

## **Food Budget Inexperience**

### **Important Questions to Answer**

Have you ever developed a food budget before? Do you know how to project food costs? How are you going to administer your Afterschool Meals Program? Having answers to these questions is vital to the success of AMP in any organization, and is required to run the program and be reimbursed.

It's often important for private nonprofits (not school related) to fully answer and understand these questions, since few nonprofits have experience administering federal food programs or have resources to purchase high volume discounted food.

### **Higher Volume is Preferable**

The more children you serve the easier it will be to meet food and administrative costs. As a nonprofit organization, you're not going to have the advantages that say a school district might have in purchasing food, staffing and administration costs.

However the more children you serve the easier it is to take advantage of volume food discounts that ARE available to you. Typically nonprofits can expect overall food and administrative costs to be 5-30% higher than those of a school district.

A typical school district in Florida spends about \$1.30 for food and about \$1.40 for administrative costs for each meal served. Assuming your costs will be higher than the school district average, you can expect to pay anywhere from \$2.75 to \$3.50 per meal.

### **Look For Mentors**

There are many types of nonprofit organizations running this program in Florida and they are more than willing to help guide you in developing and maintaining a good food budget. Local restaurants deal with food budgets all the time and might volunteer to assist you in your efforts by giving you tips and advice.

### **The Impact of Having a Good Food Budget**

If you decide to become your own sponsor, being diligent about your food budget will have a tremendous impact on your programs. While it may not cover all of your costs, if run correctly, AMP should cover most of your costs and make your afterschool programming much more effective.

The benefits of AMP are hard to quantify, but research shows a strong correlation between increased attention, participation, health and energy of children who are adequately fed a nutritious meal. This impact greatly improves the value of the resources expended on your afterschool programming, and more than offset the minor costs you might incur in providing food.