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MAY 19-22

Food for Thought:

Advancing Policy Change for CACFP



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Speakers

Agenda

- 1 CACFP Overview
- 2 Advancing Policy Change at the State Level
- 3 Advancing Policy Change at the Federal Level
- 4 Action in Congress – today!
- 5 Resources



QUALITY CARE
for CHILDREN

Mission

Create a **system that equips families and child care providers** with the knowledge and resources to nurture and educate Georgia's infants and young children





QUALITY CARE
for CHILDREN

Our Programs

Georgia CCR&R

- Regional
 - Quality Rated Technical Assistance and Training
 - Early Head Start
- Statewide
 - Referral Call Center
 - Georgia Parent Power (Parent Engagement) / Fatherhood Initiative
 - Business Support Solutions for Providers
 - Boost Child Care Scholarships
 - CACFP Sponsor and Farm to ECE

Nutrition Services

- Largest CACFP Sponsors in Georgia
 - 400+ homes
 - 175+ centers, at-risk afterschool programs, and emergency shelters
- Nutrition and Physical Activity Training
- Farm to Early Care and Education
 - Mini-grants and TA
 - Harvest of the Month
 - Texting



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CACFP Overview



Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

CACFP is a federal nutrition program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks in:

- Family child care programs
- Child care centers
- Early Head Start and Head Start programs
- Afterschool programs
- Emergency shelters
- Adult care centers



Federal legislative opportunities to address child hunger, child nutrition

Child Nutrition Act

- To be reauthorized every 5 years
 - Last reauthorized in 2010
 - Due for reauthorization since 2015
- House Education & Labor Committee
- Senate Agriculture Committee
- Some mandatory/entitlement \$\$ - some annual appropriations \$\$
- Includes school breakfast and lunch, summer nutrition, WIC, CACFP
- Historically bipartisan

Farm Bill

- To be reauthorized every 5 years
 - Last reauthorized in 2018
 - Due for reauthorization in 2023
- House Agriculture Committee
- Senate Agriculture Committee
- Requires Appropriations \$\$
- Includes SNAP
- Historically bipartisan except for SNAP section which is historically partisan

2010 Renewal of the
Child Nutrition Act

2011-present
Many, many children
are born and go to
child care and Head
Start

2015 – present
Congress does not
renew the Child
Nutrition Act

2020-present
Global health crisis,
people notice things
like: child care is
important

CACFP

Challenges and solutions

The amount of payment

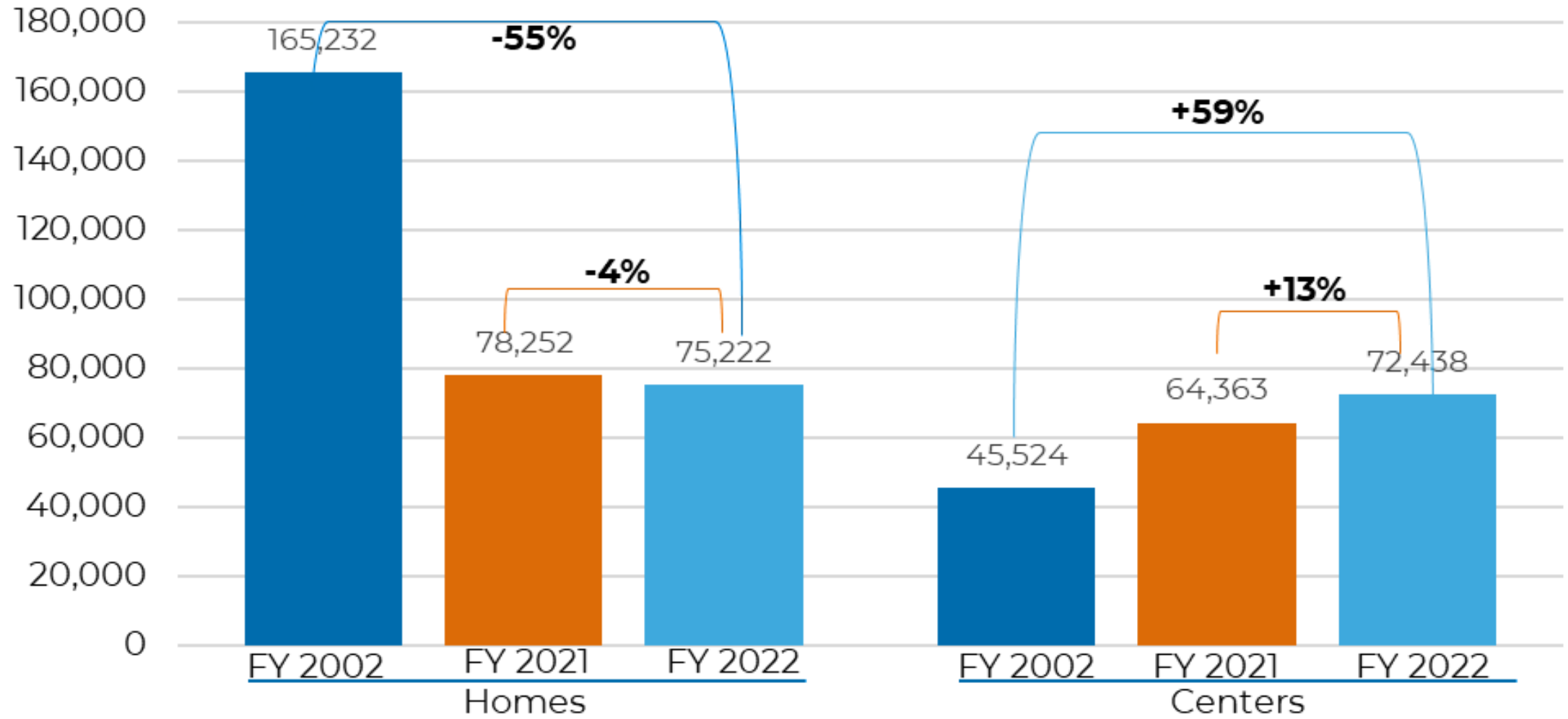
The way rates are set

What counts

Who counts

Infrastructure – CACFP Sponsors

Change in number of CACFP Family Child Care Homes and Centers, FY 2022 Compared FY 2002 and FY 2021



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Exploring the Situation in Your State



Who are license-exempt home-based providers?

