

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN SUMMER MEALS



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)**, also known as the Summer Meals Program, provides kids and teens in low-income areas free meals when school is out. There are a number of ways that local organizations can be a part of the Summer Meals Program.

What is the Summer Food Service Program?

The SFSP is a federally-funded, state-administered program. The SFSP reimburses organizations who serve free healthy meals to children and teens in low-income areas during the summer months when school is not in session.

Who Does the Program Serve?

The SFSP serves children and teens age 18 and younger.

How Does it Work?

There are three main players involved: the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), sponsors, and meal service sites.

*The IDOE administers the program, offers annual training, and communicates with USDA.

*The sponsor will enter into an agreement with the Department of Education to run the program. Schools, local government agencies, camps, faith-based and other non-profit community organizations that have the ability to manage a food service program may be SFSP sponsors. Sponsors get reimbursed for meals served to eligible children. All meals must be eaten on site.

*Sites are places in the community approved by IDOE where children receive meals in a safe and supervised environment. Sites may be located in a variety of settings, including schools, parks, community centers, health clinics, hospitals, apartment complexes, churches and migrant programs. Sites work directly with sponsors.

How Can Your Organization Participate?

1. Contact the Indiana Department of Education to see if you can become a site that serves summer meals. The IDOE will help see if you are located in an eligible area that can serve summer meals and connect you with a sponsor organization.

2. Promote the SFSP to your community. Put up flyers and yard signs with information on where free summer meals are being served.

3. Optional fun activities for kids and teens at your site may keep them coming back and keep them physically and mentally active. Local teens can help at your site and gain new skills and a sense of responsibility. They are also able to receive a free meal.

Why Summer Meals

Visit:

https://youtu.be/U_93W0U3E8U

Potential Sponsors

Visit:

<https://www.doe.in.gov/nutrition/sfsp-potential-sponsors>

Potential Sites

Visit:

<https://www.doe.in.gov/nutrition/summer-food-service-program>

Find a Site Near You!

Visit:

<https://www.doe.in.gov/nutrition/sfsp-parents-page>

Call:

211 IN Helpline

SFSP Promotional Materials

Visit:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/raise-awareness>