

Child Care Food Program Continues to Contribute to Child Wellness in Florida

Contact:

Communications Office NewsMedia@flhealth.gov, 850-245-4111

Tallahassee, Fla.—Today, Since 1998, the Florida Department of Health's Child Care Food Program (CCFP), a federally-funded program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) authorized by <u>7 CFR Part 226</u>, and <u>Section 383.011</u>, <u>Florida Statutes</u>, has provided nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children who are enrolled with participating child care providers. In 2023, CCFP reimbursed child care providers for serving 146,874,226 meals to approximately 295,000 Florida children. Throughout the years, CCFP has also guided child care providers on the best ways to serve nutritious foods and promote beneficial habits for life by encouraging them to teach young children about healthy food choices.

Children who eat healthy foods are more attentive and have been found to be better learners. Eating well early in life has a profound effect on a child's growth and can even reduce obesity risks. Parents seeking child care in Florida are encouraged to enroll their children with providers who participate in CCFP. Learn more at FloridaHealth.gov/CCFP.

How does CCFP work?

CCFP reimburses child care providers and ensures that meals and snacks meet or exceed federal and state nutrition standards.

Which child care providers participate?

Lists of participating providers, organized by facility type, can be found at FloridaHealth.gov/CCFP.

The program is offered at four types of child care-related settings:

- Child Care Centers: In a non-pricing child care center, meals are available at no separate charge to eligible children. In a pricing child care center, which has a separate identifiable charge for meals, children from households whose income falls within the reduced-price income eligibility guidelines are eligible for reduced-price meals. These meals are priced at 40 cents for lunch/supper, 30 cents for breakfast and 15 cents for snacks. Children from households whose income falls within the free income eligibility guidelines are eligible for meals at no charge. Refer to the current income eligibility guidelines listed below.
- Family Day Care Homes: Meals are available at no separate charge to eligible children.
- Afterschool Programs: Snacks and/or meals are available at no separate charge to eligible children.
- Homeless Shelters and Certain Emergency Shelters: Meals are available at no separate charge to eligible children.

Who is eligible for meals and snacks?

Meals are available to all eligible participants.

Head Start participants funded by the Office of Head Start, within the Administration of Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and children from households receiving Food Assistance Program or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families benefits are automatically eligible to receive free meals benefits at participating facilities.

Below are the current income eligibility guidelines used in determining a child's eligibility for free or reducedprice meals.

Income Eligibility Guidelines (Effective July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

FREE MEAL SCALE

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	BIWEEKLY	WEEKLY
1	19,578	1,632	816	753	377
2	26,572	2,215	1,108	1,022	511
3	33,566	2,798	1,399	1,291	646
4	40,560	3,380	1,690	1,560	780
5	47,554	3,963	1,982	1,829	915
6	54,548	4,546	2,273	2,098	1,049
7	61,542	5,129	2,565	2,367	1,184
8	68,536	5,712	2,856	2,636	1,318
For each additional family member, add	+6,994	+583	+292	+269	+135

REDUCED-PRICE MEAL SCALE

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	BIWEEKLY	WEEKLY
1	27,861	2,322	1,161	1,072	536
2	37,814	3,152	1,576	1,455	728
3	47,767	3,981	1,991	1,838	919
4	57,720	4,810	2,405	2,220	1,110
5	67,673	5,640	2,820	2,603	1,302
6	77,626	6,469	3,235	2,986	1,493
7	87,579	7,299	3,650	3,369	1,685
8	97,532	8,128	4,064	3,752	1,876
For each additional family member, add	+9,953	+830	+415	+383	+192

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

About the Florida Department of Health

The Florida Department of Health, nationally accredited by the <u>Public Health Accreditation Board</u>, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at <u>@HealthyFla</u> and on <u>Facebook</u>. For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit <u>www.FloridaHealth.gov</u>.