



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.

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.

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.

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.

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

- 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

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



Summer Food Rocks