Child Nutrition Programs—CBO's May 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 May 2019 Baseline

ons of Dollars, by Fiscal Year								May 2, 2019			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Budget Authority Outlays	23,748 23,572	24,790 24,585	25,908 25,716	27,079 26,879	28,270 28,067	29,509 29,297	30,815 30,591	32,178 31,945	33,605 33,361	35,092 34,838	36,654 36,387
Budget Authority Components											
National School Lunch Program	13,114	13,653	14,190	14,749	15,320	15,907	16,524	17,163	17,828	18,515	19,232
School Breakfast Program	4,583	4,808	5,083	5,372	5,671	5,987	6,324	6,680	7,056	7,453	7,874
Child and Adult Care Food Program	3,622	3,792	3,986	4,193	4,398	4,613	4,841	5,080	5,332	5,597	5,877
Commodity procurement	1,444	1,523	1,602	1,684	1,767	1,852	1,941	2,033	2,129	2,227	2,330
Summer Food Service Program	480	494	509	524	538	552	568	583	599	616	632
State administrative expenses	299	308	320	334	349	365	381	398	415	434	453
Other spending ^a	<u>207</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>219</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>228</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>246</u>	<u>251</u>	<u>256</u>
Total Budget Authority	23,748	24,790	25,908	27,079	28,270	29,509	30,815	32,178	33,605	35,092	36,654

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>	<u>2028</u>	2029
102.7%	102.7%	103.0%	103.0%	102.8%	102.8%	102.8%	102.8%	102.8%	102.8%	102.8%