

# Child and Adult Care Food Program | HB 3201



**The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)** is a federal program reimbursing nutritious meals for children in child care centers, family care homes, afterschool programs, and emergency shelters. Access to nutritious food is critical for early childhood development!

## Why it Matters



**Health & Development:** Supports health and development, and promotes healthy nutrition for young children.



**Child Care Quality:** Strengthens child care and helps to stabilize providers' income and services.



**Economic Impact:** Brings federal funds to Oregon, supporting local farmers and food processors.

## Problem

In Oregon, **1 in 6 children face food insecurity**, with rates 2–3 times higher for children of color. Early childhood workers including those in Early Head Start, Head Start, and child care centers, strive to prevent hunger even though many operate with a profit margin below one percent. Many providers experience food insecurity themselves and programs often struggle to feed children as food costs rise, often covering expenses out of pocket or passing them on to families.

## Eligibility

- For-profit child care centers must meet a **25% low-income eligibility** threshold each month.
- Non-profit centers are always eligible.
- **Family child care programs receive varying rates of partial reimbursement** through a complex two-tiered system, with top-tier reimbursements not covering actual costs, especially with rising food prices.

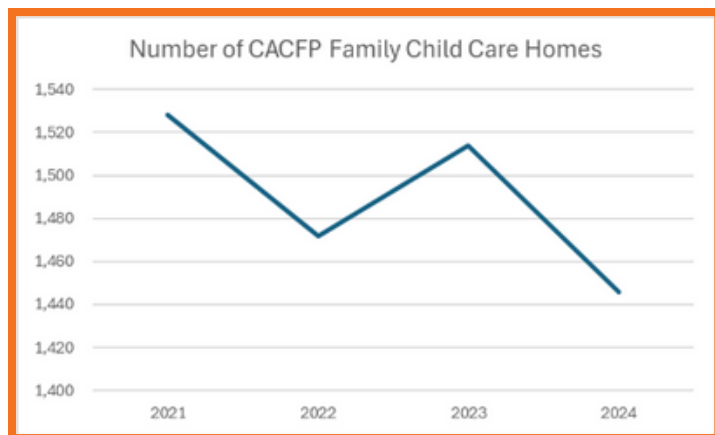
Additionally, home-based providers can only participate in CACFP if they have a sponsor organization, but **there are currently only three sponsor organizations in Oregon**. Last year, one sponsor considered discontinuing the program due to insufficient reimbursements. In response, the 2024 legislative session allocated **\$660,000** for supplemental administrative funding to support both new and existing sponsors. **SB 5515 would support sponsor organizations, which are crucial to stabilize and expand home based child care participation in CACFP and secure federal reimbursement dollars.**

## CACFP Provisions During Covid-19

During COVID-19, key supports were implemented in CACFP to streamline and modernize the program, increasing access to healthy meals:

- An additional 10 cents in CACFP reimbursement for each meal and snack served.
- A waiver allowing all family child care home providers to be paid at the higher Tier I reimbursement rate.

These provisions expired on June 30, 2023, resulting in 82 fewer home-based providers participating.



## Proposed Solution

- **Oregon needs \$4.5 million for CACFP this biennium**
- **Increase access to healthy and culturally relevant food for children** in child care by increasing meal and snack reimbursements for CACFP providers.



**Adding 10 cents reimbursement** to eligible meals and snacks.



**Bringing Tier 2 home-based providers up to the same reimbursement level as Tier 1** for all reimbursable meals.



**Providing one-time funds of \$250,000** for OSU Extension Services to create culturally specific menus based on USDA guidelines in collaboration with communities and ODE.



**Maintain allocated \$660,000** to provide supplemental administrative funding for home based sponsoring organizations to help ensure statewide coverage.

## Program supporters:

**Oregon's Early Childhood Coalition**  
**Child Care for Oregon**  
**The Children's Agenda**  
**Childcare Alliance**  
**Oregon Food Security Agenda**  
**Oregon Partners for Education Justice**

I love seeing the increase of all providers to tier one and the additional money per meal for all. **This is a game changer for [child care] providers and will allow the program to support healthy nutrition in a tangible way!**

Karen Prow, Child Care Resources Director  
NeighborImpact



Learn more about Oregon's Early Childhood Coalition: <https://bit.ly/OregonECC>