

## **Child Nutrition Programs—CBO’s Baseline as of March 6, 2020**

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.

These budget projections reflect legislation, administrative actions, and regulatory changes through March 6, 2020. They are based on the economic forecast that CBO completed on January 7, 2020, and do not account for changes to the nation’s economic outlook and fiscal situation arising from the recent and rapidly evolving public health emergency related to the novel coronavirus.

## Child Nutrition Programs—CBO's Baseline as of March 6, 2020

Millions of Dollars, by Fiscal Year

March 19, 2020

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Budget Authority	24,258	25,090	26,141	27,273	28,436	29,643	30,885	32,173	33,515	34,917	36,382
Outlays	24,086	24,939	25,962	27,079	28,236	29,437	30,673	31,954	33,287	34,678	36,131
Budget Authority Components											
National School Lunch Program	13,250	13,625	14,137	14,698	15,269	15,861	16,468	17,095	17,745	18,420	19,121
School Breakfast Program	4,689	4,880	5,106	5,352	5,606	5,868	6,140	6,423	6,720	7,030	7,355
Child and Adult Care Food Program	3,810	3,992	4,199	4,409	4,629	4,856	5,093	5,342	5,604	5,881	6,174
Commodity procurement	1,480	1,538	1,616	1,699	1,784	1,872	1,962	2,055	2,151	2,252	2,355
Summer Food Service Program	484	497	512	527	542	557	572	587	603	620	637
State administrative expenses	309	316	326	338	352	367	383	399	416	433	452
Other spending <sup>a</sup>	<u>236</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>245</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>254</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>267</u>	<u>272</u>	<u>276</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>288</u>
Total Budget Authority	24,258	25,090	26,141	27,273	28,436	29,643	30,885	32,173	33,515	34,917	36,382

These budget projections reflect legislation, administrative actions, and regulatory changes through March 6, 2020. They are based on the economic forecast that CBO completed on January 7, 2020, and do not account for changes to the nation's economic outlook and fiscal situation arising from the recent and rapidly evolving public health emergency related to the novel coronavirus.

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:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Percent	103.0	102.8	103.0	103.0	102.9	102.9	102.8	102.8	102.8	102.8	102.8