

What Afterschool Programs Need to Know About...

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP): The At-Risk Afterschool Snack and Supper Program

The At-Risk Afterschool Snack and Supper Program is a federally-funded nutrition assistance program that helps qualifying afterschool programs provide free snacks and suppers to youth and teenagers. Throughout New York State (NYS), over 1,000 afterschool programs participate in the At-Risk Afterschool Snack and Supper Program.

Q: How does the At-Risk Afterschool Snack and Supper Program help children and teenagers?

A: No child should go hungry; by the time the school day ends, lunch has long passed. Well-nourished children attending afterschool programs have energy to focus on homework, socialize with peers, and participate in physical activities. When children and teenagers eat the nutritious snacks and suppers provided free of charge by this program, it discourages them from eating high salt, high sugar, and high fat foods such as junk food and fast food.

Q: How does the At-Risk Afterschool Snack and Supper Program help my afterschool program?

A: If your program is already providing food to children, using federal funds to pay for meals may help free program funds for other purposes. Serving high-quality, nutritious food to children and teenagers is another way in which your afterschool program can create a healthy afterschool environment.

Q: Does my afterschool program qualify?

A: At-risk snacks and suppers are targeted toward children from low-income families. In order for your afterschool program to qualify, your program must be located in a low-income neighborhood. This is determined by school district data that show that 50% or more enrolled students qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. Contact your local school, the Nutrition Consortium of NYS, or the NYS Child and Adult Care Food Program (NYS CACFP) – administered by the NYS Department of Health (NYS DOH) – to find out if you are eligible for the program.

Qualifying programs must provide quality educational or enrichment activities to youth and teenagers. This may include tutoring, computer classes, science and technology activities, homework help, arts, and/or recreation programs. As long as eligibility standards are met, most afterschool programs qualify to operate the At-Risk Afterschool Snack and Supper Program.

Q: Where does the funding originate and which agencies administer the program?

A: At the federal level, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers and funds the CACFP. At the state level, the NYS DOH administers CACFP. Funding is guaranteed according to federal law for all eligible programs, with no cap in funding if program requirements are met. The At-Risk Afterschool Snack and Supper Program is part of CACFP.

Q: Is the At-Risk Afterschool Snack and Supper Program considered part of school meals?

A: No. The programs are separate nutrition assistance programs for children. The At-Risk Afterschool Snack and Supper Program is a federally-funded entitlement program administered at the state level by NYS CACFP. The National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program are also federally-funded entitlement programs, but administered by New York State Education Department (NYSED).

Q: How much funding can my afterschool program receive?

A: Each July, the USDA sets a fixed per-meal reimbursement for both snacks and suppers. For each meal served that meets program guidelines, sponsors receive this per-meal reimbursement from NYS CACFP. Reimbursement covers food costs, but may or may not cover related food service supplies, food service staff preparation time, or other administrative expenses related to the meal.

Q: What are the per-meal reimbursement rates for snack and supper?

A: As of 2009-2010, per-meal reimbursement is as follows: Snack: \$0.74 Supper: \$2.87

For example, if your afterschool program has 25 children each day, it may qualify for \$18.50 per day to serve snacks and \$71.75 per day to serve suppers.

Q: Can my afterschool program serve both snacks and suppers?

A: Yes. However, NYS CACFP recommends between two and two and half hours between serving the snack and supper to the same child.

Q: How can my program access this funding?

A: Afterschool programs can apply at any time of year. You must first contact NYS CACFP to establish if your afterschool program qualifies. Each afterschool program is required to complete an application to become a sponsor. Once the required paperwork is completed and meals are served, a designated afterschool program staff member must submit a monthly reimbursement claim to NYS CACFP that records how many meals were served. Per-meal funds are then reimbursed to the sponsor directly.

Outside New York City:

Qualified afterschool programs operated by a non-school entity (based in a school, center, or elsewhere) must apply for afterschool snack and supper reimbursement through NYS CACFP.

Qualified afterschool programs operated by a school can choose to submit snack claims through NYSED or NYS CACFP. However, supper reimbursement must be through NYS CACFP. *Please note: This option is for school-run afterschool programs only and additional administrative considerations exist. Please contact a child nutrition representative at NYSED for more information.*

Within New York City:

Qualified afterschool programs located outside a New York City public school must apply for afterschool snack and supper reimbursement through NYS CACFP.

Qualified afterschool programs located inside a New York City public school (run by a school or a non-school entity) should contact the school principal's office to secure reimbursement for both afterschool snacks and suppers.

Q: Where does the food come from and who prepares the snacks and suppers?

A: Programs have discretion to choose where the food originates and who prepares it. Programs can purchase food (from places like grocery stores) and prepare it themselves in facilities that meet certain preparation standards. Programs may also contract with a local food vendor to prepare snacks and suppers. For school-based afterschool programs, it is highly recommended that the school's food service department prepares the meals. Meals can be hot and/or cold.

Q: Is there a list of vendors my afterschool program can use to prepare snacks and suppers?

A: Unfortunately, NYS CACFP does not possess a comprehensive list of food vendors. However, staff at the NYS CACFP can offer you resources and/or suggestions of places to start with.

Q: Are there nutritional standards for what foods we can serve?

A: Yes. In order to receive reimbursement, each snack and supper must meet USDA and NYS CACFP nutritional standards. Allowable food components include milk, fruits/vegetables, grains, and protein. Public Health Nutritionists at NYS CACFP have menu planning ideas and meal suggestions.

Q: Is there a limit to how many snacks and suppers my afterschool program can serve?

A: Meals must be served to children and teenagers participating in the afterschool program. Afterschool programs registered through the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (NYS OCFS) can only claim up to the licensed participant capacity.

Q: Can my afterschool program serve snacks and suppers with NYS CACFP even when school is out of session?

A: Yes. Afterschool programs that qualify through NYS CACFP can serve meals on weekends, holidays, and when school is out of session during the regular school year.

Q: Who do I contact for more information and how do I apply?

A: For more information about the At-Risk Afterschool Snack and Supper Program and/or to become a program sponsor, please call NYS CACFP at: 1-800-942-3858. NYS CACFP staff will determine your afterschool program's eligibility, provide estimated reimbursement for serving snacks and suppers, and guide you through the application process. If you are a school-run afterschool program and want more information about serving snacks only, please contact your child nutrition representative at NYSED.



Thanks to NYS CACFP for their contribution to this document. The Nutrition Consortium of NYS is funded by NYS DOH and is an equal opportunity provider. To learn more about the Nutrition Consortium's statewide efforts to alleviate hunger, please visit www.nutritionconsortium.org.

To learn more about NYSAN's efforts to build a system of youth services in New York State, please visit www.nysan.org.