



The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides cash reimbursement for meals served at eligible sites when school is out for the summer. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is administered by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), Food and Nutrition Service.

Benefits

- Children receive free, nutritious meals.
- Organizations receive meal reimbursement.
- Helps families stretch budgets. Reduces demand on food shelves. Children return to school ready to learn.
- Education and recreation activities reduce summer weight gain and the learning gap.

Who Can Be a Sponsor?

The SFSP relies on local organizations to sponsor sites and manage the meal service and program activities. Organizations that are eligible to sponsor a program include:

- Public or private nonprofit schools.
- Public or private nonprofit summer camps.
- Private, nonprofit organizations.
- Units of local or county government, tribal or migrant organizations, and colleges or universities.

What is a Site?

Sites are the location where meals are served. Sites can be classified as open, closed enrolled, camp or migrant. Sites must meet eligibility requirements.

Who Can Participate?

Children 18 and under or individuals 19 and over with state-defined mental or physical disabilities who participate in school programs.

How do I Find Existing SFSP Sites?

You can use the [Summer Meal Site Locator](#) tool released by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to find sites in your community.

Determining Site Eligibility

Area Eligible based on:

- School data: At least 50 percent of the students enrolled in the local public school are eligible for free/reduced-price meals. Updated data available each year mid-February.
- Census data: identifies the area as low-income. Updated data available each year in December.

Other Data

- Household Income Statements.
- Local school district determination.
- Public housing data.
- American Indian certification.

Are There Meal Requirements?

Sponsors purchase or prepare meals to be served to children at sites. Most sites serve up to two meals a day: breakfast, lunch/supper or snack.

All meals must meet USDA meal pattern requirements for food groups and portion size.

How do I apply?

- Organizations that did not participate in the SFSP last year must fill out an [Interest Survey](#) by April 15 to participate in the upcoming summer. The SFSP Program Year runs from May – April.
- **Submit a completed application** by May 1. **Applications open near the end of March.**
- View the [SFSP Applications webpage](#) for more information on how to apply.

(See back for contact info and program timeline)

How are Sponsors Reimbursed?

Sponsors receive reimbursement based on the number of eligible meals served. Reimbursement is paid after a monthly claim is submitted. Rates are set annually by the USDA.

2020 Rates	Rural and/or Self -prep	Urban and Vended
Breakfast	\$2.3750	\$2.3300
Lunch/Supper	\$4.1525	\$4.0875
Snack	\$0.9775	\$0.9550

Program Timeline and Key Dates

- **December** – Updated US Census data used to determine area eligibility becomes available.
- **Mid-February** – Updated school free/reduced-price meal data (used to determine school eligibility) becomes available.
- **End of March** – Applications become available to fill out in the Cyber-Linked Interactive Child Nutrition System (CLiCS)
- **April 15** – Deadline to Submit Interest Survey
- **May 1** – Deadline to Submit a completed application in CLiCS

For More Information

[Visit the SFSP web page](#)

E-mail: mde.fns@state.mn.us

Call: 651-582-8526 or MN toll-free 800-366-8922

Contact:

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.