

**CACFP Supper Pilot
Summary of Survey Results**



HUNGER TASK FORCE

**Compiled by
Hunger Task Force Inc.
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Background

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), provides funding for care providers to serve nutritious meals and snacks to children and adults. Currently, CACFP provides reimbursement for after-school care facilities to offer a snack to children age 18 and younger or serve suppers to children age 12 and younger during the school year. In order to receive reimbursements, CACFP providers must offer educational or enrichment activities in which children must be enrolled.

The Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-224) and the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-265) established authorization for seven states to participate in a pilot CACFP supper program. This program allows after-school programs in Delaware, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania and Oregon to offer supper to all enrolled children age 18 and younger. The FY2008 Appropriations Bill added West Virginia as the eighth CACFP supper pilot state. In these states, after-school provider sites can offer supper if the site is located where at least half of the children in school attendance qualify for free or reduced-price lunch and the site offers educational or enrichment activities, meets licensing, health and safety codes required by local or state law, and serves nutritionally balanced meals that meet the USDA's nutritional standards.

Hunger Task Force conducted informal telephone interviews with nutrition agencies and advocacy organizations in the states that currently have the CACFP supper waiver.¹ There was an overwhelming positive response to serving CACFP suppers. In New York alone, more than ten million suppers were served in fiscal year 2007 with 243 sponsors and nearly 1,000 supper sites mostly located in urban areas. The Child Nutrition Program Outreach Coordinator at the Nutrition Consortium of NYS, Inc. stated that no formal outreach was being done for the CACFP supper program. Instead, it was simply expanding on its own and is considered extremely successful.

CACFP Supper State	Sponsors
Delaware	city departments of park & recreation, food banks
Illinois	Public schools
Missouri	Public schools, nonprofits, food banks, faith-based organizations
New York	Public schools, nonprofits, food banks, faith-based organizations
Oregon	Public schools, nonprofits
Pennsylvania	Faith-based organizations, nonprofits, public schools, government agencies, independent child care centers

Delaware, Missouri and Pennsylvania also state that their CACFP supper programs have been successful and numbers continue to grow with very little coordinated outreach efforts. Both Delaware and Missouri report that schools were often unwilling to serve suppers due to logistics or sentiments of feeling that it was not the responsibility of the school to serve a third meal. Delaware was able to work around these views by having the Department of Parks and Recreation of Wilmington and local food banks serve nearly all participating children in the state. As of January 2008, Pennsylvania served more than 16,000 students per day at 379 sites.

¹ Hunger Task Force interviewed state agencies and advocates in Delaware, Illinois, Missouri, New York, Oregon, and Pennsylvania. We were unable to contact agencies or advocates in Michigan and West Virginia.

Pennsylvania reported that its urban areas served the majority of CACFP suppers, but that an increase was apparent as well in rural Pennsylvania as the percentage of eligibility increased by over 50%.

Oregon served 1.1 million suppers during the 2007 fiscal year. Oregon predominantly works with nonprofit sponsors like the Boys and Girls Clubs and at school districts. Oregon has found that smaller school districts in more rural areas were easier to coordinate suppers as compared to merging enrollees in after-school programming with the food and nutrition services provision of larger school districts. Illinois served more than 1.75 million suppers during fiscal year 2006 and 2.8 million in fiscal year 2007 at more than 600 sites predominately in Chicago, East St. Louis, and southern Illinois. The Illinois Hunger Coalition felt that the supper waiver was underutilized and suggested that increased state guidance and encouragement for sponsors would greatly increase the number of suppers served in Illinois.

Methodology

Hunger Task Force and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction developed a survey in order to determine if there was interest in advocating for an extension of the CACFP supper pilot to Wisconsin. The survey was designed to assess the need and capability of Wisconsin after-school care programs to serve suppers through CACFP.

The thirteen-question survey was distributed throughout Wisconsin to daycares and after-school care providers through a Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction mailing. A total of 583 surveys were distributed; 224 surveys (38%) were returned at least partially completed and were included in the results. Survey data were compiled and analyzed by Hunger Task Force.

Results

A total of 175 respondents, or 78%, of those surveyed provide after-school care to children age 18 and under. (For the complete number of survey responses, see the appendix on page 6.) Nearly all provide care for five days per week. Only three programs offer care one to four days per week. More programs provide care to children age newborn to 12 than to teenagers. On average, the majority of programs offer care to 100 or less children. Nearly 80% of the after-school care programs surveyed indicate that they do not provide care for children age 13-18.

