

### **Child Nutrition Programs—CBO’s 2018 Baseline**

Several programs and activities of the federal government provide nutrition assistance to school-age children. Under the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and the Special Milk Program, the government provides commodities and cash payments to reimburse participating schools and institutions for at least part of the cost of each meal served. Reimbursement rates vary by program, meal type, and participant’s household income. Schools in the school breakfast and lunch programs—the two largest such programs—receive relatively small subsidies for meals served to students from households with income above 185 percent of the federal poverty level and larger subsidies for meals served to students from households with income below that level.

Federal child nutrition programs are funded mostly out of mandatory spending, with a small discretionary component. Annual appropriations for child nutrition programs generally cover the cost of providing benefits to all eligible applicants. However, CBO’s baseline is constructed under the assumption that in the event of a shortfall, the Department of Agriculture would request an additional appropriation.

## Child Nutrition Programs—CBO's April 2018 Baseline

(Millions of dollars, by fiscal year)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Budget Authority	23,496	24,545	25,669	26,838	28,062	29,307	30,616	31,989	33,418	34,907	36,459
Outlays	23,249	24,343	25,475	26,638	27,852	29,093	30,391	31,754	33,173	34,652	36,193
Budget Authority Components											
National School Lunch Program	12,939	13,459	14,008	14,563	15,143	15,731	16,344	16,985	17,646	18,330	19,037
School Breakfast Program	4,579	4,849	5,115	5,412	5,722	6,045	6,388	6,751	7,134	7,538	7,964
Child and Adult Care Food Program	3,550	3,712	3,895	4,092	4,304	4,515	4,739	4,974	5,220	5,479	5,752
Commodity Procurement	1,416	1,497	1,579	1,664	1,751	1,839	1,930	2,026	2,124	2,227	2,331
Summer Food Service Program	488	504	524	539	554	569	585	601	618	635	652
State Administrative Expenses	298	299	316	330	345	361	378	394	412	431	450
Other Spending <sup>a</sup>	<u>226</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>246</u>	<u>252</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>267</u>	<u>273</u>
Total Budget Authority	23,496	24,545	25,669	26,838	28,062	29,307	30,616	31,989	33,418	34,907	36,459

Notes: Details may not add up to totals because of rounding.

- a. Other spending includes the Special Milk Program, the Food Service Management Institute, Team Nutrition, coordinated review, computer support and processing, child nutrition grants for the Northern Marianas and American Samoa, and other activities. It also includes discretionary projects funded in annual appropriation acts.

Table incorporates the effects of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-141), as signed by the President on March 23, 2018.

Most reimbursement rates are tied to the Consumer Price Index for Food Away from Home, which is projected to increase as follows:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
102.3%	102.4%	102.7%	103.0%	102.9%	102.8%	102.8%	102.9%	102.8%	102.8%	102.8%