

Summer Food Service Program

What Is the Summer Food Service Program?

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally funded, State-administered program that reimburses providers who serve free, nutritious meals and snacks to children and teens in low-income areas when school is not in session.

Who Administers SFSP?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers SFSP at the Federal level. State education agencies administer SFSP in most States. In some areas, however, the State health, agriculture, or social service departments may administer SFSP. Locally, SFSP is run by approved sponsors, including school districts, local government agencies, camps, or private nonprofit organizations.

Sponsors provide free meals and snacks to children who come to eat at a central site, such as a school or a community center. They receive payments from USDA for the meals and snacks they serve through their State agencies.

How Does SFSP Work?

Sponsors enter into agreements with State agencies to serve reimbursable meals and snacks through SFSP. Schools, local government agencies, camps, and faith-based and other nonprofit community organizations that have the ability to manage a food service program may be SFSP sponsors. Sponsors may manage one or more sites.

Sites are places in low-income communities where children can come to receive meals at no cost in a safe and supervised environment. Sites may be located in a variety of settings, including schools, parks, community centers, libraries, farmers' markets, apartment complexes, churches, and migrant centers. Sites may also choose to offer enrichment opportunities for children, such as reading, physical activity, or nutrition education.

How Can Children and Teens Participate in SFSP?

Children 18 and younger may receive free meals and snacks at any open SFSP site. Meals and snacks are also available through SFSP to persons with disabilities who are over age 18 and participate in school programs for people with mental or physical disabilities.

Where Can I Go To Learn More About SFSP?

To learn more: <https://www.summerfood.usda.gov>.

To contact your State agency: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts>.

To find a summer meals site close to you: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>.

Whom at FNS Can I Contact To Discuss SFSP?

Please contact the FNS Division of External and Governmental Affairs at fmsgovaffairs@usda.gov.

Key Summer Food Service Program Data

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019 (estimate)
Meals served (in millions)	163.4	154.2	152.2	145.8	142.1
Expenditures (in millions)	\$487.8	\$477.7	\$482.7	\$473.4	\$476.4