## SFSP Public Release Fiscal Year 2021

The **Summer Food Service Program** (SFSP) is a federally-funded, state-administered program. SFSP reimburses program operators who serve free healthy meals and snacks to children and teens in low-income areas.

The Summer Food Service Program is designed to fill the nutrition gap and make sure children can get the nutritious meals they need.

During the school year, many children receive free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch through the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs. What happens when school lets out? Hunger is one of the most severe roadblocks to the learning process. Lack of nutrition during the summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance once school begins again. Hunger also may make children more prone to illness and other health issues.

## Program details:

- Meals are FREE to children and teens ages 18 and younger who come to a summer meals site.
- > Food served follows USDA nutrition guidelines.
- Summer meals sites are at schools, churches, community centers and other safe places for kids and teens.
- Many sites offer educational and recreational activities that kids of all ages can participate in so they can eat, hang out with friends and take part in activities offered.
- Parents don't need to apply to the program to get a free summer meal for their kids. They can just bring their child to a summer meals site in their community.

Households should visit websites and social media pages of the school districts and municipalities on a daily basis for the most current information. Locations and times for meal service and distribution vary with each location, and are subject to change as programs continue to adapt to demand and changing logistics.

The <u>Meals for Kids Site Finder</u> was developed by USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to help children, parents, and others quickly and easily find summer meal sites near them. The site finder, available for use at no charge, is a web-based application that also works on tablets, smartphones and other mobile devices without the need to download. <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids">https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids</a>

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