Average Program Attendance, age newborn to 12

# Children Enrolled Newborn to 12	# of Pgms.	% Pgms.
0	7	3.1
1-50	102	45.5
51-100	61	27.2
101-200	16	7.1
201-300	11	4.9
301+	7	3.1
Total	204	91.1
Question Unanswered	20	8.9
Total	224	100.0

Average Program Attendance, age 13 to 18

# Children Enrolled Age 13 to 18	# of Pgms.	% of Pgms.
0	178	79.5
1-50	19	8.5
51-100	2	.9
101+	4	1.8
Total	203	90.6
Question Unanswered	21	9.4
Total	224	100.0

After-school enrichment or educational activities are offered to students at 57% of the surveyed sites. These sites offer a range of activities that include homework assistance and tutoring, recreational and fitness activities, arts and crafts, music and technology programs and social opportunities.

Currently, 161 respondents or 71.9%, serve after-school snacks through CACFP. Approximately three-fourths, or 73.2%, of the programs that receive CACFP snacks feel that the snack is sufficient to meet the nutritional needs of the children. However, 11.6% of respondents feel that the children they serve experience hunger that their program is unable to deal with. The respondents emphasize that the children who are in after-school care later than 5 p.m. are often hungry and need more nutrition than what a snack provides. Some providers allow students to eat more than the CACFP snack if they are hungry.

Forty-six respondents (20%) are interested in serving suppers to children in their program if supper were reimbursed through CACFP. Of those who are interested in serving suppers, one-third of the providers are from Milwaukee. The respondents who were interested in serving suppers estimated that they might serve anywhere between 10 and 450 suppers per day, depending on their average enrollment, totaling the possibility for more than 1,600 suppers being served per day in the 45 programs that showed interest in serving supper. In Milwaukee alone, respondents thought that 1,000 students per day would be served.

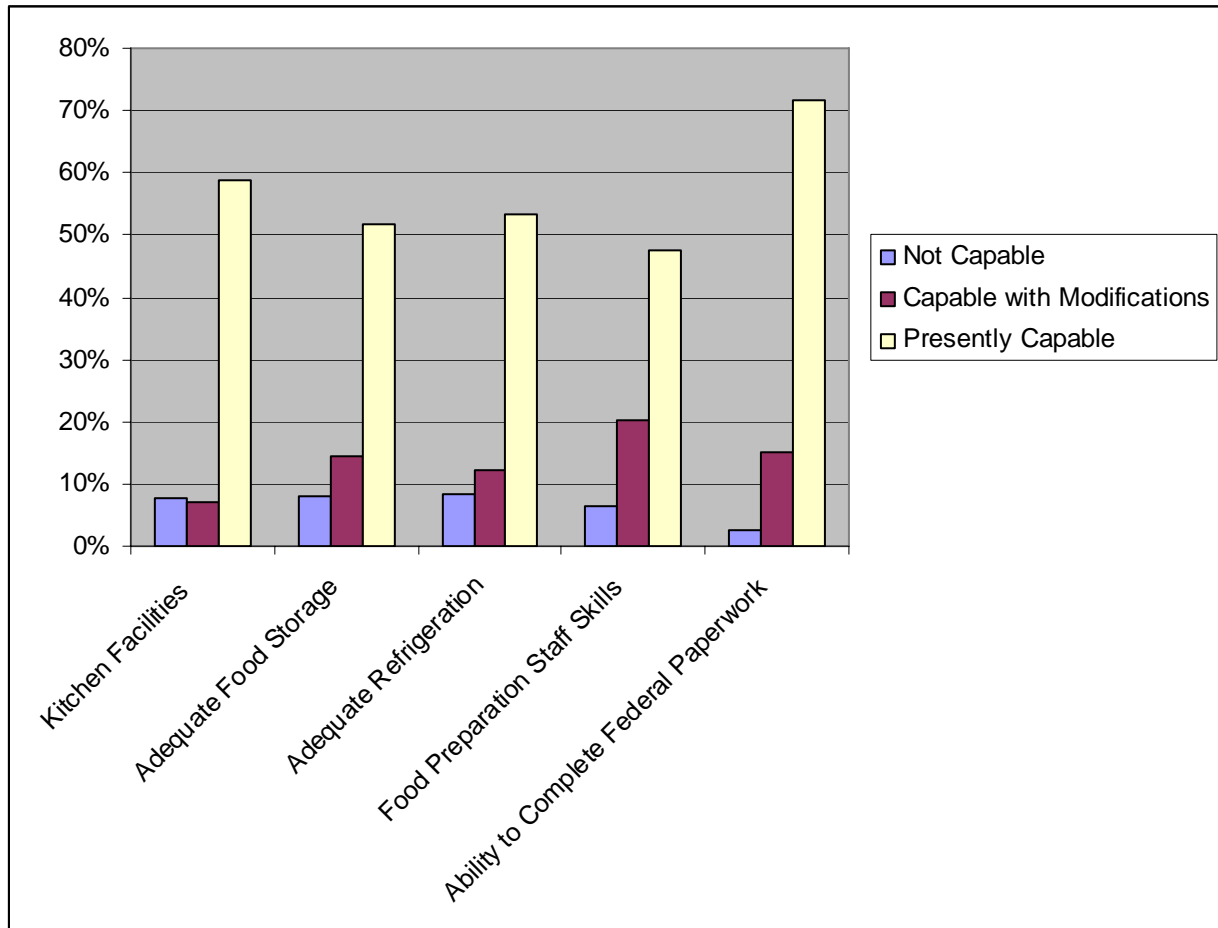
Many of the providers that are not interested in serving supper noted that their sites close between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. and hours of operation would not support serving supper. Others felt that they would not have sufficient staff to serve another meal or that it is not cost-effective to serve supper if only a few students would take advantage of it. Other respondents emphasize the need for children to be at home with their family by supper time.

