

Meals for Kids!

Firetree Place (FTP) is committed to providing nutritious meals and snacks to each child attending our After School Program and/or Firetree Place Summer Camp. To help with this endeavor, FTP participates in two, federally funded programs, the **CACFP** and **SFSP**.

What is CACFP?

CACFP is the Child and Adult Care Food Program, a Federal program that provides healthy meals and snacks to children and adults receiving day care.

Each day more than 2.6 million children and almost 60,000 older adults participate in CACFP. Through CACFP, participants' nutritional needs are supported on a daily basis. The program plays a vital role in improving the quality of day care and making it more affordable for many low-income families.

In addition to day care, CACFP helps make afterschool programs more appealing to at-risk youth. By offering nutritious snacks in programs serving low-income areas, centers can increase participation and know that youth are having a healthy snack.

Who is eligible for CACFP meals?

- children age 12 and under,
- migrant children age 15 and younger,
- functionally impaired adult participants or adults age 60 and older enrolled in an adult day care center, and
- youths through age 18 in afterschool programs in needy areas.

What kinds of meals are served?

CACFP facilities follow the meal patterns established by USDA.

- **Breakfast** consists of a serving of milk, Fruit or vegetable, and grains or bread.
- **Lunch** and **dinner** require milk, grains or bread, meat or meat alternate, and two different servings of fruits or vegetables.
- **Snacks** include two different servings of the four components: milk, fruits or vegetables, grains or bread, or meat or meat alternate

SFSP (Summer Food Service Program)

The Summer Food Service Program, which began in 1976, is a federally funded child nutrition program designed to reach those who are age 18 or younger in economically disadvantaged areas. People over 18 who are mentally or physically handicapped and participate in public or nonprofit private programs established for the disabled are also able to receive free meals at the Summer Food Service Program sites.

The federally-funded program reimburses participating organizations for meals served to children who live in areas in which at least 50 percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program.

More than 112 million meals were served to free and reduced price eligible children in Pennsylvania during the 2015-16 school year under the National School Lunch Program. However, only 19 out of every 100 students receiving free and reduced price meals during the school year accessed nutritious summer meals.

During the summer of 2016, 295 organizations participated in the Summer Food Service Program, providing nutritious meals to children at over 2,600 locations throughout the state. In order to reach more children and narrow the hunger gap that summer may bring, more organizations and meal sites are needed throughout the state, especially in rural areas.

Participating organizations must be year round not for profit entities, which include schools, local, municipal or county governments, libraries, churches, fire and police stations, residential summer camps, national youth sports programs, etc.

Most participating organizations may be reimbursed for up to two meals a day-lunch or dinner and either breakfast or a snack. Those serving primarily migrant children may be reimbursed for up to three meals a day. Camps may serve up to three meals a day, but they are reimbursed only for meals served to children eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program.

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How do CACFP and SFSP work?

CACFP and SFSP reimburse participating centers and day care homes for serving nutritious meals. They are administered at the **Federal** level by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The **State** education or health department administers CACFP/SFSP in most States. State agencies approve sponsoring organizations and independent centers to operate the programs on the local level. The State also monitors the programs and provides guidance and assistance to ensure requirements are met.

Sponsoring organizations play a critical