sponsor constituency.

Encourage them to keep you informed of issues relating to the CACFP.

CACFP brings to the table a plethora of benefits

**Children Benefit**

The Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) offers lifetime benefits. Children in child care with providers who participate in the CACFP are given nutrition education by providers who understand their role in shaping healthy attitudes toward the acceptance of nutritious foods. Providers create an atmosphere that instills a positive, curious attitude about food from the earliest years.

 ***“CACFP a quality indicator in ChildCare”***

Some benefits:

* proper nutrition ensures appropriate development and
* reduces physical and educational problems later in life
* determines the quality of one's diet throughout life.

**Parents Benefit**

* assured that their children will be served high quality meals,
* children are less likely to experience fatigue and illness, and less time a parent must be absent from work,
* their child is more likely to be healthy, happy and develop at a normal physical, emotional and intellectual pace because of nutritional value received,
* less burden to bring nutritional food,
* save money,
* happy healthy child = happy healthy parent

**Community Benefit**

* federal tax monies are returned to the provider's state and invested in the health of the community's children,
* added revenue is a means of helping to keep child care costs down for employees working in the community,
* since only regulated providers are eligible to participate in the program, it provides an incentive for unlicensed providers to comply with the communities local child care ordinances.

**Economic Value**

* CACFP helps keep families working;
* CACFP funding supports the local economy, by purchasing required healthy foods at grocery stores and farmers’ markets. CACFP funding is a significant resource for supporting child care providers, afterschool programs, homeless shelters and adult care centers.
* ****CACFP supports jobs in child care; the small and large child care business owner’s success in CACFP and child care contributes to all levels of the economic impact of the local and national community.