



USDA Summer Food Service Program



What is the Summer Food Service Program?

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally-funded, state-administered program. The SFSP reimburses providers who serve healthy meals to children and teens in low-income areas at no charge primarily during the summer months when school is not in session.

Who does the Program serve?

The SFSP serves children and teens age 18 and younger.

Why is the Program important?

Children need healthy food all year long. During the school year, many children receive free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch through the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs. When school lets out many of these children are at risk of hunger. Hunger is one of the most severe roadblocks to the learning process. Lack of nutrition during the summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance once school begins again and make children more prone to illness and other health issues. The SFSP is designed to fill that nutrition gap and make sure children get the nutritious meals they need.

How does it work?

There are three main entities involved: State agencies, sponsors, and sites.

State agencies administer the program and communicate with USDA.

State Agencies

- Recruit sponsors and publicize sites
- Provide training and technical assistance to sponsors
- Monitor sponsors and sites
- Process claims and distribute reimbursements to sponsors

Sponsors run the program and communicate with the State agency. Schools, local government agencies, camps, faith-based and other non-profit community organizations that have the ability to manage a food service program may be SFSP sponsors.

Sponsors

- Recruit sites and provide them with training and technical assistance
- Monitor sites
- Report meal counts and submit claims for reimbursement to the State Agency
- Conduct outreach to families in the community

Sites are places in the community where children receive meals in a safe and supervised environment. Sites may be located in a variety of settings, including schools, parks, community centers, churches, and migrant centers. Sites work directly with sponsors.

Sites

- Feed and supervise kids
- Provide activities
- Conduct outreach to draw kids to sites

Where is my closest Summer Food Service Program Site?

Call the National Hunger Hotline at **1-866-3-HUNGRY** or **1-877-8-HAMBRE** to find a meal site near you.

How can I help?

Visit www.summerfood.usda.gov to learn more about the program and to access an outreach toolkit.

Visit www.serve.gov/endhunger to find ways to volunteer at a summer site.



Food that's in when school is out.



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Food That's in When School is Out!



Many children and teens are at-risk of going hungry during the summer.

The Summer Food Service Program provides meals while school is out.

Help make sure families know about the program:

- Use the materials on this **CD** to learn more about the Summer Food Service Program.
- Register your sites with the **National Hunger Hotline**.
- Promote the **National Hunger Hotline** to help families find sites in the community.
National Hunger Hotline: **1-866-3-HUNGRY** or **1-877-8-HAMBRE**.
- Use the **Outreach Toolkit** to connect with your community.
- Volunteer! Search for volunteer opportunities at www.serve.gov/endlunger.

Visit: www.summerfood.usda.gov for more information!

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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