

Private Nonprofits Can Help!

Learning does not end when school lets out. Neither does the need for good nutrition.

Nearly 18 million students depend on free or reduced-price school lunches and breakfasts for 9 months out of the year. For many of these children, summer vacation exposes them to an increased risk of hunger and developmental decline.

As a community leader, you may know that children who miss breakfast or lunch are more likely to be sick, absent or tardy, disruptive in class, and inattentive. They also score lower on achievement tests.

Good nutrition is essential for learning in school. The Summer Food Service Program, with support from the USDA, gives your organization an opportunity to improve a child's physical and social development while providing nutritious meals.

The Summer Food Service Program helps lower income students return to school ready to learn.



How can your organization provide meals to students when the regular school year ends?

- The Summer Food Service Program is ideal if you sponsor enrichment, recreational, or activity programs over the summer. It is a federally funded program administered by your State.
- The State agency reimburses sponsors for meals served to children, including teenagers through age 18, at approved meal sites in low-income areas.
- Simplified rules allow sponsors to earn the maximum rates of reimbursement for the meals they serve and use the money as they need for their food programs.
- The Summer Food Service Program simplifies claims and maximizes reimbursements to make it easier for faith, community, and other private nonprofit organizations to provide good nutrition to children all summer long.



Become a Sponsor

- Faith and community-based organizations are well positioned to provide meals that complement learning and recreation opportunities for children at neighborhood sites, including schools, churches, recreation centers, playgrounds, parks, and camps.
- A private nonprofit organization may serve as a sponsor and prepare meals, or contract with a vendor to purchase meals, at up to 25 sites.
- Sponsors are reimbursed for all meals served that meet USDA's nutrition standards.



Run a Site

- Even if you cannot take on the responsibilities of a sponsor, your organization can host a site.
- As a meal service site, your organization provides staff and volunteers to supervise meals, along with recreation and enrichment activities, for up to 300 children, under the administration of an approved Summer Food Service Program sponsor.

Be a Vendor

- You may also serve as a vendor for another sponsor, and not administer or supervise a meal service site.
- Selling prepared meals through a contract with an approved sponsor keeps food service workers employed and earns money for your organization.

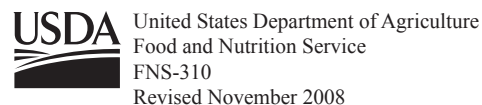
Everyone Wins with Summer Food!

- Low-income children have nutritious meals and organized activities.
- Low-income parents stretch food dollars and have healthy recreation for their children.
- Food service workers have summer employment.
- The private nonprofit organization receives Federal money to run the food program.

What's the Next Step?
Contact your State agency!



Visit our website at:
www.summerfood.usda.gov



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



The Summer Food Service Program for Private Nonprofits



U.S. Department of Agriculture