

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Food and Nutrition Service****Child and Adult Care Food Program:  
National Average Payment Rates, Day  
Care Home Food Service Payment  
Rates, and Administrative  
Reimbursement Rates for Sponsoring  
Organizations of Day Care Homes for  
the Period July 1, 2003—June 30, 2004**

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service,  
USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the annual adjustments to: the national average payment rates for meals and supplements served in child care centers, outside-school-hours care centers, at-risk afterschool care centers, and adult day care centers; the food service payment rates for meals and supplements served in day care homes; and the administrative reimbursement rates for sponsoring organizations of day care homes, to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. Further

adjustments are made to these rates to reflect the higher costs of providing meals in the States of Alaska and Hawaii. The adjustments contained in this notice are made on an annual basis each July, as required by the statutes and regulations governing the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Keith Churchill, Section Chief, Child and Adult Care and Summer Programs Section, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, Alexandria, Virginia, 22302, (703) 305-2620.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Definitions**

The terms used in this notice shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the regulations governing the CACFP (7 CFR part 226).

**Background**

Pursuant to sections 4, 11 and 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School

Lunch Act (NSLA) (42 U.S.C. 1753, 1759a and 1766), section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (CNA) (42 U.S.C. 1773) and §§ 226.4, 226.12 and 226.13 of the regulations governing the CACFP (7 CFR part 226), notice is hereby given of the new payment rates for institutions participating in CACFP. These rates shall be in effect during the period July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004.

As provided for under the NSLA and the CNA, all rates in the CACFP must be revised annually on July 1 to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the most recent 12-month period. In accordance with this mandate, the Department last published the adjusted national average payment rates for centers, the food service payment rates for day care homes, and the administrative reimbursement rates for sponsors of day care homes on July 5, 2002, at 67 FR 44804 (for the period July 1, 2002—June 30, 2003).

**BILLING CODE 3410-30-P**