

## What is the Summer Food Service Program?

Children need good food all year long, even when they're not in school. The Summer Food Service Program provides healthy meals to children, age 18 and younger, free of charge.

The Summer Food Service Program:

- Feeds low-income children in the summer
- Gives a boost to public and private non-profit summer programs
- Helps give low-income children the best start on the new school year

With summer meals, children get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow, during vacation when they do not eat at school.

Sponsors receive funds that support programs serving low-income children when there is no school.

## Where do children go for summer meals?

Many SFSP sites provide not just meals, but educational, enrichment, and recreational activities that help children continue to learn and stay safe when school is not in session.

Summer meals act as an extra "magnet" to draw children to activities – and activities draw children to meals -- at places like:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Schools                     | Head Start centers  |
| Camps                       | Hospitals   |
| Boys and Girls Clubs        | 21 <sup>st</sup> century learning centers                   |
| Kids Cafes                  | National Youth Sports Programs at colleges and universities |
| Park and Recreation centers | Upward Bound programs                                       |
| Vacation Bible schools      | 4H Clubs  |
| Libraries                   | Community action agencies                                   |
| Community pools             | Food banks  |
| Schools                     | Homeless shelters   |
| Libraries                   |   |
| Congregations               |   |
| YMCA's                      |   |

## How do organizations participate?

Even if you think your staff, time, and resources are stretched too thin, your organization can still participate in the Summer Food Service Program.

Some organizations may not be able to sponsor the program, but they can supervise meals, recreation, and enrichment activities for children at a site.

Signing up as a food service site means nutritious, prepared meals will be delivered to your location with less paperwork for you.

## What will your organization do as a food service site?

As a sponsored site, you will have an arrangement with another organization that is approved to administer the program.

The sponsor will have staff and management experience to help you learn how to run your food service site successfully.

Your sponsor will determine if your site is eligible, train your staff, arrange for meals to be prepared or delivered, monitor your site, and prepare claims for reimbursement

If you operate a summer food service site, you will:

- Attend your sponsor's training
- Supervise activities and meal services at your site
- Distribute meals by following SFSP guidelines
- Keep daily records of meals served
- Store food appropriately
- Keep the site clean and sanitary
- Follow SFSP guidelines<sup>®</sup>



## What kinds of meals will your site serve?

The Summer Food Service Program serves meals with milk, meat, fruits, vegetables, and bread. Meals have all the good things that children need to grow up strong and healthy.

All meals and snacks meet USDA's nutrition standards.

Children might get breakfast, lunch, supper, or snack, depending on what your site serves.

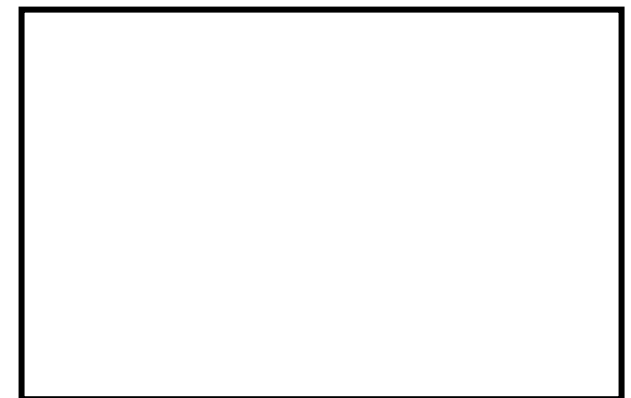
Most food service sites can provide up to two meals – either breakfast and lunch, or breakfast and supper – or one meal and a snack.

### SAMPLE MENUS:

Breakfast	Lunch or Supper	Snack
Milk Raisin toast Apple sauce	Milk Bean burrito Carrot sticks Pineapple chunks	Blueberry muffin Milk
Milk Cereal Orange juice	Milk Grilled chicken sandwich Lettuce Peaches	Yogurt Banana

## Who should you contact first?

Please contact us. We will answer your questions and help you get started.



## How can USDA help your organization serve children?

USDA provides other reimbursement support for programs that serve low-income children when school is not in session.

These benefits are available through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

The money you receive from USDA allows you to devote a smaller portion of your resources to food-related expenses, freeing up resources that can be used for other activities.

USDA reimburses program providers for serving:

- Meals to children who are enrolled in before or after care programs at licensed day care centers or family child care homes.
- Meals and snacks to children and teens participating in school-aged child care programs, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and other supervised educational or enrichment programs, after the regular school day ends.

For more information about these benefits, please contact your CACFP State agency. A list of State agencies is available on the USDA website at: [www.fns.usda.gov/contacts/statedirectory.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts/statedirectory.htm).



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Help feed hungry children with USDA's Summer Food Service Program

## Become a Summer Food Feeding Site



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