

# School Nutrition Unit

[www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition](http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition)

## FACT SHEET



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

## Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program 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, Food and Nutrition Services. The CDE's Office of School Nutrition approves sponsor applications, conducts training, monitors program operations, and processes program payments.

## Who can Sponsor a 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 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

## What is a Site?

A site is the physical location, approved by the state agency, where Summer Food Service Program meal(s) are served during a supervised time period. The three types of sites are:

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"> <li>• School data</li> <li>• Census data</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• School data</li> <li>• Census data</li> <li>• Income eligibility forms</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• Income eligibility forms</li> <li>• List of income eligible children provided by the school district</li> </ul>

## Meal Service Requirements

Sponsors may choose from several methods of providing meals. They may:

- 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 Summer Food Service Program 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 do 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 the training is complete, the organization applies via an online application.

### WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- To learn more about the Summer Food Service Program visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/nutrisummer](http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/nutrisummer)

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