**What is the Summer Food Service Program?**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides reimbursement to eligible sponsors supporting summer programs that serve children in low-income areas when school is not in session. These benefits are available through the California Department of Education (CDE), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

The money sponsors receive from the USDA allows them to devote a smaller portion of resources to food-related expenses, freeing up funds that can be used for other activities.

The USDA reimburses programs for serving:

* Meals to children in low-income areas during summer months
* Snacks to children in low-income areas after school

With the SFSP, children get the nutrition they need to learn, grow, and play when they return to school.

**Who is eligible to become a sponsor?**

The following entities may be approved to sponsor the SFSP:

* Public or private nonprofit schools
* Public or private nonprofit residential camps
* Local county, state, federal government entities
* Public or private nonprofits located on college campuses such as Upward Bound Programs, Summer Bridges, or National Youth Sports Programs
* Private nonprofits such as food banks, boys and girls clubs, churches, etc.

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**Where do children go for summer meals?**

Many agencies below already have children attending educational, enrichment, and recreational activities, which can be an SFSP meal service site. Nutritious meals can be served at these locations and others:

Head Start Centers Schools

Community Action Agencies Hospitals

Boys and Girls Clubs Kids’ Cafes

21 Century Learning Libraries

Programs at Colleges Food Banks

Park and Recreational Centers 4H Clubs

National Youth Sports Salvation Army

Vacation Bible schools YMCAs

Homeless Shelters Camps

**How can organizations participate?**

There are two ways an agency may help provide meals to children:

1. Become a sponsor and establish meal sites in low-income areas
2. Become a site and receive, serve, and report meals served to the sponsoring agency

Some organizations may not be able to sponsor the program because their staff, time, and resources are limited. These agencies may still participate by becoming a SFSP site. Sites will have an arrangement with the SFSP sponsor they select to administer the program.

Agencies may obtain a list of sponsors by county from our summer meal services sites Web page at

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sh/sn/summersites.asp>

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Each sponsor must determine if the site is eligible, train staff, arrange for meals to be prepared or delivered, monitor the site, and prepare claims for reimbursement.

Operators of summer food service sites will:

* Attend their sponsor’s training
* Supervise activities and meal services
* Distribute meals
* Track the number of meals served
* Store food appropriately
* Keep the site clean and sanitary
* Follow SFSP guidelines

**What kind of meals must be served?**

All meals and snacks must meet the USDA’s nutrition standards. Most meal service sites can provide up to two meals – breakfast and lunch, breakfast and supper, or one meal and a snack.

Below are a few ideas of what food items agencies can serve.

**SAMPLE MENUS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Breakfast | Lunch or Supper | Snack |
| Chocolate milkRaisin toast Apple sauce | Milk Bean burritoCarrot sticksPineapple chunks | MilkBlueberry muffin |
| Milk CerealOrange juice | Chocolate milkGrilled chicken sandwichLettucePeaches | YogurtBanana |
| Milk BagelPeaches | MilkHam and cheesesandwichCarrot sticksApple | 100% Apple juiceGraham Crackers |

**Who should you contact first?**

Please contact a CDE SFSP staff member by phone at 800-952-5609 option 6 or by e-mail at sfsp@cde.ca.gov. Staff will answer your questions and help you get started.

**Want more information?**

Visit our Web page for more information:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sf/sfspinfo.asp>

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| **The CDE’s Summer Food Crew:**Melissa Garza916-322-5885 or mgarza@cde.ca.govDennis Arena 916-324-9073 or darena@cde.ca.govTanya Mc Crae916-322-8323 or tmccrae@cde.ca.govAugie Aguilar916-327-5865 or auaguilar@cde.ca.gov**\***Diane Gilmore916-445-7360 or dgilmore@cde.ca.gov**\***Ron Reid916-322-5113 or roreid@cde.ca.gov**\* Available part-time August through March**. |



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Help feed hungry children with USDA’s**

**Become a Summer Food Sponsor**

Children need nutritious meals all year long, even when they are not in school. The Summer Food Service Program provides healthy meals to children and teens ages eighteen and younger, free of charge.

California Department of Education

Summer Food Service Program

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