



The Ohio Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Program Overview:

Just as learning does not end when school lets out, neither does a child's need for good nutrition end. The **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children in low-income areas get the nutrition they need to learn, play and grow throughout the summer months when they are out of school.

The SFSP was created to ensure that children in low-income areas can continue to receive nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to school lunches or breakfasts. But, although millions of children depend on nutritious, free and reduced-price meals and snacks at schools during nine months of the year, just a fraction of that number receive the free meals provided by the SFSP during the summer months.

The SFSP is the single largest federal resource available for local sponsors who want to combine a food program with a summer activity program. The Food and Nutrition Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), administers SFSP at the federal level. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Office for Safety, Health and Nutrition administers the program in Ohio. Locally, the SFSP is run by approved sponsors, including school districts, local government agencies, camps and private nonprofit organizations. Sponsors provide free meals to a group of children at a central site, such as a school or community center. The sponsor receives payments from USDA, through ODE, for the meals served to children that meet program guidelines.

Program Facts:

Who can apply to sponsor an SFSP program?

Schools, public agencies and private nonprofit organizations may apply to sponsor the program.

SFSP meal sites are approved as open, enrolled or camp sites.

Open sites operate in low-income areas where at least half of the children come from families with incomes at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level, making them eligible for free and reduced-price school meals. Meals are served free to any child at an open site.

Enrolled sites provide free meals to children enrolled in an activity program at the site where at least half of the children are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

Camps also may participate in SFSP. They receive payments only for the meals served to children who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

What are the program requirements?

All sponsors must receive training before starting the program, to learn how to plan, operate and monitor a successful food-service program. All participating agencies must be nonprofit and must complete an application with the Ohio Department of Education before operating the program.

Who is eligible to get meals?

Children ages 1 through 18 may receive free meals and snacks through SFSP. Meals and snacks also are available to individuals with disabilities through age 21 who participate in a recognized school program for individuals with developmental or physical disabilities.

How many meals do participants receive each day?

At most sites, children receive either one or two reimbursable meals each day, usually lunch and/or breakfast. Camps and sites that primarily serve migrant children may be approved to serve up to three meals to each child, each day.

How much reimbursement does the government provide?

SFSP sponsors are reimbursed on a per-meal basis for the meals they serve to participants meeting program requirements. Funds received may be used for documented costs of running the program.

The 2013 reimbursement rates per meal are as follows:

	Self-prepared/Rural Meals	Vended Meals
Breakfast:	\$1.9800	\$1.9425
Lunch/supper:	\$3.4700	\$3.4125
Snack	\$0.8200	\$0.8000

What record keeping is required?

To receive reimbursement, a sponsor must prepare a claim each month and submit it to ODE via the electronic Claims Reimbursement and Reporting System (CRRS). Sponsors must keep records that support the number of meals claimed for reimbursement.

What is the Seamless Summer Option?

The Seamless Summer Option combines features of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). This option reduces paperwork and administrative burden, making it easier for schools to feed children from low-income areas during the traditional summer vacation periods and, for year-round schools, long school vacation periods (generally periods of two to three weeks).

How does the Seamless Summer Option work?

School districts participating in the National School Lunch (NSLP) are eligible to apply for the Seamless Summer Option. Once approved through ODE, school districts serve free meals to children ages 18 years and younger from low-income areas. Although the traditional SFSP is still available to schools, the Seamless Summer Option offers a streamlined approach to feeding hungry children in the community by continuing the same meal-service rules and claiming procedures used during the regular school year.

The types of sites that schools may operate are similar to those in the SFSP and include:

- **Open sites:** sites where at least 50 percent of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals; all children eat free in communities.
- **Restricted open sites:** sites that meet the open-site criteria explained previously, but that are later restricted for safety, control or security reasons.
- **Closed enrolled sites:** sites in any community for an enrolled group of low-income children meeting the 50 percent criteria explained previously. This excludes academic summer schools.
- **Migrant sites:** sites serving children of migrant families.
- **Camps:** residential or nonresidential camps.

Additional Information

Visit the Ohio Department of Education website at: www.education.ohio.gov and search Summer Food Service Program. Complete the SFSP Potential Sponsor Survey to receive additional information on training dates and registration.

You may also receive additional information about the Summer Food Service Program in Ohio please by contacting:

**Ohio Department of Education
Office for Child Nutrition
25 South Front Street; Mail Stop: 303
Columbus, OH 43215-4183
(614) 466-2945
Toll-free: (800) 808-MEAL (6325)
(614) 752-7613 (fax)**

OR

**Mary Forster
SFSP Coordinator/Consultant
Phone: (614) 752-1460
e-mail: mary.forster@education.ohio.gov**

**Erin Bagley
SFSP/CACFP Consultant
Phone: (614) 387-2284
e-mail: erin.bagley@education.ohio.gov**

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