

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction



March 28, 2024

## **Announcements from the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)**

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### **Waiver Approvals (Offer Versus Serve for Non-School Sponsors, Excessive Heat & Poor Air Quality)**

**Offer Versus Serve (OVS):** DPI has received approval from USDA to allow non-schools SFSP sponsors, in good standing, to use SFSP offer versus serve meal service parameters on a case-by-case basis. This waiver is effective May 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024. Non-school sponsors wishing to implement OVS may indicate so within the SFSP Site Application(s).

**Excessive Heat Days:** This waiver allows SFSP and SSO sponsors, in good standing, to operate approved outdoor meal sites without temperature-controlled alternative sites as non-congregate sites on days when the area is experiencing excessive heat. These waivers may only be used on days when the [National Weather Service \(NWS\)](#) has issued a Heat Advisory, an

Excessive Heat Warning, or an Excessive Heat Watch for the area in which an approved outdoor meal site is located. This waiver is effective *May 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024*.

**Air Quality Advisories:** This waiver allows SFSP and SSO sponsors, in good standing, to operate approved outdoor meal sites without alternative indoor sites as non-congregate sites on days when the area is experiencing certain air quality advisories. The threshold for determining when these waivers can be used is based on metrics developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), which are designed to help determine when to move activities indoors. Using these metrics, which equate to very unhealthy or hazardous air quality, sites may be approved for non-congregate meal service on days when the site's zip code has an Air Quality Index (AQI) "purple" flag or higher, as indicated at <https://www.airnow.gov/>. For days when air quality is a concern, but the purple flag threshold is not met, FNS recommends sponsors with outdoor sites consider the outdoor activity guidance developed by the EPA and the CDC: <https://www.airnow.gov/activity-guides-publications/>. This waiver is effective *May 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024*.

**Sponsors must be approved to provide non-congregate meals prior to the excessive heat or air quality alert day.** If interested in applying for these waivers, please send an email to [sfsp@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:sfsp@dpi.wi.gov).

## **2023 Turnip the Beet Award Winners Announced!**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is pleased to announce the winners of the Turnip the Beet award for summer 2023. This award recognizes sponsors within the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) that go above and beyond program requirements to serve high-quality meals to children during the summer months. This year, 140 sponsors qualified for either a gold, silver, or bronze Turnip the Beet award. Congratulations to all! For more information visit the [Turnip the Beet Website](#).



### **Wisconsin 2023 Award Winners**

Gold Winners:

- De Pere School Nutrition
- La Crosse Area Family YMCA
- North Crawford School District
- Stevens Point Area Public School District

Bronze Winner:

- Green Bay Area Public Schools

## SFSP Application Due April 10<sup>th</sup> for USDA Foods



SFSP Applications are open for updates and are due April 10<sup>th</sup>, if your agency would like to order a one-time shipment of [USDA Foods](#) for the summer. The application is May 3<sup>rd</sup> if not interested in the USDA Foods.

If you haven't started the application, PLEASE 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. The application had a number of updates this year and these resources will be helpful to ensure we can approve the application in a timely manner.

## Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Approval Process

A reminder that Sponsors serving meals in rural areas can apply to provide non-congregate meals to children this summer! **Participation requires approval from DPI.** Please follow the steps below to get started with the application process:

1. Listen to the [2024 Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Webinar](#) (previously recorded)
2. Send us an email at [sfsp@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:sfsp@dpi.wi.gov)
3. We'll contact you to discuss and provide next steps, which will include submission of the Meal Service & Integrity Plan and an update to your SFSP application.

## Register for the Cucumber Crunch Event



Celebrate summer by participating in the Cucumber Crunch! This is a simple, celebratory event to promote local foods and farm to summer. Pick any date this summer and have staff and children crunch into local cucumbers. If cucumbers are not available during your summer programming, choose another local, in-season fruit or vegetable to crunch!

[Register your program for the Crunch!](#) Registrants will receive free stickers and a packet of cucumber seeds for registering on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Check out the new and updated resources available for the Crunch on our [Celebrate Summer](#) page! These include more detail on the Event, a Cucumber Press Release, new activity ideas to use for your Event and update recipes and resources to find local farmers/producers in your area.

## SFSP Outreach Materials & Summer Meals Promotion



DPI has a number of outreach materials available to order free of charge to help promote summer meals in your community. All resources remain available with the exception of vehicle magnets. Place your orders using the [Outreach Order Form](#) **by May 10th!** In addition to print materials, remember to register your open sites with [Wisconsin 2-1-1](#). DPI will begin providing open site information from approved site applications to the [Summer Meals Site Finder](#), in early June.

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Contact your [assigned SFSP consultant](#) with questions about the items in the bulletin, or other SFSP questions.  
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### *Program Abbreviation/Definition Key*

SFA=School Food Authority  
SSO=Seamless Summer Option  
SFSP=Summer Food Service Program

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