

Welcome to the Child Care Food Program!

Feeding children in family child care homes and a big responsibility as eating habits are established at an early age. Well-balanced and nutritious meals provide the rapidly growing child with necessary nutrients and energy that promote healthy growth and development. As a family child care provider, you play a key role in developing positive eating habits and attitudes. Our reimbursement can provide the means to provide nutritious meals to the children you care for.

The Alaska Family Child Care Food Program is devoted to helping you provide quality childcare through its nutritional education services, resources, and technical assistance that will aid you in your day-to-day caring for children.

This handbook is one of the resource materials that have been designed for your use, and we hope you will refer to it whenever questions come up.

As stated in the beginning of this resource guide there are many benefits to joining the Food Program, but the benefits do not just stop with the providers it also enables positive affects to the following.

Parents:

- Helps to control the cost of child care
- No need to prepare and transport foods to child care
- Security in knowing nutritious foods are being served

Community:

- Federal tax monies are returned to the provider's State and invested in the health of children living in the community.
- Helps keep childcare costs down for the community, by paying for the over-head costs of food purchases.
- Only Approved or Licensed providers are eligible to participate, which provides an incentive for unlicensed or unapproved providers to become approved or Licensed.

As you can see, your decision to become a part of the Food Program greatly affects many areas of your childcare business and community as a whole. So on behalf of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, USDA and the Alaska Family Child Care Food Program, **WELCOME!**