

WHAT IS THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funded program. The CACFP provides nutritional meals for children and peace of mind and important income for providers. As a participant in the CACFP, childcare providers receive monthly cash payments for serving nutritious USDA approved meals and snacks to the children they serve. In some cases providers can even be reimbursed for food served to their own children. The goal of the CACFP is to make good nutrition available to children from birth through 12 years of age.

WHO BENEFITS FROM THE CACFP?

Naturally, the children you care for benefit through the nutritious meals that they receive. The childcare parents benefit because their children receive free and well-balanced meals while they are in your care. You, the childcare provider, benefits by receiving monthly reimbursement payments to help cover the cost of the foods you purchase and serve. Also, being able to offer free food to the children in your care is a valuable business asset for childcare providers that can help attract customers.

WHAT MUST I DO TO PARTICIPATE ON THE CACFP AS A CHILD CARE HOME?

To participate on the CACFP you must be a licensed or alternately approved¹ (unlicensed) childcare provider. You must agree to serve meals and snacks that meet the nutritional guidelines established by the USDA and you must agree not to charge your childcare

parents for the food you serve. Finally, you also need to be sponsored on the program through a state-approved sponsor such as The *Karamu Nutrition Program*, and agree to follow all of the rules and regulations for the CACFP. As your sponsor, Karamu will train and assist you in meeting the USDA guidelines.

HOW MUCH MONEY WILL I RECEIVE?

Once a month, Karamu will process the attendance and meal records that you submit to us and will issue you a payment accordingly. Providers are reimbursed in accordance with meal rates set by the USDA. There are two different sets of rates a provider can receive. The basic rates are known as Tier 2 rates. All providers automatically qualify to receive these rates. There is also a second set of rates (known as Tier 1 rates) which are somewhat higher than the basic rates. Providers can qualify to receive the higher rates if they serve low income children or if the provider's annual household income is within the guidelines set by the federal government. The current rates are listed below. Karamu will help determine which set of rates you qualify for. A majority of our providers qualify for the Tier 1 rates.

	Breakfast	Lunch & Supper	Snacks
Tier 1	\$1.31	\$2.46	\$0.73
Tier 2	\$0.48	\$1.48	\$0.20

The rates shown are effective until July 1st, 2018 and are subject to change on July 1st of each year.

The exact amount of reimbursement you receive each month will depend on the number of children you serve, the number of days you are open, the types of meals you serve and the Tier reimbursement rates that you receive. As an example, let's say you serve 7 children a breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack for four weeks (20 days) and you qualify to receive the Tier 1 rates. You would receive a payment of about \$630.00

(assuming all the meals you served met the USDA guidelines.)

TELL ME MORE ABOUT KARAMU

The Karamu Nutrition Program (KNP) has been an industry leader in CACFP sponsorship in Tennessee for close to twenty five years. Karamu's founder and Executive Director is Vera Corley-Sims, a childcare provider in Memphis for over 30 years and a nationally known advocate for provider and children's causes. Karamu is a provider friendly organization which has built a strong reputation of treating its' providers with respect and courtesy; Ms. Vera will have it no other way!

The CACFP is designed to provide good nutrition, but the USDA can only do so much. At Karamu we are committed to making nutrition easy and economical for providers. We do this by offering a host of benefits to assure that your CACFP participation is a pleasant and positive experience. Our benefits include online claiming, a variety of economical pre-planned menus, detailed reimbursement statements, direct deposit of your meal reimbursement money, and flexible training options! And even more, we serve practically every county and DHS district in the state. So no matter where you are in Tennessee, we're there for you!

HOW DO I JOIN THE CACFP?

If you're ready to become a part of the CACFP and a member of the Karamu family, simply call Karamu at 901.327.8401 or e-mail us at karamu@karamu.org.

