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## CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM PROVIDES 153 MILLION NUTRITIOUS MEALS TO FLORIDA CHILDREN



**Contact:**

Communications Office

[NewsMedia@flhealth.gov](mailto:NewsMedia@flhealth.gov)

850-245-4111

**Tallahassee, Fla.**—The Florida Department of Health joins the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in promoting the Child Care Food Program, a federally funded USDA program that reimburses child care providers for serving nutritious meals and snacks to children. The program is administered by the department and ensures that participating facilities offer meals and snacks that meet or exceed federal and state nutrition standards. Meals are available to all eligible participants without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Research indicates that early childhood nutrition plays a fundamental role in the cognitive growth and development of a child.

“The Child Care Food Program promotes healthy habits for life, by encouraging young children to eat nutritious foods and learn about healthy food choices while in child care,” said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. Celeste Philip. “Parents seeking child care in Florida are encouraged to enroll their children in facilities that participate in this program.”

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:** The Afterschool Meals Program is a subcomponent of the Child Care Food Program. Snacks and/or meals are available at no separate charge to eligible children.
- **Homeless Shelters and Certain Emergency Shelters:** The Homeless Children Nutrition Program is a subcomponent of the Child Care Food Program. Meals are available at no separate charge to eligible children.

Head Start participants and children from households receiving Food Assistance Program or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) 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 reduced-price meals.

**FREE MEAL SCALE**

<b>HOUSEHOLD SIZE</b>	<b>ANNUAL</b>	<b>MONTHLY</b>	<b>TWICE PER MONTH</b>	<b>BIWEEKLY</b>	<b>WEEKLY</b>
1	15,444	1,287	644	594	297
2	20,826	1,736	868	801	401
3	26,208	2,184	1,092	1,008	504
4	31,590	2,633	1,317	1,215	608
5	36,972	3,081	1,541	1,422	711
6	42,354	3,530	1,765	1,629	815
7	47,749	3,980	1,990	1,837	919
8	53,157	4,430	2,215	2,045	1,023
For each additional family member, add	+5,408	+451	+226	+208	+104

**REDUCED-PRICE MEAL SCALE**

<b>HOUSEHOLD SIZE</b>	<b>ANNUAL</b>	<b>MONTHLY</b>	<b>TWICE PER MONTH</b>	<b>BIWEEKLY</b>	<b>WEEKLY</b>
1	21,978	1,832	916	846	423
2	29,637	2,470	1,235	1,140	570
3	37,296	3,108	1,554	1,435	718
4	44,955	3,747	1,874	1,730	865
5	52,614	4,385	2,193	2,024	1,012
6	60,273	5,023	2,512	2,319	1,160
7	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307

8	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455
For each additional family member, add	+7,696	+642	+321	+296	+148

Lists of participating providers, organized by facility type, can be found at [www.floridahealth.gov/ccfp/](http://www.floridahealth.gov/ccfp/).

For more information on the Child Care Food Program, please visit [www.floridahealth.gov/ccfp/](http://www.floridahealth.gov/ccfp/).

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