

Spreading the Word: After School Meals



The at-risk after school meal component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) offers federal funding to afterschool programs that serve a meal and/or a snack to

children in low-income areas. Reimbursement for at-risk afterschool snacks has been available since the 1990s. However, reimbursement for at-risk afterschool meals was available only in a few states. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 expanded the availability for at-risk afterschool meals to all states.

California has more than 4,400 publicly funded programs serving more than 450,000 students that are eligible to receive after school meals. Beginning in October 2010, California has been spreading the word and assisting after school programs to participate in the CACFP meal program.



CONNECT. CONVENE. INSPIRE.



Communication Through Committees

To address the state's after school needs, the Nutrition and Physical Activity Committee of the California AfterSchool Network (CAN) advocates and discusses issues surrounding the CACFP Meal Program. The Committee is led by Kathy Lewis, Vice President of the Center for Collaborative Solutions (<http://www.ccscenter.org>) and Arnell Hinkle, Executive Director of CANFIT (<http://www.canfit.org>).

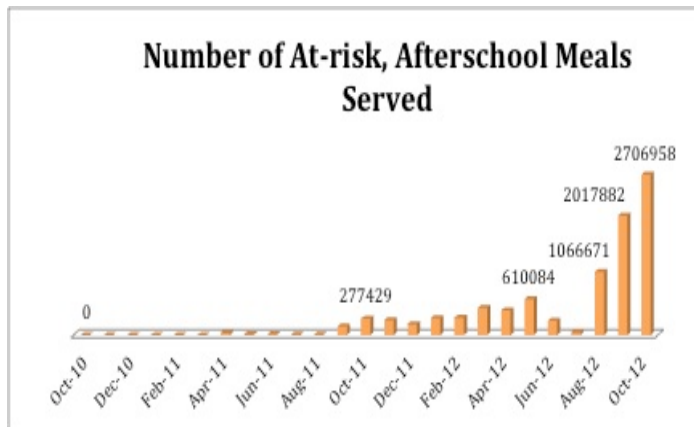
Currently more than 100 members are on the committee including after school frontline staff, nutrition experts, and out-of-school time practitioners and advocates. Members represent the varied demographics found in afterschool programs throughout California. Organizations include the Food Research and Action Center, the California Department of Education Nutrition Services and After School divisions, the Summer Meal Coalition, and the Partnership for Children and Youth.



Supporting Infrastructure

Continuous Progress

Since the CACFP Meal Program's inception in October 2010, participation has continued to increase. Participation in just two years has increased to over 2.7 million meals in the October 2012.



This success can be attributed to the work performed by dedicated professionals who are concerned about the issue of nutrition and physical activity in after school programs.



Available Information

The Nutrition and Physical Activity Committee has been a key factor to the successful distribution of information to after school providers. The committee has contributed to the creation of a web



page, and the production of webinars and tip sheets for after school providers on the after school meal program (see <http://www.afterschoolnetwork.org/after-school-meal-program>).

Around 96,000 printed copies of additional tools and resources created by the Nutrition and Physical Activity committee and funded by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) have also been successfully distributed and put into the hands of after school staff to promote nutrition and physical activity in after school programs. These tools and resources are available at <http://www.afterschoolnetwork.org/nutrition-and-physical-activity/network-healthy-california-tools-and-resources>.

Further information can be found on the CAN website at <http://www.afterschoolnetwork.org>