



# USDA Foods for Child Nutrition Programs

## What Is USDA Foods for Child Nutrition Programs?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) provides nutritious, domestically sourced and produced foods, known as USDA Foods, to Child Nutrition Programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Foods include high-quality vegetables, fruits, dairy products, whole grains, lean meats, and other protein options.

## Who Administers USDA Foods for Child Nutrition Programs?

FNS administers this program at the Federal level. State distributing agencies administer the program at the State level. This may or may not be the same State agency that administers the Child Nutrition Programs.

## How Does USDA Foods for Child Nutrition Programs Work?

FNS coordinates the distribution of USDA Foods to States to support the approximately 100,000 public and private nonprofit schools that participate in programs that provide meals to students. States receive a certain value of USDA Foods, or USDA Foods entitlement funds, based on a statutory formula that multiplies the number of lunches served in the State by a per-meal rate. USDA Foods entitlement funds vary from year to year based on an annual adjustment that reflects changes in the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Price Index of Foods used in Schools and Institutions. USDA uses these funds to purchase food on behalf of State agencies to support Child Nutrition Programs.

FNS also distributes USDA Foods to day care centers that serve meals through CACFP. CACFP institutions have the option of receiving USDA Foods or cash-in-lieu. Approximately 20 percent of child care centers participating in CACFP currently request USDA Foods.

FNS also distributes USDA Foods to SFSP sites serving children during school breaks. Providers are eligible to receive 1.5 cents per meal in USDA Foods entitlement funds. USDA Foods ordered for NSLP may also be used in SFSP.

## Where Can I Go To Learn More About USDA Foods for Child Nutrition Programs?

For more information about the USDA Foods for Child Nutrition Programs, please visit: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-fis>. A list of State distributing agency contacts can be found here: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts>.

## Whom at FNS Can I Contact To Discuss USDA Foods for Child Nutrition Programs?

Please contact the FNS Division of External and Governmental Affairs at [fnsgovaffairs@usda.gov](mailto:fnsgovaffairs@usda.gov).

Key USDA Foods for Child Nutrition Programs Data	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019 (estimate)
Cost (in millions)	\$1,493	\$1,312	\$1,376	\$1,809	\$1,709