

# Summer Food Service Program

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

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

The USDA reimburses program sponsors for serving meals to children in low-income areas during periods in which they are out of school for 15 or more consecutive days.

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.

The following entities may be approved to sponsor the Summer Food Service Program (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.

Additional information about the SFSP is available at the following Web sites:

The CDE's SFSP Information Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sf/sfspinfo.asp>

The USDA SFSP Web page at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/serving-summer-meals>

Developed for the SNP Primer  
Cal-Pro-NET Center at San Jose State University  
in conjunction with the California Department of Education  
October 2018

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