Understanding and Using CACFP Administrative Data
Participants in the CACFP

- USDA/FNS sets the regulations in conformance with authorizing Legislation
- State administering agencies monitor compliance
- Non-profit sponsoring organizations assume administrative and fiscal responsibility for outlets
- **Approved** outlets that provide meals and snacks to children
  - Non-profit centers
  - For-profit centers with ≥ 25% of children subsidized
  - Family child care homes (FCCHs) that are licensed or registered
- Children, regardless of family income
CACFP Organization and Data Flow

Data are gathered from the bottom up, with increasing aggregation at each level.

Aggregate and Produce Reports

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Aggregate State Data and Produce Reports

State Administering Agencies (Usually Department of Education)

Aggregate and Submit Monthly Claim Forms

Non-Profit Sponsoring Agencies

Aggregate and Submit Monthly Claim Forms

Family Child Care Homes

Provide Meals and Submit Monthly Claim Forms

Sponsored Child Care Centers

Independent Child Care Centers
Available Data are Based on Monthly Data Submitted by Outlets

**Meal Data**
- Counts of each type of meal served by income eligibility category for each type of outlet

**Participation Data**
- Counts of each type of sponsor
  - Center sponsors
  - Self-sponsored centers
  - FCCH sponsors
  - FCCH and center sponsors
- Counts of each type of outlet for each type of sponsor
  - At-risk after school centers
  - For-profit centers
  - FCCHs
  - Non-profit centers
- ADA by income eligibility category for each type of outlet
Available Data are Based on Monthly Data Submitted by Outlets

**Meal Earnings (Cost) Data**
- Centers total meal earnings
- Total commodities and/or cash-in-lieu of commodities earnings
- Total entitlement commodities earnings
- Total entitlement cash-in-lieu of commodities earnings
- Total entitlement FCCHs total meal earnings

**Administrative Costs and Earnings**
- FCCH sponsor administrative cost earnings (based on number of FCCHs sponsored)
- Center sponsor and self-sponsored center administrative costs (no separate reimbursement)
Monthly Data Submitted by Outlets are Not Reliable

- Monthly data include only centers and homes that were active during and reported for the reporting period.

- Head Start and school-based centers, and many FCCHs are not active during the Summer months.

- A center or FCCH may be active in a given month, but not submit a claim on time. These claims are submitted by the sponsor along with the claim for the following month.

- For-profit centers can only submit claims for months in which 25% are subsidized.

- Claims for a given month are often revised in subsequent months.
Data Limitations

- Only aggregate data are available, therefore cannot do analysis with sponsors of outlets as the unit of analysis.

- No data are available on a regular basis for the universe of eligible sponsors and outlets, therefore cannot analyze trends in participation rates.

- No data are available on a regular basis for the universe of eligible non-participating sponsors or outlets, therefore cannot do any comparative analyses.

- States change eligibility requirements for subsidized child care as well as licensing and registration requirements, therefore estimates of year-to-year changes in participation may be confounded with changes in regulations.
Examples of Selected Trend Data

- Number of active centers: FY 1990 – FY 2011
- Number of active FCCHs: FY 1990 – FY 2011
- Number of active FCCHs by Tier Level: FY 1997 – FY 2011
- Tier I and Tier II FCCH ADA: FY 1997 – FY 2011
Welfare Reform Changed FCCH Reimbursement: Tiering Becomes Effective in FY 1997

Prior to tiering all meals served in FCCHs were reimbursed at slightly below the free-rate for centers.

Tiering created two Categories of FCCHs:

- Tier I: FCCHs located in low-income areas or with a low-income provider
- Tier II: All other FCCHs divided into three groups
  - Tier II-High: All children enrolled have a family income below the poverty level
  - Tier II-Mixed: Some, but not all enrolled children have a family income below the poverty level
  - Tier II-Low: No children enrolled have a family income below the poverty level
FCCH Reimbursement Under Tiering

- All meals served in Tier I and Tier II-High FCCHs are reimbursed at the higher rate.

- Tier II-Mixed FCCHs can give low-income parents an application for higher reimbursement rates; meals served to approved children receive the higher reimbursement rate.

- All meals served in Tier II-Low are reimbursed at the lower rate.
After tiering, FCCHs serving middle income children dropped out of the CACFP but were not replaced by FCCHs serving low-income children.
Average Daily Attendance in Participating Centers and FCCHs: FY 1990 – FY 2011

- ADA: 2,464,000
- Tiering Starts: 1,442,000
- 917,300
- 534,400

ADA in Tier I and Tier II FCCHs: FY 1997 – FY2011

Tier I

- FY 1997: 816,100
- FY 1998: 800,000
- FY 1999: 798,300
- FY 2000: 724,000
- FY 2001: 620,000
- FY 2002: 516,000
- FY 2003: 412,000
- FY 2004: 308,000
- FY 2005: 204,000
- FY 2006: 100,000
- FY 2007: 0
- FY 2008: 0
- FY 2009: 0
- FY 2010: 0
- FY 2011: 0

Tier II

- FY 1997: 816,100
- FY 1998: 800,000
- FY 1999: 798,300
- FY 2000: 724,000
- FY 2001: 620,000
- FY 2002: 516,000
- FY 2003: 412,000
- FY 2004: 308,000
- FY 2005: 204,000
- FY 2006: 100,000
- FY 2007: 0
- FY 2008: 0
- FY 2009: 0
- FY 2010: 0
- FY 2011: 0

Note: The total number of children served is 998,300 in Tier II and 816,100 in Tier I.