



# Commodity Supplemental Food Program

## 1. What is CSFP?

The [Commodity Supplemental Food Program](#) (CSFP) works to improve the health of low-income persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. Children who were certified and receiving CSFP benefits as of February 6, 2014, can continue to receive assistance until they are no longer eligible under the program rules in effect on February 6, 2014.

As required by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79), women, infants, and children who apply to participate in CSFP on February 7, 2014, or later cannot be certified to participate in the program. Such individuals may be eligible for other nutrition assistance programs, such as [the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#), [the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#), and other [nutrition assistance programs](#).

CSFP is administered at the Federal level by the [Food and Nutrition Service](#) (FNS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Through CSFP, USDA distributes both food and administrative funds to participating States and Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs). CSFP food packages do not provide a complete diet, but rather are good sources of the nutrients typically lacking in the diets of the beneficiary population.

The program is authorized under Section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of

1973. Federal regulations covering CSFP can be found in 7 CFR Parts [247](#) and [250](#).

An average of almost 676,000 people each month participated in the program in fiscal year (FY) 2018.

## 2. How does the program operate?

State agencies that administer CSFP are typically departments of health, social services, education, or agriculture. State agencies store CSFP food and distribute it to public and nonprofit private local agencies.

Local agencies determine the eligibility of applicants, distribute the foods, and provide nutrition education. Local agencies also provide referrals to other welfare, nutrition, and healthcare programs, such as WIC, SNAP, Medicaid, and Medicare.

## 3. How much does CSFP cost?

For FY 2019, Congress appropriated \$222.891 million for CSFP. Annual appropriations may be supplemented by unspent funds carried over from the previous fiscal year, if available.

## 4. What are the requirements to get food through CSFP?

CSFP participants must reside in one of the States or on one of the Indian reservations that participate in CSFP.

States establish income limits for the elderly that are at or below 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. States also establish income limits for the children who remain on the program that are at or below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines, but not below 100 percent of these guidelines.



States may establish local residency requirements based on designated service areas (but may not require a minimum period of residency). States may also require that participants be at nutritional risk, as determined by a physician or local agency staff.

**5. Is this program available in every State?**

CSFP is authorized to operate in all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The following ITOs are also authorized to participate in CSFP: Oglala Sioux (SD), Red Lake (MN), Seminole Nation (OK), Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians (CA), and Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe (ND).

**6. What foods are provided to participants?**

Food packages include a variety of foods, such as nonfat dry and ultra high-temperature fluid milk, juice, farina, oats, ready-to-eat cereal, rice, pasta, peanut butter, dry beans, canned meat, poultry, or fish, and canned fruits and vegetables.

For a list of foods available for CSFP, visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/csfp/csfp-foods-available>.

**7. Who should I contact for more information about CSFP?**

For more information about this program, contact your CSFP State agency: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts>.

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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