



Childcare Center Providers/Sponsors Participating in the CACFP: Training and Educational Resource Needs



OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study were to:

- identify issues related to training, education, and resource needs of childcare center providers/sponsors participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); and
- identify childcare center providers'/sponsors' preferences for training and training materials.

METHOD

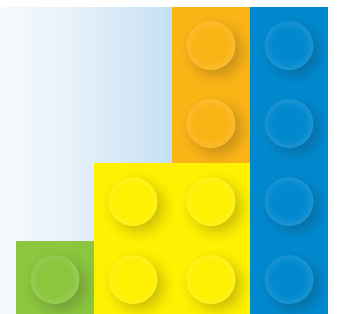
- An expert panel of child care professionals provided insight for the development of a national survey.
- The *CACFP Needs Assessment Survey* was created, pilot tested, revised, and formatted for childcare center directors/providers, childcare sponsoring organization representatives, and Head Start representatives.
- Surveys were sent to 800 childcare professionals and 303 surveys were returned for a response rate of (38%).

CACFP EDUCATION AND TRAINING RESOURCE NEEDS

- Purchasing healthy food on a budget
- Approved food substitutes
- Healthy snacks
- Menu planning
- Food allergies
- Special dietary needs
- Nutrition education for children
- Cooking from scratch
- Standardized recipes

TRAINING BARRIERS

- Time was a major barrier for both childcare providers/sponsors and their childcare staff.
- Childcare center providers indicated that it is difficult for their staff to travel to training sessions.



PREFERRED TRAINING METHODS AND PROVIDERS

- “In-person CACFP-related workshop or training classes” and “Internet training” were the most agreed upon training methods.
- Childcare providers receive most of their training from State agencies and sponsoring organizations.
- Future training opportunities are from CACFP sponsoring organizations, State agencies and local, state, and/or national meetings/conferences.
- Almost half (46%) indicated that they would seek additional training for their staff from a CACFP Sponsor.

TOP PREFERRED TRAINING RESOURCE COMPONENTS

- Resources in Spanish
- Preferred training days are Tuesdays and Thursdays
- In-person training that lasts for 1-3 hours
- Training in one-hour increments using Internet/online programs

RECOMMENDATIONS

- State agencies, sponsoring organizations, and the Institute of Child Nutrition should continue to provide up-to-date CACFP education, training, and resources at meetings and conferences in which CACFP participants attend.
- The use of the Internet/computer technology should continue to be integrated in various formats and settings to include online courses, instructional videos, and DVDs for all CACFP participants.
- CACFP participants’ preferences should play a key factor in developing quick and accessible training resources.

For more information,
you can download the full technical report at
<http://www.nfsmi.org/ResourceOverview.aspx?ID=174>

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