- Depends on where you are!
- Each state decides this
- States use different terms and have different definitions
 - “Family child care”
 - “Licensed”
 - “Registered”
 - “Certified”
 - “License-exempt”
 - “FFN”
- Usually relative caregivers caring for only relative children are exempt from licensing
- Only 10 states require all family child care programs to be regulated
- The other states decide how many children can be there before a regulation is required

For the next few minutes, please think about it like this:

Are they running a program, or are they caregivers who help families through personal relationship?

Does your state require compliance with health and safety regulations or on what does it depend and what do the designation(s) give them access to and what else are families relying on for child care?

And, everyone should have plenty to eat.

Did you know?

Each state decides whether license-exempt home-based child care can participate in CACFP!

- This is not a federal policy!
- States have wide discretion in defining “what is an acceptable care environment” in situations where they do not require licensing
 - Can “range from onsite reviews of facilities by licensing/approval officials to a review of a self-certification checklist”

CACFP access = *meals and snacks and grocery money access*

Policy pathways for state advocates:

In states that do not (yet) allow license-exempt home-based child care to participate in CACFP:

- Could this be approved?

In states that do allow license-exempt home-based child care to participate in CACFP:

- Understand what's happening
- Make sure it is going well – with supports for CACFP state policy and practice (funding, flexibility, expertise)
- Make sure it is going well – with supports for child care policy and practice

Invest in CACFP Sponsors

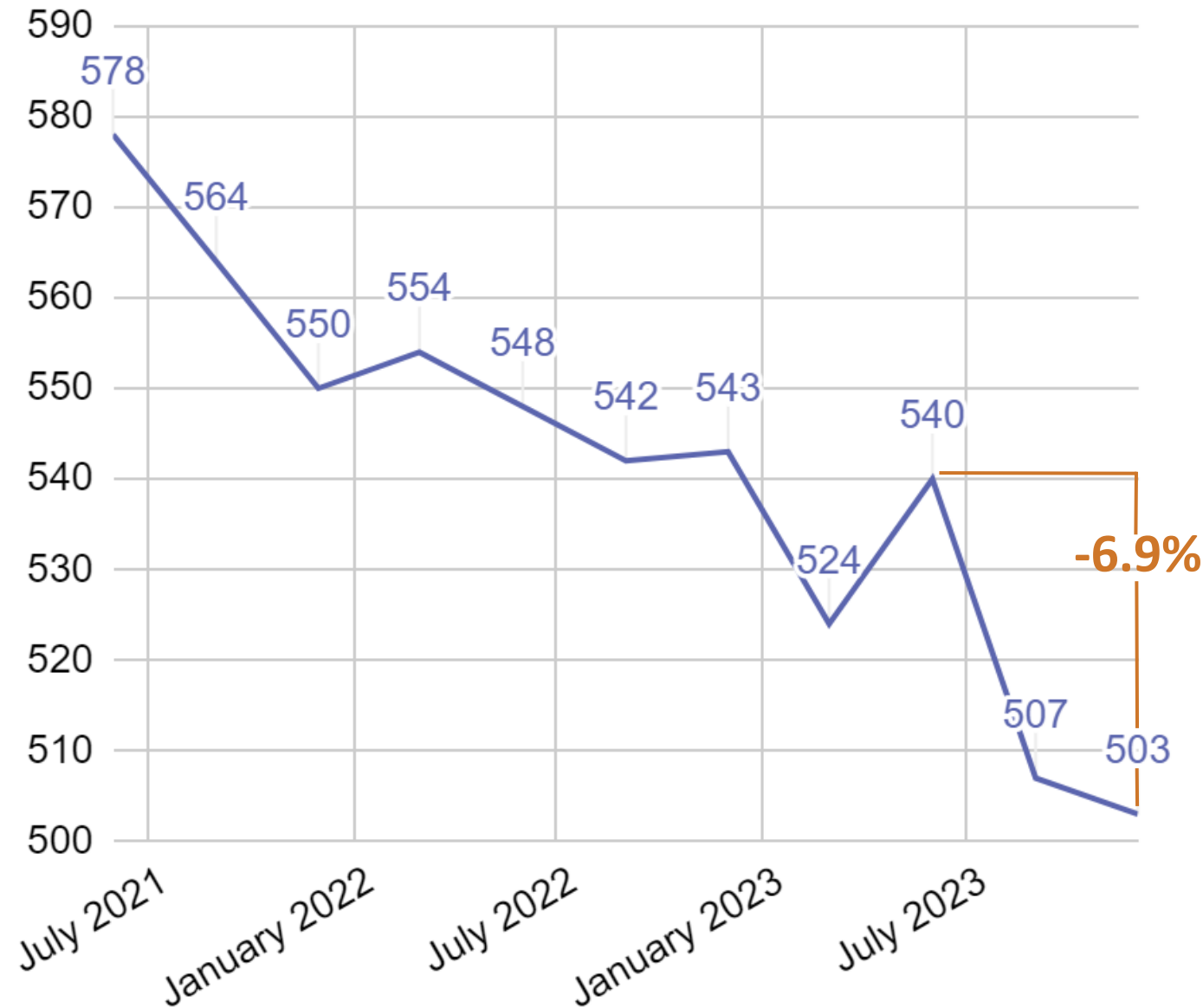
- Flexible grants from non-USDA funding sources
- Apply to USDA for the ability to conduct virtual visits
- Understand what's happening and the impact



