

Food with Care: Invest in Working Families

Budget Ask



Restore access to healthy food for young, low-income children: reimburse child care settings for every breakfast and lunch served to eligible children through CACFP.

History of the CACFP State Supplemental Meal Reimbursement

1975

- California establishes a state meal reimbursement for CACFP to supplement the federal reimbursement for breakfasts and lunches served to children in child care.

2008

- The University of California at Berkeley conducts a statewide survey of child care and finds that enrollment in CACFP is linked to better nutrition and better overall quality of child care.

2012

- **Governor Brown eliminates \$10.1 million from the state budget, designated for the CACFP meal reimbursement.** Only child care centers administered by a Public School Food Authority and a limited number of day care homes remain eligible.

2013

- The University of California at Berkeley conducts a second survey of child care confirming CACFP's connection to the quality of child care.

2014

- The Child Care Food Program Roundtable shares survey findings suggesting that following the budget cut **Child Care Centers lost an average of \$8,270 from their budgets** and **-200 providers have dropped off the food program.**

2016

- Early childhood advocates rally for the second year in a row to bring back the state meal reimbursement, but in June California's Legislative Conference Committee meets and ultimately decides to not include the reimbursement in the budget package.

2017

- The University of California at Berkeley conducts a third survey of child care again linking enrollment in CACFP to better nutrition and better overall quality of care.

- California Food Policy Advocates analysis of CACFP participation data finds that: **20,000 children lost access to healthy meals following the 2012 budget cut.**