



February 28, 2024

Announcements from the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

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Training Opportunities and Registration Reminder

All sponsors must register for one of the training options below by March 1st. Links to register are also posted on the [SFSP Training page](#).

Option 1: Pop-up Sessions (Stevens Point, Rice Lake): These sessions will be an open time period (no formal presentation) where returning sponsors can 'pop-in' to receive program updates, the latest resources from DPI and USDA, and receive one-on-one training with the DPI SFSP consultants. We'll be there to help you plan your 2024 program, assist with identifying community partners and potential sites for expansion, and answer specific questions you may have. Each location will provide the same information; choose the one most convenient to you!

Stevens Point: Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. [Stevens Point Registration Link](#)

Rice Lake: Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. [Rice Lake Registration Link](#)

Option 2: Full Day Training (Madison): This full day group training will provide a comprehensive review of the SFSP administrative and operational requirements. Topics covered will include site eligibility, meal service requirements, production planning, procurement, site training and monitoring, civil rights requirements, meal counting, claiming, and financial management. This training is for new sponsors, returning sponsors

with new administrative staff and any other sponsor personnel that that would like a complete refresher.

Madison: Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. [Madison Registration Link](#)

Option 3: E-Learning Course: If not attending a Pop-up or the Full Day Training, you are required to [Register for the E-Learning Course](#). This is available online and can be accessed 24/7 without a password. The Lessons must be reviewed prior to starting SFSP operation. Complete the form at the end of each lesson for verification that the Lesson has been completed.

Application Opens March 1st

Sponsors may begin updating their SFSP application starting Friday, March 1st. Since there have been some changes in the application this year, it is recommended that you review the recorded Webinar, 2024 SFSP Application Requirements & Deadlines, posted on the [SFSP Training page](#). Also, the [SFSP Application Manual](#) has been updated with step-by-step instructions.

Key Dates

Complete the Application by April 10th if requesting to order USDA Foods or an advance in payment. If not interested in USDA Foods or an advance, the due date is May 3rd.

Eligibility Data

Just a reminder that Site Eligibility for Area Eligible sites can be used for up to 5 years, if needed. Please first reference the 2023 October NSLP Free/Reduced Percentages and the 2023 Census Data for School sites, to keep eligibility as current as possible. This data can be found on the [Materials & Resources](#) page, under Sponsor & Site Eligibility. If using Free/Reduced Data, the site application will require you to enter free/reduced data for the school that is qualifying the site. If using census data, enter the GEOID code for that location. If using census data and the site is not a school, reference the [USDA Capacity Builder](#) to obtain the GEOID code OR contact your assigned SFSP consultant for assistance.

2024 SFSP E-Learning Now Available

If you registered for the SFSP E-Learning Course, the updated version has been posted on the [SFSP Training page](#). Remember to complete the Certificates at the end of the lessons to document that the lesson has been completed.

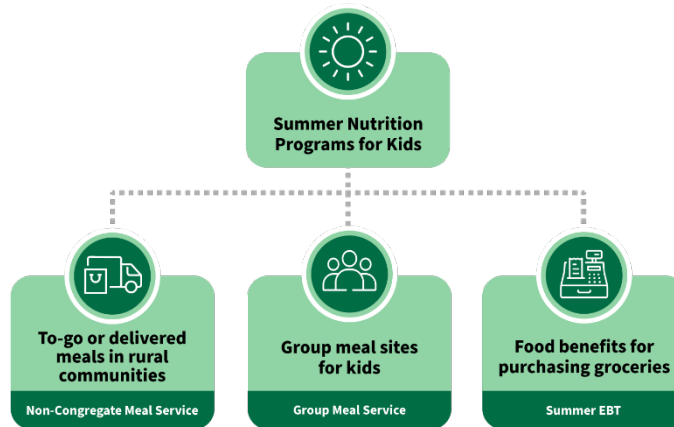
Extend the Reach through Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service

The ability to conduct a non-congregate meal program in rural areas is one of the exciting new opportunities to broaden children's access to nutritious meals in the summer months, especially in areas where it is more difficult for children to participate in congregate meals or when there is a lack of facilities to host congregate meals. We encourage sponsors to watch the newly recorded, [Rural Non-congregate Meals in the SFSP](#) webinar that provides details of the 2024 program and outlines the application process. The new [Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service](#) page is also the source for rural non-congregate meal information.

In addition to the Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service, Wisconsin is working to implement a new permanent food benefits program for purchasing groceries called Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer, or Summer EBT. Through this program, families of eligible

children can receive additional dollars for purchasing food in the summer months. This program will be administered by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Children will have access to both Programs; participating in one does not disqualify participation in the other.

For a synopsis of the enhancements to USDA's summer meal programs, see <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summer/enhancing>.



USDA Policy Updates

SFSP 07-2024, SP 13-2024

02/22/2024

[Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas Q&As](#)

This guidance updates previously issued questions and answers to clarify the rural non-congregate summer meals option established through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, and codified through the interim final rulemaking, Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs.

SFSP 06-2024

02/16/2024

[Interim Final Rule: State agency Monitoring in the SFSP](#)

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the new criteria states must consider when determining which SFSP sites require pre-approval visits. The IFR requires state agencies to develop a process to determine which sites need pre-approval visits and must consider sites that are new to non-congregate. States are not required to visit each site that is new to operating non-congregate meal service.

Serious Deficiency Process in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program, A Proposed Rule by the Food and Nutrition Service on 2/21/24

On February 21, 2024, Food and Nutrition Service published the Proposed Rule entitled "Serious Deficiency Process in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)" in the Federal Register. The proposed rule can be viewed here: [Federal Register Notice](#)

Through this proposed rulemaking, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is proposing important modifications to the serious deficiency process in CACFP, extending the process to CACFP unaffiliated sponsored centers, and

establishing a serious deficiency process in SFSP. These changes will improve consistency in language and process among statute, regulations, and guidance for both CACFP and SFSP. Additionally, these changes will improve consistency in the serious deficiency process within and across States and strengthen program integrity.

This rule also proposes updates to the suspension process in CACFP and proposes options on implementing suspension in SFSP. Additionally, this rule proposes options on termination and disqualification procedures for school food authorities that operate SFSP and CACFP.

Please see FNS's [Serious Deficiency Process in the CACFP and SFSP](#) webpage for more information, including a summary chart of proposed provisions and instructions for submitting written comments by May 21, 2024.



Program Abbreviation/Definition Key

SFA=School Food Authority

SSO=Seamless Summer Option

SFSP=Summer Food Service Program

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