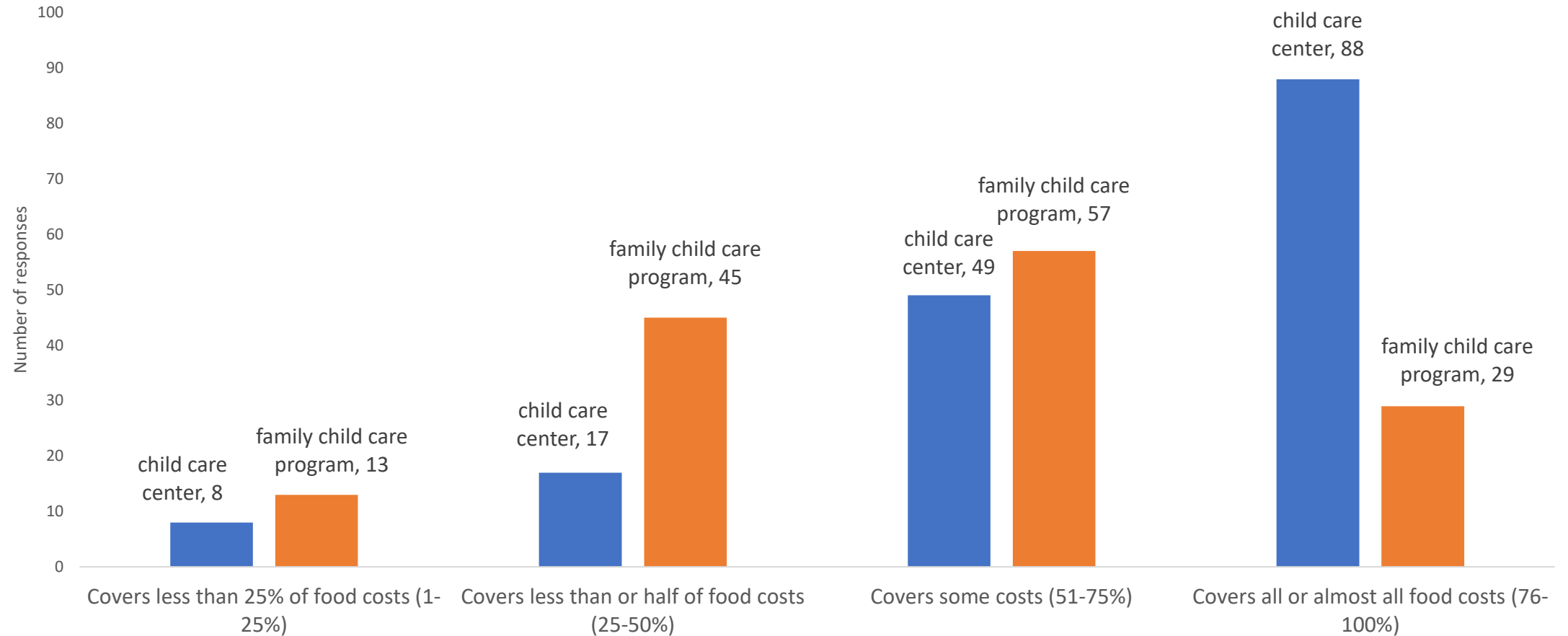
After the expiration of key provisions, the number of CACFP sponsors fell **6.9% (a loss of 37 sponsors)** from June to December 2023.

This is the largest six-month drop in the number of CACFP sponsors in more than the past five fiscal years.

Number of Sponsors of CACFP Child Care Homes, Nationwide, by quarter, June 2021 - December 2023



