

Please provide
funding to allow
more Family Child
Care Home
Providers to provide
meals and snacks to
children



Our Request: \$182,000 to be appropriated in the Agency of Education - Child Nutrition budget in FY26 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.



What is the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)?

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 to the children in their care. 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 in order to be set up to be able to access learning alongside their peers.



How does funding for the CACFP and CACFP Sponsoring Organizations work?

Under this program, the Sponsoring Organizations act as a 'fiscal intermediary' for funds between the state agency and the sponsored family child care homes.

Sponsoring Organizations are responsible for:

- Providing support to meal program personnel
- Monitoring meal program operations
- Conducting meal program reviews as required by federal program regulations
- Acting as "fiscal intermediary" for food service funds between the state agency and sponsored family child care programs

Why is funding for CACFP sponsoring organizations critical?

Under federal program guidelines, a Family Child Care Home (FCCH) can only participate in the CACFP under an agreement with an eligible sponsoring organization.

As of April 2025, there are only 3 remaining sponsoring organizations covering all 203 FCCH providers participating in the CACFP across the state of Vermont:

- BROC Community Action
- Capstone Community Action
- The Winston Prouty Center for Child Development

At this time, the administrative payments that CACFP sponsoring organizations receive do not adequately cover the cost of being a sponsoring organization.

The current funding gap impacts children's' access to nutrition in child care:

As of January of 2024, only 203 of 400 (or just over 50%) FCCHs in Vermont were participating in the CACFP. Without a sponsor organization FCCHs are unable to participate in the CACFP.

With a small state investment of \$182,000, sponsoring organizations will have **increased capacity** to support onboarding new FCCHs into the CACFP while also maintaining the current level of participation.

Investing in the critical role of sponsoring organizations incentivises additional organizations to take on this role, which would further increase the capacity of each individual sponsoring organization.



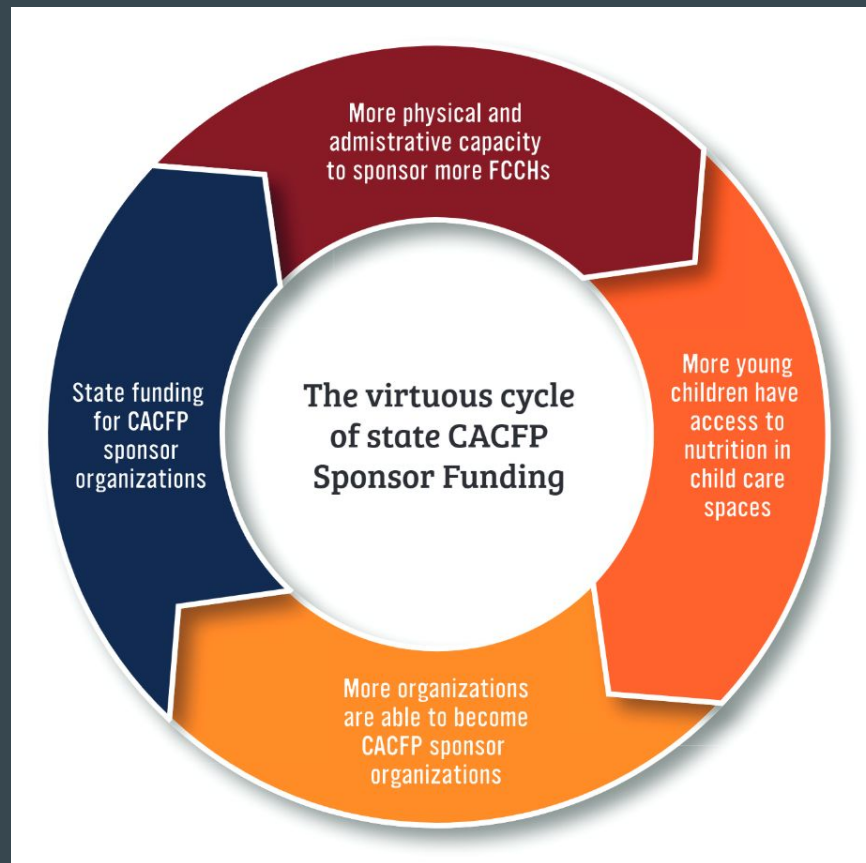
How will this funding be addressed in following years based on this funding request?

Each following year, The Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) would report to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees the amount needed for the following fiscal year, based on the number of Family Child Care Home providers served in the current fiscal year, and any expected increase in participation in the next fiscal year.

AOE would also recommend an inflationary increase in the base amount/provider based on the % change in the consumer price index for food away from home from May to May each year.



The virtuous cycle of state CACFP Sponsor Funding:



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