

## Reaching Out to Homeless, Runaway, and Domestic Violence Shelters in Houston

In Houston, outreach is very important for increasing participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for children and youth in homeless and domestic violence shelters. Outreach is particularly important because many shelters, while they may be aware of the program, are not aware of the relatively new inclusion of teenagers up to 18 years of age. Shelters often decide not to apply for CACFP because they believe it will present too much paperwork and/or requirements. Broader awareness and understanding of this program will mean that many more children and youth in shelters can benefit from the good nutrition the program provide. Helping to support shelters with additional resources to feed children is even more important in these difficult economic times.

There are many ways to let homeless, runaway, and domestic violence shelters in Houston know about the benefits of the Child and Adult Care Food Program. You can distribute outreach materials and promote CACFP to your organizations members or contacts through newsletters, e-mail alerts, and meetings. You might find the **sample cover letter**, **newsletter articles**, and **e-alerts** included in this outreach kit helpful to include when mailing information to shelters. You can present a workshop on the food program at the conference or meeting of homeless, runaway, or domestic violence organizations in Houston. You can present alone or along with a representative of an anti-hunger organization or with the state CACFP agency. You might find the **talking points** a helpful tool for structuring your discussions.

The state CACFP agency, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Special Nutrition Program can be reached at (713) 696-3635 or through their website at [www.snptexas.org](http://www.snptexas.org). For general information contact Geri Henchy at FRAC at (202) 986-2200 extension 3025 or [ghenchy@frac.org](mailto:ghenchy@frac.org).



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