Food Cost by FCC or CCLC



After CACFP modernizations expired,

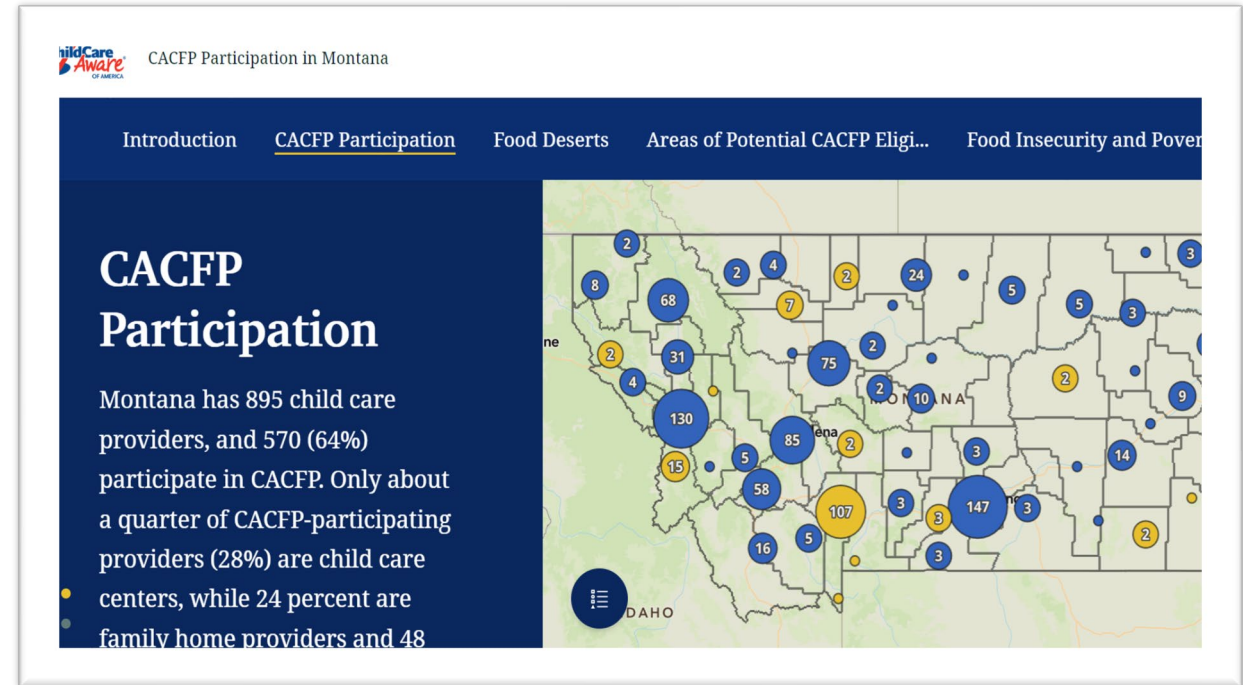


child care home providers dropped CACFP participation, a decline of 7.4%

How Are States Using their CACFP GIS Maps?

Most often, CCAoA's story maps are being used:

- To establish an official baseline of data to measure against moving forward
- To guide examinations of barriers to participation
- To determine where more sponsoring agencies are needed
- By local communities and nutrition advocates to better understand where outreach should be prioritized based on the overlays of participation and food desert data
- To inform health-related plans, including SPAN and REACH
- Coalition-building



How are states using the CACFP Maps?



Colorado: The map empowered our local Early Childhood Councils to understand the need for more food program access in their communities and to become local advocates for expanding program access.



Iowa: We are using the map to inform our upcoming Ambassador stipends and our Farm-to-ECE Local Food Makes Cents program.



Maine: This work has brought both relevance and reality to the front for our partners... [and has been] instrumental for continuation of conversations and focused efforts in areas of need.



Texas: To prioritize certain geographic areas when expanding CACFP enrollment and obtaining feedback from child care providers about barriers and facilitators to CACFP.



Washington, DC: We included it in conversations with the child care licensing team and subsidy team to inform CACFP outreach strategies included in agency policies. We plan to use it in our strategy to expand Farm-to-ECE.

Case Study: Vermont

Story Map Findings (2022):

- Only 21% (234 programs) participated in CACFP, a majority of which are home-based programs (65%)
- 80% (249) of programs operating in food deserts did *not* participate in CACFP
- Based on census tracts reflecting high food insecurity and high family poverty, 315 providers could be prioritized for targeted CACFP enrollment

Vermont is using its story map to:



Using GIS Maps to Build Partnerships

In a survey of state grantees, CCAoA found that developing the CACFP story maps helped:

- Break down intra-agency “silos” and strengthen relationships among different state agency offices and departments
- Increase mutual understanding of agencies’ roles, program limitations and data gaps
- Develop new and strengthen existing relationships with CCR&Rs, food producers, CACFP sponsoring agencies, United Ways, local early childhood education organizations (i.e. AEYCs), university research staff
- Build bigger coalitions among advocates

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Advancing Policy Change at the State Level

Solutions and Room for
Advocacy



State Level

- CACFP as a licensing standard

591-1-1-.15 Food Service and Nutrition

(1) Compliance with USDA Nutritional Guidelines. Meals and snacks with serving sizes dependent upon the age of the child shall meet nutritional guidelines as established by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals and snacks shall be varied daily, and additional servings of nutritious food shall be offered to children over and above the required daily minimum, if not contraindicated by special diet.

- CACFP, nutrition, and physical activity included into QRIS

State Level

DC – Healthy Tots Act (Effective 2015)

- **Add10:** Additional 10 cent reimbursement for each meal (no snacks)
- **Local5:** Additional 5 cents reimbursement for each lunch or supper served that contains at least one component that meets the definition of a locally-grown, unprocessed food
- **Full Day4:** To serve an additional meal or snack that will be reimbursed through local funding at the highest federal reimbursement level

Michigan – 10 Cents a Meal for Michigan’s Kids and Farms (Effective FY 2024)

