



Summer Food Service Program Frequently Asked Questions

updated 2021

What is the Summer Food Service Program?

Just as learning does not end when school lets out, neither does a child's need for good nutrition. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children in low-income areas get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow, throughout the summer months when they are out of school.

Why is SFSP important to your community?

Children who miss school breakfast and lunch are more likely to be sick, absent or tardy, disruptive in class, and inattentive. They also score lower on achievement tests. Good nutrition is essential for learning in school. SFSP provides an opportunity to continue a child's physical and social development while providing nutritious meals during long vacation periods from school. It helps children return to school ready to learn.

Who is eligible to receive meals?

Children 18 years of age and younger, and people (up to age 21) with physical or mental disabilities who participate in special school programs for the disabled may receive free meals and snacks through SFSP as well as students.

Who runs the SFSP?

The program is funded through the USDA; it is administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS); Palm Beach County Youth Services serves as the sponsor agency via the Board of County Commissioners.

What is a site?

A site is the physical location, approved by the State agency to serve SFSP meals during a supervised time period.

How many meals can a site serve each day?

A site may serve up to two meals in one day (any combination of breakfast, lunch, snack, or supper) to be determined by the site.



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Is Palm Beach County Youth Services a Summer BreakSpot sponsor?

No, the last summer sponsored by Youth Services was 2021. Please reach out to FLIPANY or the School District of Palm Beach County if you are a site looking for a meal sponsor.

What is an open site?

A site where meals are available to all children in the area on a first-come, first-served basis.

Who can become a site?

Meal service sites may be located in a variety of settings, including schools, recreation centers, playgrounds, parks, churches, community centers, day camps, summer camps, housing projects, migrant centers, or Indian reservations.

In order to supervise a site, they must agree to:

- Attend the sponsor's training
- Supervise activities and meal service at the site
- Manage volunteers/staff
- Distribute meals according to SFSP guidelines
- Keep daily records of meals served
- Store food appropriately
- Keep the site clean and sanitary
- Display appropriate posters and signage at the meal distribution location
- Help the sponsor promote the program in the community