

Determine Summer Meal Site Eligibility

Sponsors may operate the summer nutrition program at one or more sites which are the locations any child or teen 18 years of age and younger receives a meal. Sites must meet specific eligibility criteria. Use this resource to identify how to document eligibility for summer meal sites.



Open sites are eligible if at least half of the children in the area qualify for free or reduced-price school meals (area eligible).

Use school or census data for eligibility.



Closed enrolled sites are eligible if at least half of the children enrolled qualify for free or reduced-price school meals or if the site is area eligible.

Use school, census data, income forms or a list from the school district for eligibility.



Camps are eligible if they are residential or non-residential and provide scheduled meals as part of a program for enrolled children.

Use income forms or a list from the school district for eligibility.

Eligibility Data

Census Data Use the [USDA's Area Eligibility Mapper](#) to determine if a site is eligible based on census data. Eligible areas are shaded red while non-eligible areas are shaded blue. Use the percentage of 0-18 year olds eligible for free or reduced price meals to document eligibility.

School Data Use the [Colorado Department of Education's Pk-12 Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility by School data](#). Search for the school in the attendance area of the site. If the school's free and reduced percentage is 50% or above, the site is area eligible. Use that percentage to document eligibility.

To determine area eligibility for a Community Eligibility Provision school's attendance area, multiply the school's identified student percentage by 1.6. If the result is 50% or more, meal sites in that area are eligible.

Income Forms Closed enrolled sites using income forms are eligible if at least half of the enrolled children qualify based on income. Camps must use income forms and are reimbursed for meals served only to enrolled children that qualify based on income.

Eligibility Duration

Census and school data qualify a site as eligible for five years.

Income forms qualify a site as eligible for one year.