**PRESS RELEASE**

**“This program provides over
1.8 billion meals and snacks to over 4.7 million children and adults daily.”**

**DATE:**  Date

**TO:** Local Newspaper

**FROM:**  Your Organization Name
 Address
**FOR:**  **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SUBJECT:**  National Child & Adult Care Food Program Week: March 10-16, 2024

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) gives financial reimbursement to child and adult care providers for serving nutritious meals and snacks to those in their care. The program provides over 1.8 billion meals and snacks to over 4.7 million children and adults and is an indicator of quality child care. The CACFP has been cited for the contributions it makes to the well-being of children in our child care system, including through establishing positive eating habits early and reducing food insecurity.

During National CACFP Week, March 10-16, 2024, (Your Organization Name) joins with all other organizations nation-wide working in the CACFP in acknowledging the many ways our community benefits from the program. The CACFP:

**Keeps Children Healthy**

Children in CACFP-participating care receive meals that are nutritionally superior to those served to children in comparable child care settings not participating in the CACFP. These children benefit from early nutrition education that helps them establish positive eating habits that will enrich the quality of their diet throughout their life. Research shows that CACFP reduces food insecurity and plays a vital, clear role in promoting nutrition security.

**Supports Working Families**

Parents of children in child care are assured that their children receive high quality meals. With proper nutrition, their children are less likely to experience illness and fatigue and will develop at a normal physical and intellectual pace. By expanding access and strengthening CACFP, working families can ensure that their children are well cared for and receive the nutrient-rich diet and tools they need to be healthy.

**Bolsters Child and Adult Care**

Providers receive nutrition education and support from their CACFP sponsors. Reimbursement for CACFP participation supports providers in offering nutritious meals to those in their care. As a result, CACFP providers serve more fruits, vegetables, and milk than non-CACFP child care providers. Research also shows that the CACFP is an indicator of quality child care.

This program provides over 1.8 billion meals and snacks to over 4.7 million children daily in child care centers, family day care homes, and after-school programs, and to over 114,000 adults in adult day care. Over 64,000 child care centers and 74,000 family day care providers work with 800 sponsors to use CACFP to provide children with high quality nutrition and learning experiences. Together with State Agencies and the United States Department of Agriculture, the CACFP community works passionately towards the collective goal of decreasing food insecurity and increasing nutrition security.

Please join us in honoring all CACFP providers for their invaluable work done on behalf of (Your State) children.

**CONTACT:** (Your Name, Phone, Email Address)
**MORE INFO:** [www.cacfp.org](http://www.cacfp.org)

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| **CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM: AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE** |
| **Data from FY 2022** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **State/Territory** | **Number of Children Served** |  | **State/Territory** | **Number of Children Served** |
|  |
| Alabama | 60,124 |   | Montana | 10,656 |
| Alaska | 6,147 |   | Nebraska | 32,032 |
| Arizona | 63,327 |  | Nevada | 16,808 |
| Arkansas | 50,770 |   | New Hampshire | 7,893 |
| California | 671,222 |   | New Jersey | 83,263 |
| Colorado | 66,112 |   | New Mexico | 32,734 |
| Connecticut | 21,166 |   | New York | 213,329 |
| Delaware | 36,385 |   | North Carolina | 107,399 |
| District of Columbia | 37,516 |   | North Dakota | 13,878 |
| Florida | 295,948 |   | Ohio | 98,346 |
| Georgia | 129,123 |   | Oklahoma | 63,454 |
| Guam | 908 |   | Oregon | 33,982 |
| Hawaii | 8,259 |   | Pennsylvania | 108,452 |
| Idaho | 10,289 |   | Puerto Rico | 12,238 |
| Illinois | 116,555 |   | Rhode Island | 11,556 |
| Indiana | 85,343 |   | South Carolina | 37,312 |
| Iowa | 35,212 |   | South Dakota | 11,020 |
| Kansas | 38,409 |   | Tennessee | 88,440 |
| Kentucky | 65,104 |   | Texas | 968,887 |
| Louisiana | 93,027 |   | Utah | 30,259 |
| Maine | 10,655 |   | Vermont | 8,778 |
| Maryland | 176,057 |   | Virginia | 107,807 |
| Massachusetts | 69,348 |   | Virgin Islands | 361 |
| Michigan | 57,542 |   | Washington | 51,703 |
| Minnesota | 152,821 |   | West Virginia | 23,311 |
| Mississippi | 41,493 |   | Wisconsin | 48,361 |
| Missouri | 160,054 |   | Wyoming | 6,407 |
|  |  |   | **TOTAL** | **4,583,508** |
|  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

*Source:* *USDA Food and Nutrition Service*
*Data are subject to revision.*

**LETTER TO CONGRESS**

(Date)

Senator (First and Last Name)
(Address)
(City, State Zip)

Dear Senator (Last Name):

March 10-16, 2024 is National Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Week. The CACFP is a federal program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to participating child care centers, afterschool programs, family day care homes, emergency shelters, and adult day care centers. The CACFP has been cited both in academic studies and in government reports for the contributions it makes to the well-being of children being cared for in our child care system. This program provides over 1.8 billion meals and snacks to over 4.7 million children and adults and is an indicator of quality child care.

Because this program is so important to the constituents in your state, I would love you to join me in celebrating the operators of the program and am requesting your support during National CACFP Week.

The primary goal of the CACFP is to serve nutritious meals to children and adults in care, especially those from lower economic circumstances. Secondary goals of the CACFP are: the establishment of lifelong positive eating habits, reduction of future health care and education costs due to lack of proper early development, and training and support of local child care personnel. The CACFP benefits our state in the following ways:

FOR THE CHILD
Proper nutrition during the early years of childhood ensures appropriate development and reduces physical and educational challenges later in life. Eating patterns and habits established during these years are vital to positive health outcomes. Children participating in the CACFP enjoy meals that meet the evidence-based USDA nutrition requirements that help combat hunger and improve nutrition security.

FOR THE PARENT
Parents are assured that their children receive high quality, well-balanced meals. A well-nourished child is less likely to experience fatigue and illness, which would require parents to be absent from work. Children are more likely to be healthy, happy and develop at a normal physical and intellectual pace. Resources sent home with the children, like easy and highly nutritious recipes that they can make at home, contribute to the nutrition security of the entire household.

FOR THE PROVIDER
Providers receive valuable nutrition education that helps them identify the proper foods and proportions necessary to provide nutrient-rich meals and snacks to the children and adults in their care. They obtain help in understanding how to encourage positive, lifelong eating habits. The financial reimbursement helps them to afford to serve meals that are nutritionally superior to those served to children in comparable child care settings not participating in CACFP.

FOR THE COMMUNITY
Within our state, approximately (enter number) children and adults directly benefit from the food program. The CACFP in our state meets the nutritional needs of children and older adults while they are in out-of-home care, resulting in significant enrichment and improvement of the quality of child care provided in our community.

 We must all work together to continue to strengthen and provide equitable access to the CACFP.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)
(Your Organization)