

Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) ensures that children continue to receive nutritious meals during the summer, when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast. The Summer Food Service Program began in 1968 and provides nutritious food that's "in" when school is "out."

How does the program work?

The SFSP is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Office of School Nutrition (OSN) approves sponsor applications, conducts training, monitors program operations and processes program payments.

Who can sponsor the Summer Food Service Program?

Sponsors must be organizations that are fully capable of managing a food service program. Sponsors must follow regulations and be responsible, financially and administratively, for running the program.

Sponsors of sites must:

- Not be seriously deficient
- Serve low income children
- Conduct a nonprofit food service
- Exercise management control over sites

Who can participate?

All children 18 years of age and under who go to an approved site may receive free meals.

A person 19 years of age and over who has a mental or physical disability (as determined by a state or local educational agency) and participates during the school year in a public or private non-profit school program may also receive free meals.

What is a site?

A site is the physical location, approved by the Office of School Nutrition, where SFSP meal(s) are served during a supervised time period. The three types of sites are:

What types of organizations are eligible to sponsor the SFSP?

- Public or private non-profit schools
- Units of local, municipal, county, state or federal government
- Private non-profit organizations
- Public or private non-profit residential camps
- Public or private non-profit universities or colleges participating in the National Youth Sports Program
- Community and faith based organizations



THE SITE IS:	IF:	BASED ON:
OPEN	At least 50 percent of children in the area are eligible for free or reduced price school meals (area eligible).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School data • Census data
CLOSED ENROLLED	At least 50 percent of the children enrolled in the program are eligible for free or reduced price school meals or the site is area eligible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School data • Census data • Income eligibility forms
CAMP	A residential or non-residential day camp program which offers a regularly scheduled food service as part of an organized program for enrolled children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income eligibility forms • List of income eligible children provided by the school district

Meal service requirements

Sponsors may choose from several methods of providing meals, including to:

- prepare and assemble their own meals
- obtain meals from a school food authority
- obtain meals from a vendor

Open or closed enrolled sites can serve up to two meals; lunch and either breakfast or snack, every day. Camps may serve up to three meals per day (any combination of breakfast, lunch, supper or snack).

How are sponsors reimbursed for the meals served?

Sponsor reimbursements are based on the number of reimbursable meals served, multiplied by the federal rate of reimbursement, which is determined annually.

At open or closed enrolled sites, reimbursement may be claimed for all meals served that meet SFSP guidelines. Sponsors offering the program at camp sites may claim reimbursement only for the program meals served to enrolled children who meet the program’s income eligibility standards.

How can organizations apply to be a Summer Food Service Program sponsor?

All sponsors must complete the state agency annual training. All new sponsors must attend the in-person training and returning sponsors, in good standing, have the option to complete the online training. Once sponsor training is complete, the organization applies via an online application.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Where can I learn more?

- To learn more about the Summer Food Service Program visit: www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/nutrisummer
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs