

Date: June 11, 2021
To: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Members
From: Summer Food Service Team
Subject: Announcements from the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Next SFSP Mini Series Reminder – Marketing Your Program

As summer programs kick into gear, listen in to learn the latest State-wide efforts being made to ensure families know where their children can receive free meals, this summer. We'll also review best practices for outreach, the various free resources made available by DPI, and provide a brief SFSP update and reminders for summer operation

- The live webinar is Tuesday, June 15th at 2:00 pm.
- It is also being recorded and will be posted to the [SFSP Training website](#) so you can listen in at your convenience.
- **Access the webinar:** Click [here](#).

Civil Rights Race/Ethnicity Data Form Collection Change

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued guidance that visual observation and identification is no longer an allowable practice in obtaining race and ethnicity data from SFSP participants. The USDA received reports that program participants do not want to have their race or ethnicity determined for them. Moreover, a third party's observation of an individual's appearance is not a reliable means to capture how a participant self-identifies their own racial or ethnic identity. USDA acknowledges the challenges this change may cause in the collection of demographic data. The preferred method remains self-identification and self-reporting.

USDA plans to issue further guidance on this change in the coming weeks. DPI will provide updated resources after guidance is received from USDA.

SFSP Claims for Reimbursement

SFSP claims in general, cannot be entered until the end of the month. Schools that are used to filing claims as soon as the school year ends, will need to wait until the end of the month to file the SFSP claim. For schools that have regular school year meals *and* summer school meals in June, note that you will only submit *one* claim for June because all meals are served under the SFSP regardless of the type of programming going on.

Each year in June, the processing of claims is shut down in order for the State to perform year-end wrap up and rollover into the new state fiscal year. Please be aware of the [Processing Schedule](#) when filing claims for any federal Child Nutrition Program.

SFSP Focused Reviews and Technical Assistance

The DPI will not be conducting reviews this summer following the regular review schedule. Instead, selected sponsors will be receiving a focused review, conducted virtually, and DPI will be providing technical assistance, as needed. Sponsors selected for this process will be contacted soon!

Please reach out to your assigned DPI SFSP Team Consultant if you have questions – thank you!