

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.

The Food and Nutrition Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers SFSP at the federal level. State education agencies administer the program in most states. In New Jersey, the state Department of Agriculture is the administering agency

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture is looking for organizations interested in providing meals for needy children this year under this federally funded program.

Eligibility

Children 18 and younger may receive free meals and snacks through SFSP. Meals and snacks are also available to persons with disabilities, over age 18, who participate in school programs for people who are mentally or physically disabled.

Enrolled sites provide free meals to children enrolled in an activity program at the site where at least half of them are eligible for free and reduced price meals. Camps may also participate in SFSP. They receive payments only for the meals served to children who are eligible for free and reduced price meals.

Feeding Locations

There are three types of feeding locations in New Jersey to include open, enrolled or campsites. Open sites operate in low-income areas where at least half of the children come from families with incomes at or below 185 percent of the Federal poverty level, making them eligible for free and reduced price school meals. Meals are served free to any child at the open site.

At most sites, children receive either one or two reimbursable meals each day. Camps and sites that primarily serve migrant children may be approved to serve up to three meals to each child, each day.

National Hunger Hotline

It's important that parents know where summer sites in their neighborhoods are located so that they can also get these healthy, free meals to their children. To find out the closest SFSP site near you where you can get your kids to join the fun, parents and guardians can either call their state agency or the National Hunger Hotline at [1-866-3-Hungry](tel:1-866-3-Hungry) or [1-877-8-HAMBRE](tel:1-877-8-HAMBRE). It's a free call, available in both English and Spanish, and is available from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Also, text Food to 877-877.

[Visit NJ.Gov](#) to view the list of 2017 Summer Food Service Program Feeding Sites.