

## 2014 Federal Advocacy Survey Results: Child Nutrition Priorities

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### Background

In January 2014, CFPA distributed a survey in an effort to better understand our partners' federal advocacy priorities for the child nutrition programs, including meals and snacks served at early childhood settings, schools, and programs outside of school hours. The responses collected from the survey, along with other sources of input, will be used to inform CFPA's Federal Advocacy Agenda on Child Nutrition, which we expect to finalize later this year.

### Results

Below are highlights of the survey results. *Note: Responses are highlighted in yellow if more than 30 percent of respondents provided the same answer.*

#### Demographics

The majority of respondents identified themselves as working for nonprofit organizations. Over ninety percent of respondents reported living in California.

#### Q4: Please tell us about your role. Check all that apply:

Answered: 110; Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses	%	n
Federal administrator		0.00%	0
State administrator		3.64%	4
Local administrator (including schools and school districts)		20.91%	23
Advocate		22.73%	25
Nonprofit organization		61.82%	68
Community member		15.45%	17
<b>Total Respondents: 110</b>			

Respondents reported working on early childhood meals, school meals, and meals outside of school hours. More respondents affiliated themselves with work on early childhood meals than the other areas of child nutrition.

#### Q6: Please let us know which of these child nutrition areas are relevant to your work. Check all that apply.

Answered: 110; Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses	%	n
Early Childhood Meals (CACFP)		70.00%	77
School Meals (Breakfast, Lunch)		50.00%	55
Meals Outside of School Hours (Afterschool, Summer)		51.82%	57
<b>Total Respondents: 110</b>			

## Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill

Significant progress was achieved through the last Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill, also known as the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. As a result, some stakeholders initially expressed an interest in “laying low” for 2015, with the hope that the child nutrition programs would be reauthorized with no substantive changes. CFPA felt it was important to ask our partners about this issue.

### Q7: Do you support the active pursuit of a Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill in 2015?

Answered: 88; Skipped: 22

Answer Choices	Responses	%	n
Yes		92.05%	81
No		7.95%	7
<b>Total Respondents: 88</b>			

## Federal Priorities

Respondents were asked about their federal advocacy priorities for child nutrition programs in 2014.

### Highlights from open-ended responses

- ➔ *“Higher reimbursement rates, alignment of CACFP meal pattern with national standards, and greater cultural diversity of approved foods.”*
- ➔ *“Raising awareness of the importance of good nutrition for children and linking this to future health costs so that Congress will see a clear link to investment now will save money later.”*
- ➔ *“Funding the programs that feed the children.”*
- ➔ *“Free lunch for all children in schools.”*
- ➔ *“Increase funding for increased quality of school food, skill set development of food service workers (to decrease dependence on processed food) and school wellness policy implementation.”*
- ➔ *“School Meal Standards and Summer Feeding issues.”*
- ➔ *“Establishing a shared agenda, building coalitions, raising awareness on issues, and cultivating relationships with Congress and their staffers.”*

### Q9: Early Childhood Meals (Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP))

Answered: 63; Skipped: 47

	This is of the highest importance to me.	This is very important to me.	This is important to me.	This is not a priority for me, but I am not opposed to it.	I am opposed to this.	Total
Provide a higher reimbursement for the meals served through CACFP.	38.60% 22	35.09% 20	17.54% 10	8.77% 5	0.00% 0	57
Require that all child care facilities receiving any form of federal funds participate in CACFP.	23.21% 13	28.57% 16	23.21% 13	21.43% 12	3.57% 2	56
Simplify the administration of CACFP beyond changes made by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.	30.36% 17	28.57% 16	26.79% 15	14.29% 8	0.00% 0	56
Establish a “fix-it ticket” option for minor errors to create a graduated scale of consequences for CACFP sponsors and providers.	11.11% 6	27.78% 15	35.19% 19	25.93% 14	0.00% 0	54