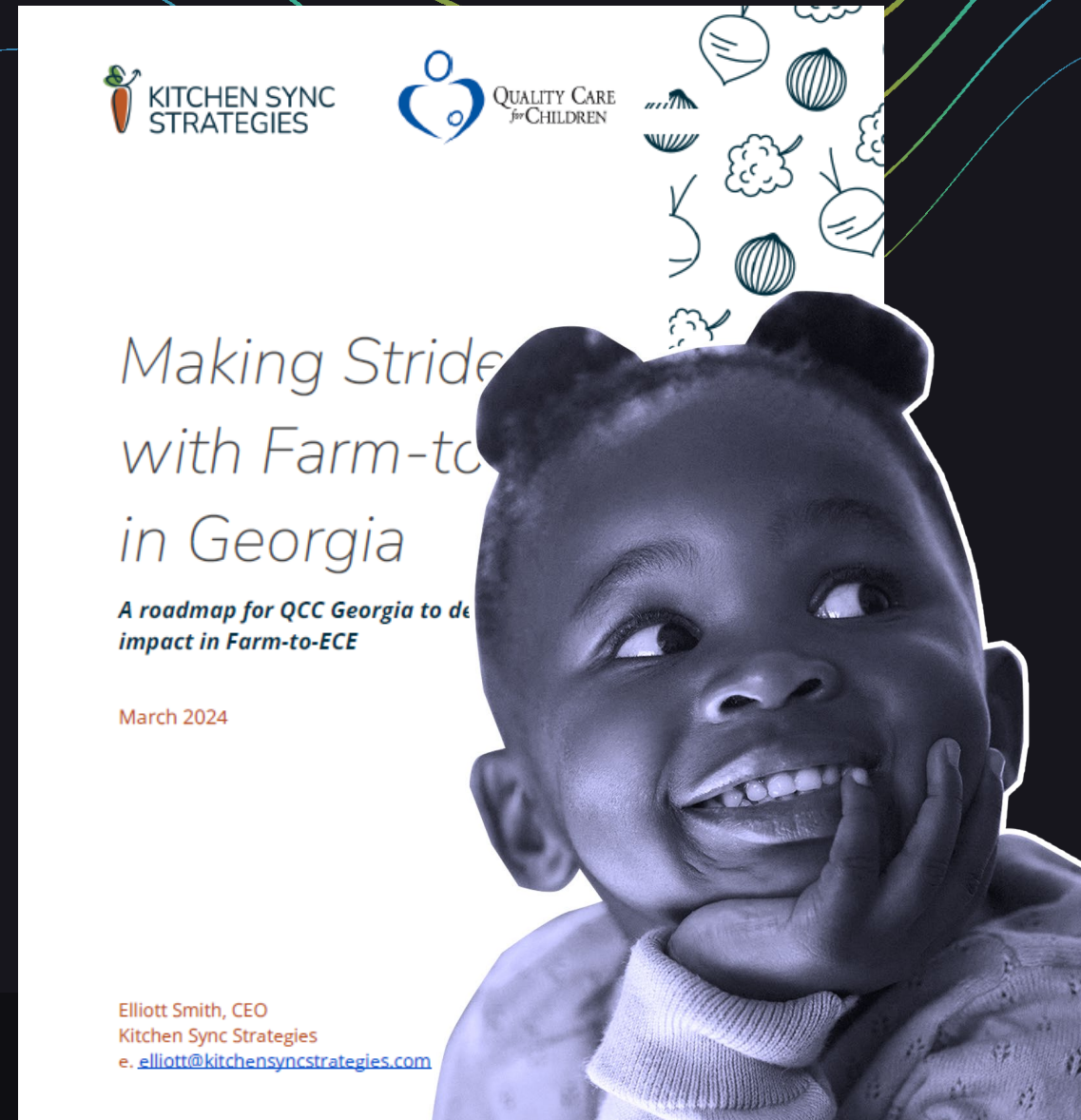
- Additional 10 cents per meals that have Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans

Related State Advocacy

- California: Universal School Meals (SY 2022-2023)
 - California and Maine were the first states to provide **free school meals to any child** regardless of whether they were eligible for the free or reduced-price meals as defined by the federal government.
 - Since then, 6 other states have done similar measures: Minnesota, New Mexico, Colorado, Vermont, Michigan, and Massachusetts

Advocacy Efforts

- ECE Food Access: Local Food Procurement
- Partnership efforts to strengthen Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Farm to ECE in Georgia's QRIS
- Georgia Gateway Partnership
 - WIC, SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and Child Care Subsidy (CAPS)



