



## CHILD NUTRITION: SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (SFSP)

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### DESCRIPTION:

Provides federal cash assistance and some commodity foods to local public and private nonprofit “service institutions” running summer youth programs, camps, or other recreation sites that serve low-income children during their summer break or during lengthy school-year breaks. Sites may be schools, camps, community centers, and other organizations. Sponsors receive per-meal/snack subsidies as well as assistance with operating costs.

### AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION & U.S. CODE CITATION:

- Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296)
- Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.)

### CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES OF JURISDICTION:

- House Committee on Agriculture
- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- House Committee on Appropriations
- Senate Appropriations Committee
- House Committee on Education and the Workforce
- Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

### ELIGIBILITY:

Children age 18 or younger and certain individuals with disabilities over the age of 18, who live in low-income areas where at least half the children are from families with incomes below 185% of federal poverty guidelines (open sites), or who are enrolled in an activity program where half the children are from families with incomes below 185% of federal poverty guidelines (enrolled sites), and children from families with incomes below 185% of federal poverty guidelines at participating camps. Automatically eligible are homeless or runaway children and children in Head Start, Early Head Start, Even Start, or state-funded pre-kindergarten programs that have received authorized waivers.

### KEY COMPONENTS:

- The SFSP reimburses providers who serve health meals to children and teens in low-income areas at no charge primarily during the summer months when school is not in session.
- The SFSP serves children and teens age 18 and younger.
- There are three main entities involved in operating the program: state agencies, sponsors, and sites:
  - State agencies communicate with USDA, recruit sponsors and publicize sites, provide training and technical assistance, monitor sponsors and sites, process claims and distribute reimbursements to sponsor.
  - Sponsors may be schools, local government agencies, camps, faith-based and other non-profit community organizations that have the ability to manage a food service program.
  - Sites may be places in the community where children receive meals in a safe and supervised environment, and located in a variety of settings, including schools, parks, community centers, churches, and migrant centers. Sites work directly with sponsors.

### DATA:

In FY2014, summer meals were served at nearly 45,000 sites to over 2.6 million children and youth each summer day.

### NCSL STAFF CONTACTS:

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