Child Nutrition Programs—CBO's January 2019 Baseline

Several programs and activities of the federal government provide nutrition assistance to schoolage 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 January 2019 Baseline

Millions of Dollars, by Fiscal Year

January 20, 2019

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Budget Authority	23,673	24,713	25,825	26,992	28,180	29,415	30,717	32,077	33,500	34,983	36,539
Outlays	23,498	24,533	25,636	26,792	27,977	29,204	30,494	31,844	33,257	34,730	36,273
Budget Authority Components											
National School Lunch Program	13,055	13,591	14,126	14,682	15,250	15,835	16,449	17,086	17,747	18,431	19,145
School Breakfast Program	4,559	4,783	5,057	5,346	5,645	5,960	6,297	6,652	7,028	7,424	7,845
Child and Adult Care Food Program	3,608	3,777	3,970	4,177	4,381	4,595	4,822	5,060	5,311	5,575	5,854
Commodity procurement	1,435	1,514	1,593	1,674	1,757	1,841	1,930	2,021	2,117	2,215	2,318
Summer Food Service Program	494	510	525	540	554	569	585	601	618	635	652
State administrative expenses	299	306	318	332	347	363	379	396	414	432	451
Other spending ^a	<u>223</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>241</u>	<u>246</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>256</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>266</u>	<u>271</u>	<u>275</u>
Total Budget Authority	23,673	24,713	25,825	26,992	28,180	29,415	30,717	32,077	33,500	34,983	36,539

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>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	2022	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	2028	2029
102.7%	102.7%	103.0%	103.0%	102.8%	102.8%	102.8%	102.8%	102.8%	102.8%	102.8%