

HOW TO

PARTICIPATE IN SUMMER MEALS



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)**, also known as the **Summer Meals Program**, provides kids and teens in low-income areas free meals when school is out. There are a number of ways that local organizations can be a part of the Summer Meals Program.

What is the Summer Food Service Program?

The SFSP is a federally-funded, state-administered program. The SFSP reimburses providers who serve free healthy meals to children and teens in low-income areas during the summer months when school is not in session. Check out [our video](#) to learn more.

Who Does the Program Serve?

The SFSP serves children and teens age 18 and younger.

How Does It Work?

There are three main players involved: State agencies, sponsors, and sites.

- State agencies administer the program and communicate with USDA.
- Sponsors enter into agreements with State agencies to run the program. Schools, local government agencies, camps, faith-based and other non-profit community organizations that have the ability to manage a food service program may be SFSP sponsors. Sponsors get reimbursed by the Program and may manage multiple sites.
- Sites are places in the community where children receive meals in a safe and supervised environment. Sites may be located in a variety of settings, including schools, parks, community centers, health clinics, hospitals, apartment complexes, churches, and migrant centers. Sites work directly with sponsors.

How Can Your Organization Participate?

1. **Contact Karamu** at 901.327.8401 or e-mail us at karamu@karamu.org for participation information.

2. **Promote the Summer Meals Programs** to your community. Put up flyers and door hangers with information on where free summer meals are being served to help families find a nearby Summer Meals site.
3. **Provide fun activities for the kids & teens at your site to keep them coming back and to keep them physically and mentally active.** Recruit teens to help at your site to give them responsibilities and new skills.
4. **Volunteer at other sites.** Help serve meals or transport meals for other organizations that are involved with the Summer Meals Program. Organize physical or learning activities for the kids & teens.

Resources:

See SFSP Resource Links Below

