

## WHAT DOES THE BILL PROPOSE?

▶ **PAY FOR AN ADDITIONAL CACFP MEAL OR SNACK.**

Child care programs can currently be paid for a maximum of two meals and one snack for each child per day. In reality many child care programs are open more than 8 hours per day and are feeding children an additional meal or snack in the afternoon or evening hours. This bill would allow those child care facilities with longer hours to be paid for those additional meals or snacks.

▶ **INCREASE CACFP PAYMENTS BY 10 CENTS FOR EACH MEAL AND SNACK.**

Current CACFP reimbursement rates are not covering the cost of providing nutritious meals and snacks to children; this is especially true with new meal pattern requirements that require whole grain-rich food and more fruits and vegetables.

▶ **ALLOW FOR-PROFIT CENTERS TO CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY ANNUALLY INSTEAD OF MONTHLY.**

Programs other than for-profit centers currently document their eligibility annually. Extending this provision to for-profit centers would provide consistency and reduce administrative burden.

▶ **REDUCE THE THRESHOLD FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS TO QUALIFY FOR HIGHER REIMBURSEMENT RATES.**

In order to receive higher reimbursement rates, family child care providers have to live in a geographic area in which 50% of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. This bill would change the threshold to 40%.

▶ **ALLOCATE \$5 MILLION TO SUPPORT NUTRITION BEST PRACTICES.**

Child care programs are encouraged to serve more vegetables, fruits, whole-grain foods, and healthy beverages, and eliminate the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.

▶ **PILOT THE CACFP COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION.**

The Community Eligibility provision is an option available for schools and allows for direct access to data instead of relying on income applications completed by parents. Extending the Community Eligibility Provision to child care centers would lift a large administrative burden on programs and parents.

▶ **INCREASE THE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR CHILD CARE HOME REIMBURSEMENT RATES.**

Two different Consumer Price Index categories are used to adjust reimbursement rates for homes and centers. This bill would use the same Consumer Price Index category for both program types, using the category that is tracking more closely to real food expenses.

▶ **ALLOW SOME CHILD CARE CENTERS TO COLLECT INCOME APPLICATIONS EVERY FOUR YEARS RATHER THAN EVERY YEAR.**

Child centers in which at least 50 percent of children come from low-income households will be able establish a claiming percentage for four years.

▶ **DIRECT USDA TO REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS WHEREVER POSSIBLE, INCLUDING ENCOURAGING ELECTRONIC RECORDKEEPING SOLUTIONS.**

Administrative burdens are a barrier to CACFP participation. There are many ways in which USDA and state agencies can reduce paperwork. Some ideas include simplifying applications, streamlining reviews, eliminating enrollment forms, allowing direct certification, and requiring states to accept electronic recordkeeping solutions that align with federal recordkeeping requirements.