

# At-Risk Afterschool Meal Program

The At-Risk Afterschool Component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (At-Risk CACFP) offers federal funding to programs that serve meals and snacks to children who attend an eligible At-Risk Afterschool Care Center in low-income areas. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds the program. Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), Nutrition Program Services administers the program.



## Which At-Risk Afterschool Care Centers are eligible?

To be eligible for federal funding, sites must serve meals and/or snacks. Additionally, sites must be:

1. Operated by a public or private nonprofit organization (or participating in CACFP as an institution or as a sponsored site, such as an area eligible for-profit child care center);
2. Located in the attendance area of a public school where at least 50% of the students qualify for free or reduced-price meals (MDE Child Nutrition Eligibility Map: <https://education.mn.gov/Maps/fnsmap>);
3. Operating an afterschool care program organized primarily to provide care for children after school, on weekends, holidays, or school vacations during the regular school year. The program(s) must offer age-appropriate, organized, regularly scheduled educational or enrichment activities in a structured and supervised environment; and,
4. Licensed or exempt from care licensing by the Department of Human Services or Tribal Authorities. If exempt, the sponsor must certify that the site follows all applicable requirements related to care standards, health and sanitation codes, and fire and safety requirements.

## BENEFITS

- Participating afterschool care programs provide children a safe place to learn and grow outside of school.
- Children participating in an eligible afterschool care program receive free, nutritious meals and snacks.
- Organizations receive meal reimbursement.

## What is a sponsor of CACFP of At-Risk Afterschool Care centers?

Public agencies, such as schools or city governments, and non-profit community organizations, including private non-profit schools that oversee afterschool care centers, maybe sponsors. Sponsors have an agreement with the state agency, accept administrative and financial responsibility for the program, and receive the reimbursement for meals and snacks served in their afterschool care centers.

## Who can receive free At-Risk meals/snacks?

Meals and snacks can be provided to children under the age of 18 (as of July 1) who are participating in a qualifying afterschool care. Food may also be provided to persons of any age who have one or more disabilities, as determined by the state, and who are enrolled in the afterschool care program.

*Additional information on back.*

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## Why combine meals and activities after school or on non-school days?

After the school day, on weekends and school release days, students need a safe place to be with their friends, structured activities, and supportive adults. Programs that serve meals and snacks draw children and teenagers into constructive activities that are safe, fun and filled with opportunities for learning. Offering a meal and/or snack can increase program participation and provide participants with the nutrients they need to learn and grow.

## What are the meal and snack requirements?

All meals and snacks must meet USDA meal pattern requirements for food groups and portion size for the age groups served. Each participant may receive up to one meal and one snack per day. On school days, only meals/snacks served after the school day ends are eligible for reimbursement.

View the detailed meal patterns at <https://fns.usda.gov/cacfp/meals-and-snacks>.

## How does reimbursement work?

Sponsors receive reimbursement based on the number of eligible meals and snacks served each month. The USDA establishes reimbursement rates annually.

At-Risk CACFP Reimbursement Rates: <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/FNS/prog/After/App/>.

## How do organizations apply?

Eligible afterschool care centers can apply to participate in CACFP At-Risk with an existing sponsoring organization or they can apply directly with the state agency.

1. Find existing sponsoring organizations through the CACFP participation report:  
<https://public.education.mn.gov/MDEAnalytics/Data.jsp>
2. Apply using the Enrollment Process toolkit at:  
<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/FNS/prog/After/App>

## Additional Resources

- USDA CACFP Afterschool Programs webpage: [www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/afterschool-programs](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/afterschool-programs)
- USDA At-Risk Afterschool Handbook:  
<https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/atriskguide2016.pdf>
- MDE CACFP At-Risk webpages:  
<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/FNS/prog/After/>

**Email:** [mde.fns@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.fns@state.mn.us) | **Call:** 651-582-8526 or MN toll-free 800-366-8922