



Date: Thursday, January 20, 2022
To: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Members
From: Summer Food Service Team
Subject: Announcements from the Summer Food Service Program – Providing Summer Meals in 2022

Important Update for All Potential Sponsors

The SFSP waivers that provided flexibilities due to the pandemic expired at the end of summer 2021. At this time, we expect SFSP 2022 to operate as it did prior to the pandemic. In short, this means:

- All open, restricted open, and most closed enrolled sites, must be located within the attendance area of a school that has 50% or more children eligible for free/reduced price school meals OR within a census tract that qualifies. The 2019 Free/Reduced Data will continue to be used in 2022, unless a SFA has more recent data that could be used. The Census Data has been updated annually throughout the pandemic.
- All meals must be consumed onsite, with the exception of specific meal components that are typically allowed to be taken home (i.e. a fruit, vegetable, or grain item).
- All monitoring of sites must be done on-site.

School Food Authorities (SFAs)

On June 30th, 2022, COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #85, Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility is set to expire, as well as other waivers including Non-congregate Feeding, Meal Times and Parent/Guardian Pick-up waivers. SFAs operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO), may continue to operate the SSO under the current waivers through June 30th, 2022, regardless if the regular school year is in session. Once the waivers end on June 30th, the SSO requirements will revert back to the same requirements that were in place pre-pandemic, which are very similar to the SFSP. *Therefore, we are strongly recommending SFAs that plan to continue to provide meals after June 30th, do so through the SFSP.* The advantage of participating in the SFSP includes, continuing to receive the higher [reimbursement rate](#) per meal, an additional shipment of SFSP USDA Foods in June, the ability to follow the more simplified [SFSP meal pattern](#) and access to free [outreach materials](#) to promote your Program (posters, door hangers, banners, lawn signs, etc.). For further details, please review the [Comparison of Summer Meal Programs](#) chart.

Steps to Apply for SFSP in 2022

Tell us your agency plans to participate! Given COVID-19 has had a big impact on summer operations over the past few years, we are asking that all returning sponsors complete a short '[Intent to Operate the SFSP](#)' form by February 25, 2022.

Complete Training - With the pandemic still having an impact on operations at both the State and local level, we have decided not to hold in-person training for sponsors this spring. In lieu, we will continue to offer our SFSP E-learning Course and will also offer live webinars throughout the spring. At a minimum, sponsors are required to review the lessons within the E-learning Course that are pertinent to their SFSP responsibilities. All training opportunities will be posted on the [SFSP Training Page](#).

[SFSP Materials & Resources](#) can be found online. You may wish to update your Guide to Sponsoring the SFSP (orange binder), by printing the updated pages. Revision dates are noted behind each one-pager. Outreach materials (i.e., posters, banners, yard signs, etc.) will be available to order later in the spring.

Update the SFSP Application - Do not attempt to complete the SFSP application prior to March 1st!

- The [SFSP Online Application](#) will open on March 1st for updates.
- It is due April 8th, if requesting SFSP USDA Foods and/or an advance in payment
- It is due May 6th, if not interested in USDA Foods and/or an advance in payment

The updated SFSP Application Manual will be posted on the [SFSP Materials & Resources](#) page, under the Application Process, in February. Given application requirements during the pandemic were different than under normal operations, DPI will also be hosting a webinar on February 22nd, to review application requirements for 2022. Registration for this training will be sent in a separate email. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the DPI SFSP Training page for those unable to attend the live event.

The information within this email and further updates for returning sponsors will be posted online: [Returning 2022 SFSP Sponsors](#).

Questions? Please send an email to sfsp@dpi.wi.gov and a member of the SFSP Team will give you a call!