**(Q9: Early Childhood Meals Continued)**

Eliminate tiering for CACFP family day care homes (i.e. all family day care homes receive the same rate of reimbursement).	<b>28.85%</b> 15	<b>11.54%</b> 6	<b>21.15%</b> 11	<b>36.54%</b> 19	<b>1.92%</b> 1	52
Adjust the CACFP meal pattern to better support parents who want to provide breast milk to children ages 13 months and older.	<b>20.69%</b> 12	<b>22.41%</b> 13	<b>18.97%</b> 11	<b>31.03%</b> 18	<b>6.90%</b> 4	58
Require USDA to provide a report on the findings and progress of the CACFP Paperwork Reduction Taskforce.	<b>9.26%</b> 5	<b>22.22%</b> 12	<b>31.48%</b> 17	<b>29.63%</b> 16	<b>7.41%</b> 4	54
Establish grants and increased resources to support nutrition training and education.	<b>41.38%</b> 24	<b>37.93%</b> 22	<b>12.07%</b> 7	<b>8.62%</b> 5	<b>0.00%</b> 0	58
Require states and CACFP sponsors to use technology (e.g., online record programs) to reduce the record-keeping burden of providers.	<b>25.45%</b> 14	<b>32.73%</b> 18	<b>18.18%</b> 10	<b>21.82%</b> 12	<b>1.82%</b> 1	55
Require USDA to support local Farm-to-Child Care programs through research, training, and grants.	<b>25.45%</b> 14	<b>30.91%</b> 17	<b>20.00%</b> 11	<b>23.64%</b> 13	<b>0.00%</b> 0	55
Create incentives for switching from juice to fresh, whole fruits and vegetables.	<b>36.67%</b> 22	<b>26.67%</b> 16	<b>18.33%</b> 11	<b>18.33%</b> 11	<b>0.00%</b> 0	60
Require USDA to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the fraud prevention mandates within CACFP.	<b>16.67%</b> 9	<b>18.52%</b> 10	<b>37.04%</b> 20	<b>25.93%</b> 14	<b>1.85%</b> 1	54

**Q12: School Meals (Breakfast, Lunch)**

Answered: 53; Skipped: 57

	This is of the highest importance to me.	This is very important to me.	This is important to me.	This is not a priority for me, but I am not opposed to it.	I am opposed to this.	Total
Require that meals served through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program be free of charge to all students.	<b>26.53%</b> 13	<b>22.45%</b> 11	<b>18.37%</b> 9	<b>20.41%</b> 10	<b>12.24%</b> 6	49
Require high-poverty schools to utilize Provision 2 or the Community Eligibility Provision.	<b>12.20%</b> 5	<b>26.83%</b> 11	<b>26.83%</b> 11	<b>24.39%</b> 10	<b>9.76%</b> 4	41
Eliminate the reduced-price category for school meals and align eligibility for free meals with 185% of the poverty level.	<b>22.73%</b> 10	<b>43.18%</b> 19	<b>15.91%</b> 7	<b>18.18%</b> 8	<b>0.00%</b> 0	44
Require high-poverty schools to offer school breakfast.	<b>45.10%</b> 23	<b>29.41%</b> 15	<b>13.73%</b> 7	<b>7.84%</b> 4	<b>3.92%</b> 2	51
Require high-poverty schools to meet a minimum standard for student participation in school breakfast.	<b>25.53%</b> 12	<b>21.28%</b> 10	<b>23.40%</b> 11	<b>17.02%</b> 8	<b>12.77%</b> 6	47
Provide incentives (e.g., start-up grants) to school districts for implementing after-the-bell service models for school breakfast, such as Classroom Breakfast.	<b>36.17%</b> 17	<b>21.28%</b> 10	<b>25.53%</b> 12	<b>14.89%</b> 7	<b>2.13%</b> 1	47
Establish a USDA Foods entitlement for school breakfast in addition to the entitlement for school lunch.	<b>26.67%</b> 12	<b>42.22%</b> 19	<b>20.00%</b> 9	<b>8.89%</b> 4	<b>2.22%</b> 1	45
Require all schools to provide students with adequate time to receive and consume meals at school.	<b>60.78%</b> 31	<b>21.57%</b> 11	<b>15.69%</b> 8	<b>1.96%</b> 1	<b>0.00%</b> 0	51