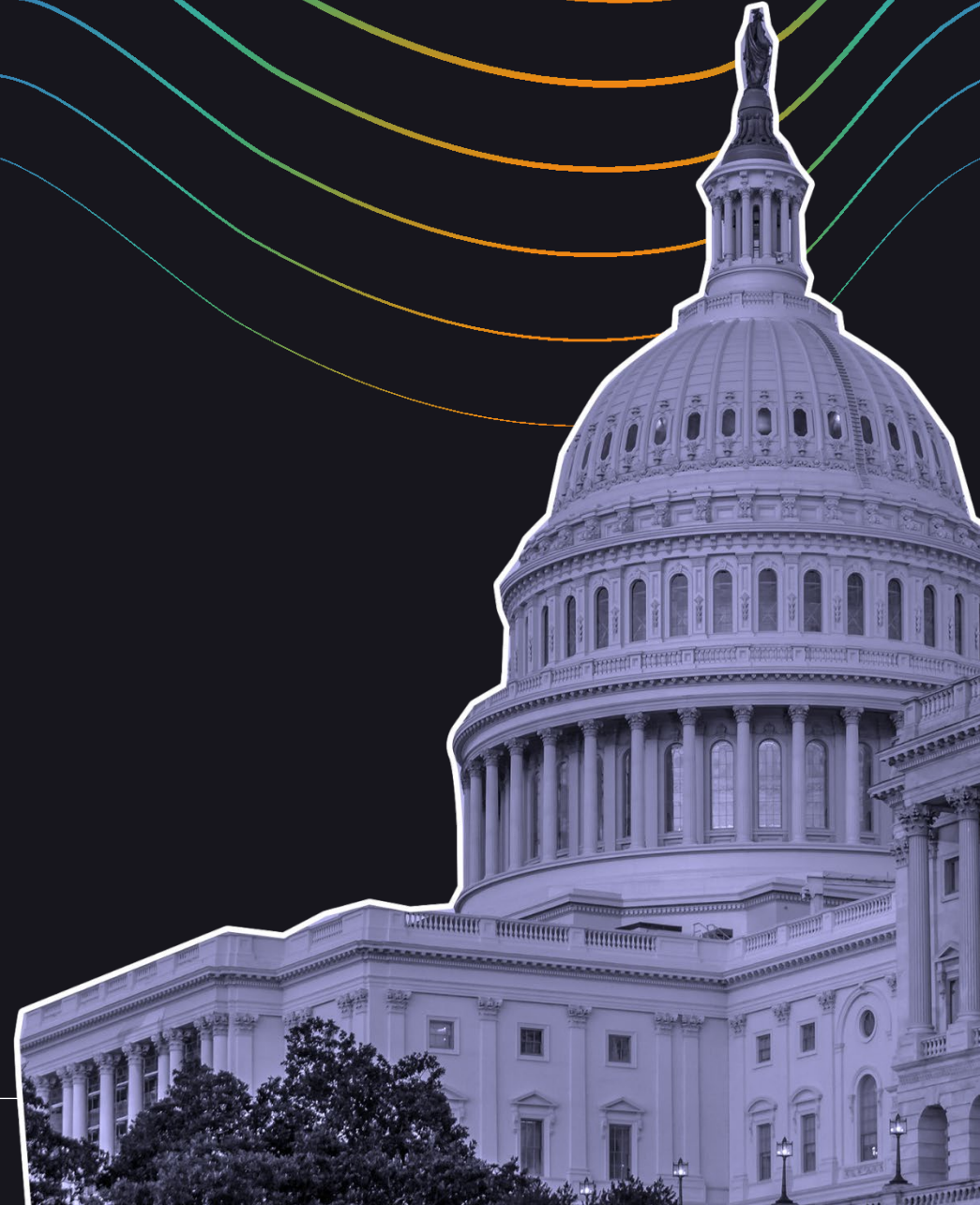
Grant Resources

- CDC State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) grant
- USDA Farm to School grants
- USDA Local Food Purchasing and Procurement (LFPP)
- State grants using Preschool Development Renewal Grant (PDG) dollars



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Advancing Policy Change at the Federal Level Solutions and Room for Advocacy



2010 Renewal of the
Child Nutrition Act

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Many, many children
are born and go to
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renew the Child
Nutrition Act

2020-present
Global health crisis,
people notice things
like: child care is
important

2020-2022:

Congress
steps in

- Child care relief dollars from Congress to the States, Territories and Tribes – March 2020, December 2020, March 2021
- Authority for USDA to waive those things that would prevent children from meals and snacks or prevent success in things like CACFP
 - Relief from the 2-tier system!
 - Additional 10 cents per meal and snack
 - Virtual monitoring

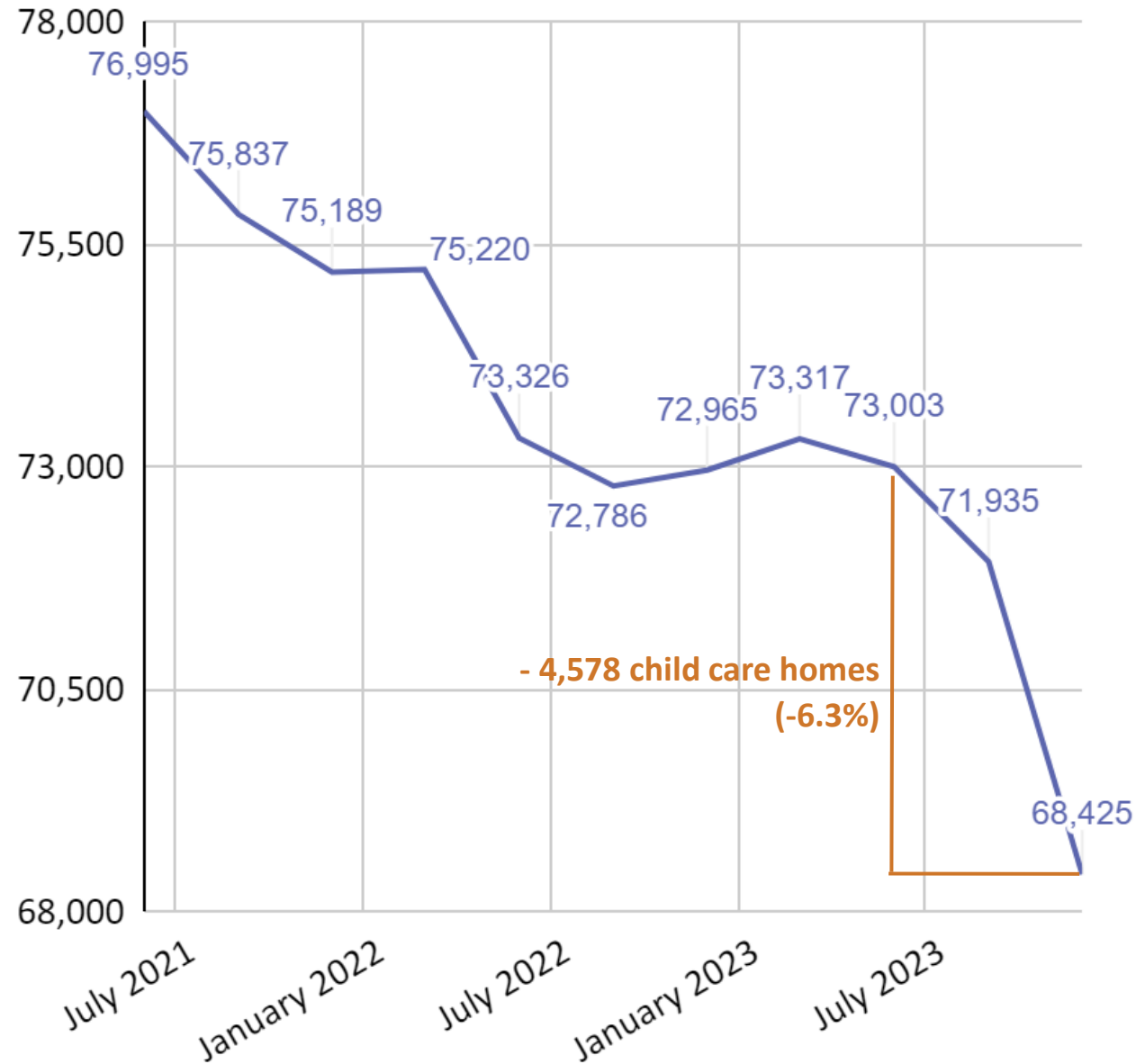


2023: Congress let these remedies expire

- The expiration of KKFA means we risk child care programs dropping off of CACFP or really struggling to comply
 - Return of tiering to family child care
 - Loss of 10 cents on meals and snacks while grocery prices are high
- Head Start and Early Head Start programs are required to participate in CACFP and will be forced to try and comply with inadequate funds.
- Families that are already experiencing hardships may be asked by their child care provider to pack enough food to ensure their children are not hungry while in child care.
 - Many of these families are food insecure and their children rely on the meals and snacks provided in child care through the CACFP.
 - 1 in 3 in the child care workforce is worried about having enough to eat at the end of each month

After the expiration of the additional 10 cents and a return to Tiering, the number of CACFP child care homes fell 6.3% from June to December 2023, a loss of over 4,500 child care homes participating in CACFP.

