

# The Hawai'i Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) GIS Mapping Project



## Purpose

Child care programs can support the health, wellness, and development of young children when they participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This important federal program improves the nutrition and health of children, supports family budgets, and strengthens the quality and financial stability of child care programs. CACFP provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to early childhood care and education (ECE) programs that serve a high proportion of income-eligible children. CACFP regulates meal patterns and portion sizes, provides nutrition education, and offers sample menus and training in meal planning and preparation to help ECE providers comply with nutrition standards. CACFP can play a key role in increasing food security and bringing nutritious foods to young children enrolled in ECE programs across Hawai'i.

The purpose of this project is to work with Child Care Aware of America (CCAOA) to join Hawai'i ECE and CACFP participation data with national data sets to visualize the location of ECE programs in relation to food deserts, areas of concentrated family poverty, and other community characteristics. These data will be used to target areas for outreach and CACFP expansion.

The end product is an interactive state story map housed on the CCAOA national website. These online GIS maps allow users to select and compare data points of interest. Maps are presented alongside written text that explains and highlights the story of CACFP and community needs in Hawai'i. These story maps can inform program planning and continuous quality improvement, as well as serve as a tool for coalition building and advocacy work.



## Goals

- Develop user-friendly, interactive CACFP story maps and a data dashboard available for public use.
- Convene a local CACFP Advisory Group to inform the development, implementation, and promotion of the maps
- Identify strategies for change that could have the greatest potential to expand participation and bolster CACFP such as:
  - » Boost awareness of CACFP;
  - » Strengthen systems of support for providers and sponsors; and
  - » Shift state and federal policies and funding streams to fortify the program overall

## Desired Impacts

- Increase awareness of CACFP and opportunities for expansion among ECE providers, policy makers, and the general public
- Inform targeted outreach to increase enrollment among non-participating ECE providers and recruit more sponsor agencies to assist programs with administrative tasks relating to CACFP participation
- Inform advocacy to state and federal policy-makers take steps to make program enrollment and documentation less burdensome for CACFP participants and permanently increase reimbursement rates to reflect the true cost of meal preparation in our state

## Key Activities / Timeline

- **February 2023:** Obtain and clean Hawai'i data
- **July 2023:** Work with Child Care Aware of America to post the Hawai'i story map and dashboard
- **May-July 2023:** Support HKHF raise stakeholder awareness and use of the maps
- **July 2023:** Support the Hawai'i Data Collaborative in hosting CACFP information on a local website

## Takeaways

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Center on the Family convened a diverse group of food system and ECE stakeholders for the inaugural the Hawai'i CACFP Advisory Group on April 27, 2023 and received positive feedback on the beta map site.

Results included the following:

- Helped start dialogue between ECE and food/nutrition systems stakeholders.
- Advisory committee generated many specific suggestions for policy and administrative changes to increase participation in and expansion of CACFP.



View the draft Hawai'i CACFP dashboard



The GIS maps are anticipated to be completed by August 2023.

This project would not be possible without the support of Eleanor Fong-Severance, the CACFP Program Specialist at Hawai'i Child Nutrition Programs

Barbara DeBaryshe, [debarysh@hawaii.edu](mailto:debarysh@hawaii.edu)  
 Ivette Stern, [istern@hawaii.edu](mailto:istern@hawaii.edu)  
 Hua Zan, [hzan@hawaii.edu](mailto:hzan@hawaii.edu)



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