



Update on Federal-Level Action for Hunger and Nutrition Programs September 2022

The role of hunger and nutrition programs can not be understated, and Members of Congress and the Administration have been taking action.

On Capitol Hill

Keep Kids Fed Act: In June, Congress approved the [Keep Kids Fed Act](#). For CACFP, it includes one more year of family child care paid at the higher, tier 1 level (one more year without the two-tier system) and includes a 10-cent rate increase on meals and snacks in CACFP in centers and family child care. The law also includes some good provisions for school and summer meals too, though not everything that was needed and there's more work to do.

Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act: The Child Nutrition Act was last reauthorized (renewed) by Congress in 2010. This law authorizes school breakfast and school lunch programs, summer feeding programs, WIC, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). CACFP reaches millions of children across the country and is crucial in community child care centers, Head Start, and family child care programs.

In July, the House Education and Labor Committee reviewed and approved a child nutrition reauthorization bill, known as the [Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act](#). If passed by the House and Senate, it will have important implications for CACFP, including:

- **An additional meal/snack service:** providers have requested this for years. With children in care for upwards of 8 hours (and sometimes 12-14 hours), children are hungry and providers are feeding them. Providers deserve to be reimbursed for these additional meals.
- **Improve reimbursement rate adjustments for home-based child care providers:** by using the Consumer Price Index for food away from home to calculate the adjustment, home-based child care providers will be paid via the same method as centers.
- **Improvements to paperwork provisions:** the Act would establish an advisory committee to reduce administratively burdensome paperwork for parents, providers, and sponsors. The Advisory Committee is to have at least 14 members and at least one member is to be a representative of a family child care home. The Act would also allow automatic eligibility for benefits among children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. This means there is less required documentation and less paperwork being passed between parents, providers, and sponsors.

Note that the Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act does not address tiering.

At USDA

Meanwhile, the [USDA announced](#) the CACFP payment rates for 2022-23. The rates in the Federal Register reflect the 10-cent increase from the Keep Kids Fed Act. Find the reimbursement payment chart on the [CACFP Roundtable blog here](#).

At the White House

The [White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health](#) will take place on September 28, 2022. Home Grown and CACFP Roundtable offered [these recommendations](#) based on the lived experiences of home-based child care providers and the families counting on them. The recommendations speak to CACFP as well as other actions that federal and state leaders can take to better address hunger, nutrition, and health.