



National CACFP Forum Policy Priorities 2018

The National CACFP Forum serves as the advocacy organization that protects viability, perfects policy and promotes leadership in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The CACFP provides funding to serve healthy meals and snacks, which supports good nutrition and high-quality, affordable child care which helps children develop fully and enter school ready to learn while allowing parents to work.

Priorities for the Current Legislative Landscape

- The Forum is focused on fighting to maintain the entitlement for CACFP and all the federal food programs including SNAP. In addition, the Forum will fight back against bills that would harm the families served by CACFP. This opposition includes fighting damaging tax bills that harm low-income families and set up a negative situation.
- The Forum doesn't have priorities for the Farm bill that is currently being reauthorized.
- There are not any priorities specific to the Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) as it is not moving at this time.

Legislative Priorities when CNR Moves Forward

Build on the progress made with the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act by continuing to increase program access, improve nutrition quality, and protect CACFP services for children in care by:

- Reducing the CACFP area eligibility test from 50 percent to 40 percent;
- Increasing CACFP reimbursements to support planned improvements in the nutritional value of meals and snacks;
- Enhancing program reimbursements to support CACFP sponsoring organizations and to sustain participation of family child care providers;
- Allowing child care centers operated by proprietary organizations to establish institutional eligibility annually consistent with the current requirements for non-profit organizations.
- Continuing funding for USDA's CACFP nutrition and wellness education, and program efforts;
- Allowing child care centers and homes the option of serving a third meal service (typically this would be a supper or an afternoon snack), as was previously allowed;
- Streamlining program requirements, reducing paperwork, and maximizing technology; and
- Continuing the CACFP study.

Regulatory Policy Priorities

- Ensure consistency for the new meal pattern implementation.
- Reducing the unnecessary paperwork burden.
 - Encouraging USDA to fully utilize existing authorities by allowing child care centers operated by proprietary organizations to establish institutional eligibility annually consistent with the current requirements for non-profit organizations.

For further details reference the Child and Adult Care Food Program Preschool Brief.