



Childhood Hunger: the sooner you believe it - the sooner we can end it.

What is Summer Food Service Program?

The **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** was established in 1975 to provide free meals to children so that they receive the same high quality nutrition during school vacations that they get in school cafeterias during the school year. Continued nutrition helps children return to school after summer ready to learn.

The SFSP is a federally funded program operated nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered in Pennsylvania by the Department of Education. Organizations with summer programs may sponsor the program and receive reimbursement for qualifying meals served to eligible children and served at approved SFSP sites.

Statewide, there is great need for the SFSP, particularly in those areas of the Commonwealth where many children are eligible for free or reduced price school meals.

How can you participate in the SFSP?

1. Become a *sponsor*
2. Operate a *Summer Food site*
3. Be a *meal vendor*
4. *Volunteer* to help a sponsor or site

Who can sponsor the SFSP?

Sponsorship of the SFSP is open to:

- schools;
- government agencies;
- summer camps; and
- private nonprofit organizations (e.g., churches, Community Action Agencies).

What sites qualify as eligible sites?

Sponsors can provide meals at a central site such as a school, a park, a playground or a community center. Schools that are offering summer courses can open their meal service to the entire community by participating in the SFSP.

Meals are served **at no cost to the participants** at sites that are operated or sponsored by a local organization and are approved by the PA Department of Education. Sites where at least 50% of the children in the area it serves, or 50% of its enrolled children, must be eligible for free or reduced price school lunch meals. Area eligibility data can be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website.

Most sites may claim reimbursement for up to **two meals daily**, usually lunch and breakfast. **Residential camps** and sites serving primarily **migrant** children may claim reimbursement for up to **three meals daily**.

How Do I Provide a Meal Service?

Sponsors may choose to prepare the meals they serve under the program, contract with a school, or contract for meals through a commercial meal vendor.

What kind of financial assistance is available?

Under the SFSP, sponsors earn reimbursement for every meal served. Sponsors receive reimbursement based on meals times rates.

Sponsors that prepare their own meals or are located in rural areas, receive a higher reimbursement. The reimbursement rates for the Summer of 2011 are provided below:

Operating Rates	All Sponsors	
Breakfast	\$1.71	
Lunch/Supper	\$2.98	
Snack	\$0.69	
Administrative Rates	Rural or Self Prep	Other
Breakfast	\$.1700	\$.1350
Lunch/Supper	\$.3125	\$.2575
Snack	\$.0850	\$.0675

For more information about the **Summer Food Service Program**, you can log on to USDA's website at:

www.summerfood.usda.gov

Administering Agency

If you are interested in helping to ensure that children in your community have access to SFSP meals, you may contact our office at the address and telephone number listed below. Our staff will be happy to provide you with additional information.

The SFSP is administered in Pennsylvania by:

PA Department of Education
Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management
Division of Food and Nutrition
333 Market Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17126-0333

ATTN: **Summer Food Service Program**

**1-800-331-0129,
Extension 537637**

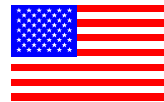
Laurie Kepner, Administrator
Summer Food Service Program

E-mail: RA-SFSP@state.pa.us



Everyone Wins with the SFSP!

- ❑ **Children** in low-income areas have free nutritious meals and organized activities during the summer.
- ❑ The **parents** of the children stretch food dollars when children receive meals in the summer.
- ❑ **Your organization** receives Federal money to assist in providing meals as part of your program.
- ❑ **Children return to school in the Fall ready to learn.**



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United States Department of Agriculture



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