**(Q12: School Meals Continued)**

Preserve the Paid Lunch Equity provision, which ensures that sufficient funds are provided to the nonprofit school food service account for meals served to students not eligible for free or reduced price meals. Districts that charge paid students less than the difference between the federal reimbursements for free and paid lunch (\$2.59 for SY 2013–14) must either gradually increase paid lunch prices or provide non-federal funds to cover the difference.	<b>21.43%</b> 9	<b>16.67%</b> 7	<b>28.57%</b> 12	<b>26.19%</b> 11	<b>7.14%</b> 3	42
Require water to be served on the lunch tray or offered in the lunch line (i.e., as a component of the reimbursable meal) along with the entrée, fruit, vegetable, and milk.	<b>43.14%</b> 22	<b>21.57%</b> 11	<b>17.65%</b> 9	<b>5.88%</b> 3	<b>11.76%</b> 6	51
Require that the only beverages available on school campuses throughout the school day be plain water; unsweetened, low-fat and/or non-fat milk; and 100% juice.	<b>50.00%</b> 25	<b>20.00%</b> 10	<b>14.00%</b> 7	<b>10.00%</b> 5	<b>6.00%</b> 3	50
Require schools to improve water access throughout the entire school day and not just during meal times.	<b>52.94%</b> 27	<b>23.53%</b> 12	<b>11.76%</b> 6	<b>9.80%</b> 5	<b>1.96%</b> 1	51

**Q23: Meals Outside of School Hours (Afterschool, Summer)**

Answered: 45; Skipped: 65

	This is of the highest importance to me.	This is very important to me.	This is important to me.	This is not a priority for me, but I am not opposed to it.	I am opposed to this.	Total
Extend the new “Smart Snacks” competitive foods nutrition standards to foods sold on campus throughout the duration of afterschool programming. (The standards currently exempt foods sold more than 30 minutes after the end of the last scheduled class).	<b>22.73%</b> 10	<b>36.36%</b> 16	<b>18.18%</b> 8	<b>20.45%</b> 9	<b>2.27%</b> 1	44
Extend and expand the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) for Children Demonstration Projects. (The Summer EBT demonstration projects provided summer nutrition assistance to low-income households with children through a debit card-like system.)	<b>20.93%</b> 9	<b>20.93%</b> 9	<b>37.21%</b> 16	<b>20.93%</b> 9	<b>0.00%</b> 0	43
Update the nutritional standards for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), ensuring that the meals served through SFSP reflect the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans.	<b>32.56%</b> 14	<b>18.60%</b> 8	<b>23.26%</b> 10	<b>25.58%</b> 11	<b>0.00%</b> 0	43
Commission a study that measures state-by-state participation in publicly or privately funded summer learning, enrichment, and recreation programs and includes metrics assessing access to nutritious meals.	<b>12.20%</b> 5	<b>26.83%</b> 11	<b>31.71%</b> 13	<b>26.83%</b> 11	<b>2.44%</b> 1	41

## California Food Policy Advocates

For more than 20 years, California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) has initiated and incubated evidence-based policies to improve the health and wellbeing of low-income Californians. We envision a healthy and food-secure California where all residents have physical, social, and economic access to nutritious foods and where healthful foods are predominant, affordable options in all environments.

For more information about CFPA's Federal Advocacy Agenda, please contact Elyse Homel Vitale at [elyse@cfpa.net](mailto:elyse@cfpa.net) or 510.433.1122 ext. 206.

For more information about CFPA, please visit [www.cfpa.net](http://www.cfpa.net).