Incentive for Sponsor Organizations of the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Our Request: $182,000 to be appropriated in the Agency of Education - Child Nutrition budget in FY27 to be distributed among the Vermont Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) sponsor organizations as an incentive to participate as a sponsor of the CACFP for Family Child Care Home providers.



HUNGER FREE VERMONT

HUNGER FREE VERMONT

Background on the CACFP

- CACFP = Child and Adult Care Food Program
- The CACFP is the federal child nutrition program that early childhood education programs can participate in to receive cash reimbursement for eligible meals and snacks served
- The Agency of Education administers the CACFP on the state level.
- The CACFP is the most equitable way for all children in child care and early childhood education settings to access developmentally appropriate nutrition
- Family Child Care Homes leverage >$1.2 million annually in federal dollars

HUNGER FREE VERMONT

The Role of Sponsor Organizations

- A Family Child Care Home (FCCH) can only participate in the CACFP under an agreement with an eligible sponsoring organization
  - Responsibilities: onboarding, paperwork, site visits 3x/year
- 203 FCCHs participate in the CACFP; ½ of FCCHs in the state
- 3 Sponsoring Organizations cover all 203 FCCHs, down 2 from 2024
- Note: In Vermont, we use the term 'Family Child Care Homes (FCCHs)' rather than the federal 'Day Care Homes (DCH)'

HUNGER FREE VERMONT

Impacts of the Funding Gap

- As of October of 2024, only 181 of 407 (44%) FCCHs in Vermont were participating in the CACFP.
- Barriers to participation in the CACFP extend beyond the identified lack of sponsor capacity, however without a sponsor organization FCCHs are unable to participate in the CACFP in the first place.
- Due to the funding gap, sponsor organizations are experiencing strained budgets and may have to stop participation, which would likely lead to a reduction in FCCHs who can participate in the CACFP.

Our Request: $182,000 to be appropriated in the Agency of Education - Child Nutrition budget in FY27 to be distributed among the Vermont Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) sponsor organizations as an incentive to participate as a sponsor of the CACFP for Family Child Care Home providers.



HUNGER FREE VERMONT