

Model Newsletter Articles

Providing Nutritious Meals to Youth in Homeless Shelters

With the help of a federal entitlement program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Houston homeless shelters can now feed children and youth nourishing meals and save money for expanding their other valuable services.

The program, which previously applied only to children and youth under age 13, has been expanded to provide funding for all children under 18 years of age. This expansion of eligibility to anyone under eighteen will help provide financial support for often strained shelter budgets. The Child and Adult Care Food Program reimburses participating shelters with up to \$6.66 per day (\$1.35 for breakfast, \$2.47 for each lunch and supper, and 18.75 cents as a “cash-in-lieu” of commodities reimbursement for each lunch and supper). For each child served, shelters can receive reimbursement for up to three meals or two meals and one snack each day. In order to receive this reimbursement, the meals served must follow federal nutrition standards specifically designed for children and youth.

By serving meals to 20 children, a shelter can qualify for over \$48,000 a year in reimbursements!

Not only is this program providing necessary funds, it is also providing a constant source of nutritious meals to homeless children.

Houston shelters interested in participating in CACFP should contact Gayle Butler at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Special Nutrition Programs at (713) 696-3635 or through their website at www.snptexas.org.

Feeding Children in Domestic Violence Shelters

Under a federal entitlement program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Houston’s domestic violence shelters are now eligible to receive reimbursements for meals served to children and youth under 18 years of age. Because of CACFP, domestic violence shelters can reassign funds to other projects while providing nutritious, well-balanced meals!

Participating shelters can receive a reimbursement of up to \$6.66 for up to three meals and one snack each day. The funding breaks down to: \$1.35 for breakfast, \$2.47 each for lunch and supper, 68 cents for a snack, and 18.75 cents for a “cash-in-lieu” of commodities reimbursement. Each of the meals meets federal standards for children’s dietary and serving size needs.

Shelters interested in participating in CACFP should contact Gayle Butler at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Special Nutrition Programs at (713) 696-3635 or through their website at www.snptexas.org



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