The Adult Day Care (ADC) component of the CACFP is a federal nutrition program designed to provide nutritious meals to elderly or functionally-impaired adults in adult day care centers. In New Jersey, the program is administered by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Food and Nutrition.

Who Can Participate

The ADC component of the CACFP is available to public and private nonprofit agencies who provide licensed or approved nonresidential day care. Licensed or approved proprietary (i.e. for profit) centers that receive Title XIX or Title XX funding (from the Social Security Act) for at least 25 percent of their enrolled, nonresident participants also qualify. Organizations participating in the ADC include, but are not limited to, medical day care centers, partial care centers, Alzheimer’s programs and state-operated centers.

Centers can operate in the program either independently or under the auspices of a sponsoring organization which accepts final administrative and financial responsibility for the program.

Eligibility Criteria

An adult day care center must also meet three criteria established by U.S.D.A.:

1. The primary purpose must be to provide day care services to elderly persons 60 years of age or older, or chronically impaired disabled persons, 18 years of age or older;
2. The nonresidential community-based center must be licensed or approved by state or local government agencies;
3. The center must provide a structured, comprehensive program of health and social services as well as an individual plan of care for each participant.

Some centers are not eligible because their overriding purpose is to provide employment and developmental opportunities, dispel loneliness, and furnish better housing or additional income. They include:

- residential institutions such as nursing homes, residential health care facilities and state institutions;
- centers receiving Title III funds for meals to all participants;
- vocational rehabilitation centers, substance abuse centers and sheltered workshops.

Reimbursement for Meal Service

As participants in the ADC component of the CACFP, an organization may be reimbursed for up to three meals for each enrolled participant per day. These meals may be any combination except breakfast, lunch and dinner. For example, each participant may be served breakfast, lunch and a supplement.
The meals claimed for reimbursement must meet U.S.D.A. nutritional standards and follow a meal pattern based on choices from the four food groups: 1) milk, 2) bread or grain products, 3) meat or protein and 4) fruit or vegetables.

In New Jersey, federal reimbursement for meal service in adult day care centers is provided through the State Department of Agriculture. Payments are made based on monthly claims for reimbursement which report the number of meals served the preceding month.

Sponsors may also choose to receive surplus commodities which are items which U.S.D.A. has stockpiled beyond the normal storage capacity. They include items such as beef, chicken, cheese, butter, flour, fruit, beans, rice, oats, honey and nuts. Sponsors who opt for surplus commodities receive about 12 cents less for each lunch and dinner served. However, they often receive twice that amount in food value.

Record Keeping

As a sponsor of an adult food program center your record keeping responsibilities include:

- Keeping records of your food and food related costs.
- Collecting eligibility applications from the participants annually.
- Keeping daily attendance records for enrolled participants.
- Keeping a daily count of the meals served.

Civil Rights Statement

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If you have questions about any of USDA’s nutrition assistance programs, check the information on the FNS web site, http://www.fns.usda.gov/. For additional information regarding the CACFP in New Jersey, please contact:

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