



Commodity Supplemental Food Program

What Is the Commodity Supplemental Food Program?

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) works to improve the health of low-income elderly persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious, domestically sourced and produced food, known as USDA Foods.

Who Administers CSFP?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers CSFP at the Federal level. Through CSFP, the USDA distributes both food and administrative funds to participating States and Indian Tribal Organizations.

The State agencies that administer CSFP are typically departments of health, social services, education, or agriculture.

How Does CSFP Work?

State agencies store CSFP food ordered from USDA’s Foods Available List and distribute the food to public and private nonprofit local agencies.

Local agencies then determine the eligibility of applicants, distribute the food to CSFP participants, and provide nutrition education services. Foods provided to participants are based on a guide rate that defines the specific types and amounts of food that make up their food package. Local agencies may also provide referrals to other welfare, nutrition, and healthcare programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, and Medicare.

How Can People Participate in CSFP?

CSFP participants must be at least 60 years of age and reside in a State or on an Indian reservation that participates in CSFP. States establish income limits that are at or below 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. States may also establish other eligibility criteria, such as residency and nutritional risk.

Where Can I Go To Learn More About CSFP?

For more information, please contact your CSFP State Agency. A list of State contacts may be found at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts>.

Whom at FNS Can I Contact To Discuss CSFP?

Please contact the FNS Division of External and Governmental Affairs at fnsgovaffairs@usda.gov.

Key Commodity Supplemental Food Program Data	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Total participation (in thousands)	572.0	585.3	629.8	676.0	702.6
Total Federal cost (in millions)	\$150.3	\$173.2	\$155.3	\$187.1	\$201.3

FY = Fiscal Year