

Child Nutrition Programs—CBO’s January 2020 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.

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Millions of Dollars, by Fiscal Year

January 28, 2020

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Budget Authority	24,148	24,980	26,037	27,183	28,364	29,576	30,825	32,120	33,469	34,879	36,906
Outlays	23,974	24,831	25,857	26,987	28,162	29,368	30,611	31,898	33,238	34,638	36,561
Budget Authority Components											
National School Lunch Program	13,168	13,546	14,064	14,638	15,223	15,821	16,432	17,063	17,718	18,398	19,594
School Breakfast Program	4,679	4,870	5,094	5,340	5,596	5,861	6,135	6,420	6,719	7,032	7,360
Child and Adult Care Food Program	3,820	4,000	4,208	4,418	4,637	4,864	5,101	5,349	5,611	5,887	6,179
Commodity procurement	1,468	1,527	1,606	1,691	1,777	1,866	1,957	2,051	2,147	2,248	2,419
Summer Food Service Program	485	499	513	528	543	558	573	589	605	622	638
State administrative expenses	309	315	325	336	351	367	382	399	416	433	451
Other spending ^a	<u>219</u>	<u>223</u>	<u>227</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>239</u>	<u>245</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>253</u>	<u>259</u>	<u>265</u>
Total Budget Authority	24,148	24,980	26,037	27,183	28,364	29,576	30,825	32,120	33,469	34,879	36,906

Components may not sum 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.

Most reimbursement rates are tied to the consumer price index for food away from home, which is projected to increase as follows:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2029</u>	<u>2030</u>
Percent	103.0	102.8	103.0	103.0	102.9	102.9	102.8	102.8	102.8	102.8	102.8