Number of CACFP Child Care Homes, Nationwide, by quarter, June 2021 - December 2023



CACFP Reimbursement Rates: Program Year (PY) 2022-2023 and PY 2023-2024

Scenario:

- Tier 2 Child Care Home
- 7 children
- 22 days in operation a month
- Serves breakfast, lunch, and a snack

	PY 2022-2023**	PY 2023-2024	Number Change	Percent Change
Tier II Home	\$10,476	\$5,028	-\$5,452	-52.0%
<p>*Rates are higher in Alaska and Hawaii. **PY 2022-2023 reimbursement includes the 10-cent increase from the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 and reflects Tier I and Tier II family child care providers all receiving Tier I rates in this period.</p>				

Providers engage in coping mechanisms:

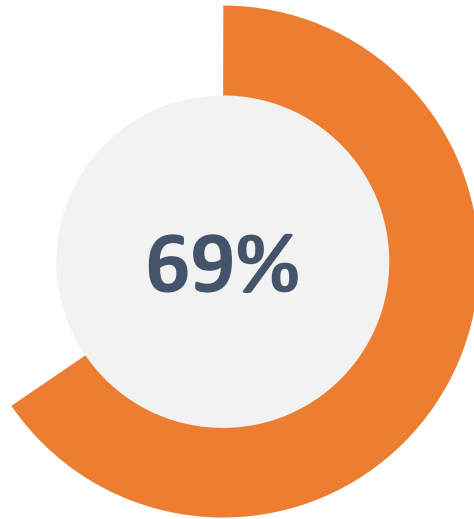
1. Purchasing lower cost or lower quality food items for CACFP reimbursable meals
2. Increasing child care tuition rates
3. Supplementing meals with their own funds/make cuts in other aspects of their program

Sponsors are fielding more concerns and communications about the inadequacy of CACFP meal reimbursements.

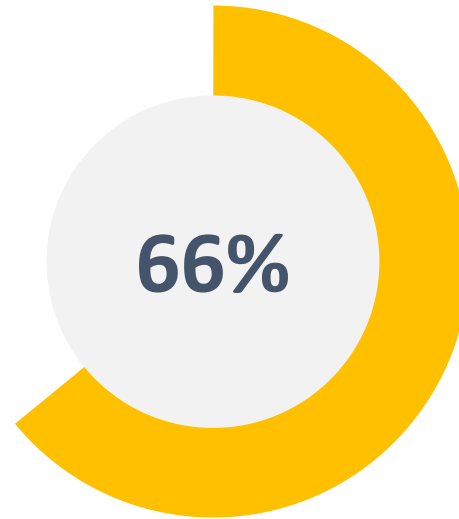
Sponsors incur unnecessary monetary, time, and health costs associated with in-person monitoring

“Ending the nationwide remote monitoring has put providers, children, staff, and family at higher risk of getting COVID-19.... Remote monitoring was safe and effective.”

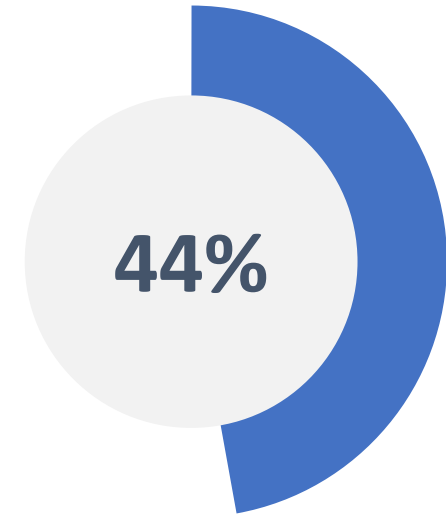
Among Surveyed Providers:



express frustration and disappointment with reimbursement rates



cite rising or high food costs are impacting their program



describe a need to eliminate Tiering or their frustration with Tiering

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**Congress could
do something
about this**



#CCAOASYMPOSIUM24



	The Child Care Nutrition Enhancement Act		The Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act	
	H.R. 5569	S. 3294	H.R. 6067	S. 4002
Adds 10 cents reimbursement to eligible meals and snacks in child care, Head Start, at-risk after-school and adult care CACFP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Eliminates the harmful two-tier system for family child care in CACFP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ensures a family child care provider can submit for reimbursement for her own child's meals and snacks if the child is in her child care program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Adds a meal service for reimbursement in CACFP, eligible when this meal takes place 8 hours after the first meal service of the program day; calls for a study on take-up of this additional meal			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Makes the CACFP payment rate-setting more fair by calculating family child care payments the same as child care center payments, as "food away from home"		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Simplifies reporting processes for the eligibility of for-profit child care center participation in CACFP			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Calls on the Secretary of USDA to review the CACFP Serious Deficiency process			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Establishes an Advisory Committee on CACFP paperwork			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CACFP Support in the U.S. Senate

Cosponsoring **BOTH** the 3rd meal bill **AND** the tiering/10 cents bill in the Senate:

Blumenthal [D-CT]

Smith [D-MN]

★ Casey [D-PA]

Fetterman [D-PA]

Reed [D-RI]

Sanders [I-VT]

Welch [D-VT]

Cosponsoring the tiering/10 cents bill in the Senate:

Hirono [D-HI]

Markey [D-MA]

Warren [D-MA]

Shaheen [D-NH]

Gillibrand [D-NY]

Brown [D-OH]

Merkley [D-OR]

Baldwin [D-WI]

U.S. Senate Advocacy To-Do List

Senators on the tiering bill:
→ Ask them to support the 3rd meal bill too!