Eleven percent of the total respondents feel that serving suppers would help attract children between the age of 12 and 18. Many after-school care providers are licensed to care for children from birth to 12 years old and are not looking to increase teenage enrollment. However, nearly all providers that showed interest in offering supper felt that supper would attract teenagers to their program. The majority of those programs interested in serving suppers feel that the federal reimbursement of \$2.65 per supper² was adequate to cover the cost of serving suppers. Most other respondents feel that reimbursement between \$3 and \$4 was necessary in order to sufficiently cover the cost of providing suppers.

The majority of respondents felt that their site and staff were presently capable of providing suppers to the children that they serve. For each category, less than 10 percent felt they were not capable to serve suppers.

² The federal government reimburses CACFP meals at a rate of \$2.47 and offers \$0.18 case in lieu of commodities in fiscal year 2008.

Programs' Potential Capability of Providing Suppers



Approximately one-fourth of the total respondents are interested in helping Hunger Task Force and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction pursue a federal CACFP supper authorization for Wisconsin.

Conclusion

Approximately one in five after school care providers that responded to Hunger Task Force's survey showed interest in offering suppers to children through a CACFP supper waiver—a total of 46 institutions. Many of those who are uninterested in serving supper could not serve suppers without drastically changing their hours of operation, number of staff or facilities. Of those interested, nearly all felt that providing suppers would help attract 12 to 18 year old children. Providing CACFP suppers has the potential to feed a minimum of 1,600 children per day in Wisconsin. The estimated cost of providing CACFP suppers during a school year is \$711,360 - \$763,200 (1,600 children x 180 days of after school care x \$2.47-\$2.65 federal reimbursement rate per meal).

Next Steps

Hunger Task Force will share the results of this survey with all providers who responded, state and federal administrators and congressional staff. Those providers who demonstrated interest in

pursuing the CACFP supper waiver for Wisconsin will be invited to join in a campaign to advocate for CACFP supper authorization. Hunger Task Force will lead and coordinate this campaign. For more information, contact Jon Janowski, Director of Advocacy, at (414) 238-6475 or jon@hungertaskforce.org.

Appendix – Survey Responses

- Question 1. Do you provide after-school care to children ages 18 and under?
Yes = 175, No = 44, Question Left Unanswered = 5
- Question 2. How many day(s) per week do you provide after school care?
1 day = 1, 4 days = 2, 5 days = 181, Question Left Unanswered = 40
- Question 3. Do you offer after-school enrichment or educational activities to students at your program?
Yes = 128, No = 72, Question Left Unanswered = 24
- Question 4. Do you currently serve after-school snacks through CACFP?
Yes = 161, No = 51, Question Left Unanswered = 12
- Question 5. Is this snack sufficient to meet the nutritional needs of the children in your program?
Yes = 164, No = 14, Question Left Unanswered = 46
- Question 6. Do the children you serve experience hunger that your program is unable to deal with?
Yes = 26, No = 175, Question Left Unanswered = 23
- Question 7. Would you be interested in serving suppers to the children in your program?
Yes = 46, No = 146, Question Left Unanswered = 32
- Question 8. Would offering suppers at your program help to attract children between 12 and 18 years of age?
Yes = 25, No = 160, Question Left Unanswered = 39
- Question 9. Given the number of suppers you project you would serve, would this reimbursement be adequate to cover the cost of the supper for your program?
Yes = 64, No = 26, Question Left Unanswered = 134
- Question 10. Would you be interested in helping us pursue federal CACFP supper authorization for Wisconsin?
Yes = 59, No = 134, Question Left Unanswered = 31