Republican Senators:
→ 3rd meal bill is great, and bipartisan in the House, and they need to hear from constituents about this!

Any Senator not yet listed:
→ Let's go! Children, families, providers and communities need this!

CACFP Support in the U.S. House

Cosponsoring the 3rd meal bill in the House:

Republicans

1. **Molinaro [R-NY-19]**
2. **Fitzpatrick [R-PA-1]**
3. **Garbarino [R-NY-2]**
4. **Lawler [R-NY-17]**
5. **Mace [R-SC-1]**

Democrats

1. **Bonamici [D-OR-1]**
2. **Caraveo [D-CO-8]**
3. **Castro [D-TX-20]**
4. **Cuellar [D-TX-28]**
5. **DeSaulnier [D-CA-10]**
6. **Grijalva [D-AZ-7]**
7. **Norton [D-DC-At Large]**
8. **Watson Coleman [D-NJ-12]**

Cosponsoring the tiering/10 cents bill in the House:

There are 50 cosponsors...

U.S. House Advocacy To-Do List

Use the CACFP Advocacy Toolkit to look up the latest list of cosponsors!

Republican Representatives:
→ 3rd meal bill is great, and bipartisan, and they need to hear from constituents about this!

Any Representative not yet listed:
→ Let's go! Children, families, providers and communities need this!

Resources



CACFP
Participation Fact
Sheet 2024



Quick Guide for
Advocates: CACFP
Action on Capitol Hill



CACFP Federal
Advocacy Toolkit

Resources



Georgia



Ohio



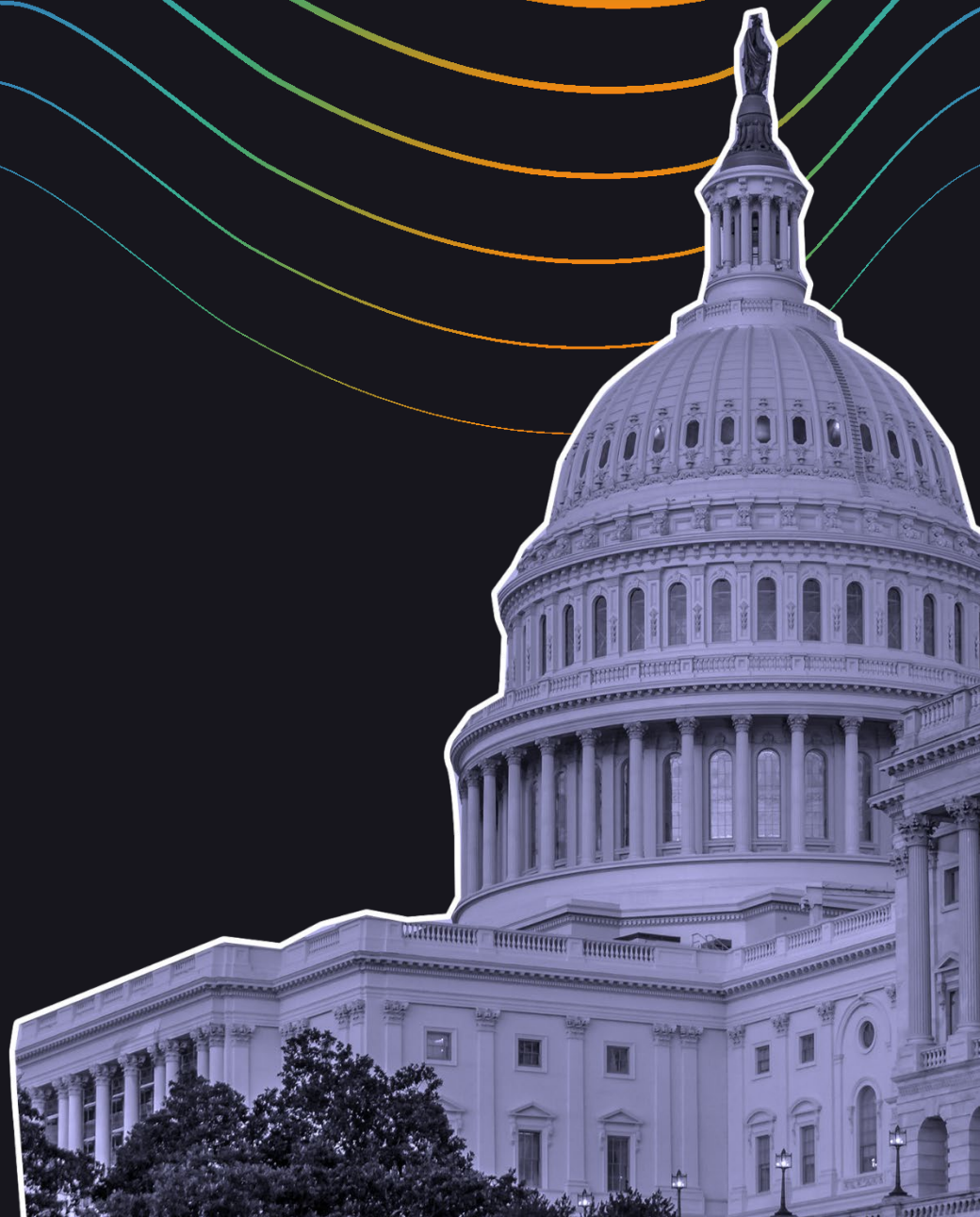
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Questions?



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Thank You